

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER
RESTORATION PROGRAM



Annual Report 2009





***The San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP)** is a comprehensive long-term effort to restore flows to the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River restoring a self-sustaining Chinook salmon fishery in the river while reducing or avoiding adverse water supply impacts from restoration flows.*





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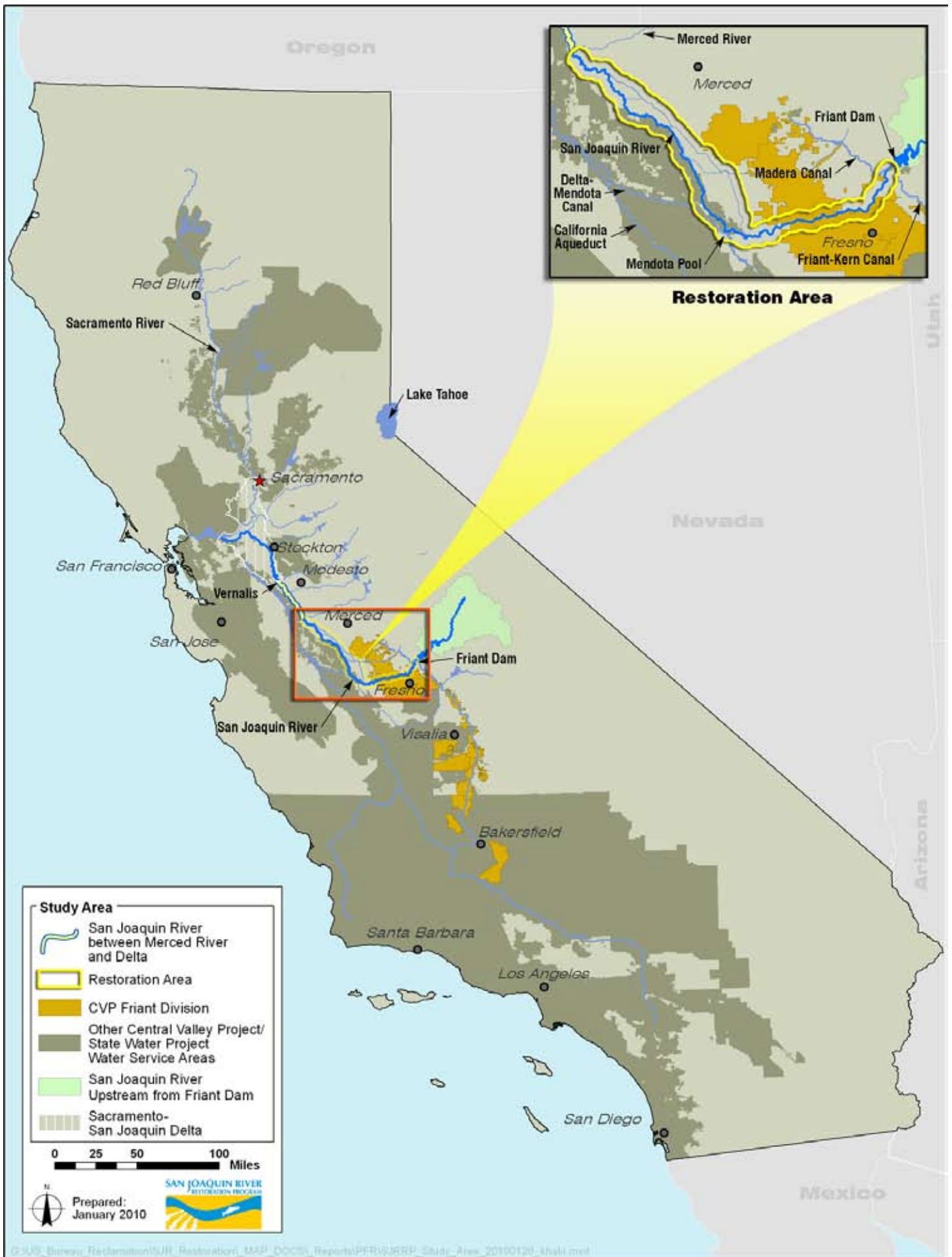


Figure 1



Introduction

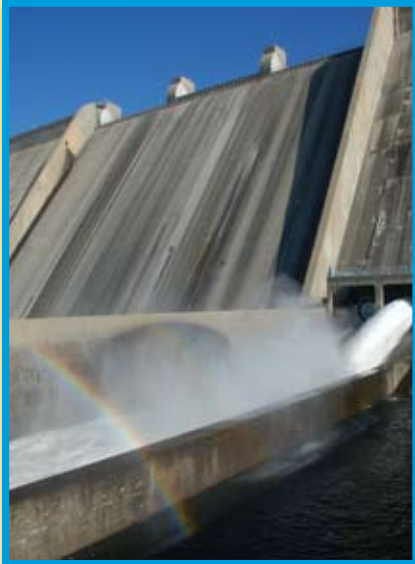


Photo credit: Howard K. Watkins

Interim Flows increase from Friant Dam, November 9, 2009

This is the third Annual Report prepared by the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP or Program). This 2009 Annual Report describes Program activities and accomplishments during 2009 and planned activities for 2010. The SJRRP was established upon court acceptance of a Stipulation of Settlement in October 2006 regarding restoration of the San Joaquin River, in the Central Valley of California.

During 2007, many organizational and managerial actions were completed to form the long-term structure for the SJRRP. In 2008, progress was made towards supporting the development of the Program Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (PEIS/R).

In 2009, the third year of the Program, significant progress was made toward implementing the Settlement. Specific accomplishments include:

- Preparation and completion of all actions needed to release the first year of Interim Flows that began on October 1, meeting a significant Settlement milestone.
- Progress on the development of specific operational guidelines for releasing Restoration Flows and the framework for a Recovered Water Account.
- Began the planning, environmental compliance, and design activities for three of the high priority Phase I channel improvements projects identified in the Settlement.
- Progress on development of a plan to recirculate water back to the Friant Division long-term contractors.
- Planning, coordinating, and implementing monitoring activities in support of Interim Flows, including installation of new groundwater monitoring wells, and monitoring of surface water stage and quality, salmonid habitat, sediment, and vegetation.
- Completion and release of a Draft Fisheries Management Plan.
- Providing public access to Program activities through the web, quarterly Program Updates mailed to a broad distribution list, public meetings, and briefings at local forums.
- Providing the second on-the-ground tour from Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River through the Water Education Foundation specific to the SJRRP.

The Settlement

In 1988, a coalition of environmental groups, led by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), filed a lawsuit challenging the renewal of the long-term water service contracts between the United States and the Central Valley Project Friant Division contractors. After more than 18 years of litigation of this lawsuit, known as *NRDC, et al., v. Kirk Rodgers, et al.*, a Stipulation of Settlement (Settlement) was reached. On September 13, 2006, the Settling Parties reached agreement on the terms and conditions of the Settlement, which was subsequently approved by the Court on October 23, 2006. The “Settling Parties” include the NRDC, Friant Water Users Authority (FWUA), and the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Commerce.





Photo credit: Howard K. Watkins

San Joaquin River just below
Friant Dam

The Settlement's two primary goals are:

- Restoration Goal – To restore and maintain fish populations in “good condition” in the main stem of the San Joaquin River below Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River, including naturally reproducing and self-sustaining populations of salmon and other fish.
- Water Management Goal – To reduce or avoid adverse water supply impacts to all of the Friant Division long-term contractors that may result from the Interim Flows and Restoration Flows provided for in the Settlement.

Settlement Implementation

The Settlement states that the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) will implement the terms and conditions of the Settlement. Additionally, the Settling Parties agreed that implementation of the Settlement will also require participation of the State of California (State). Therefore, concurrent with the execution of the Settlement, the Settling Parties entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the State (State MOU) by and through the California Natural Resources Agency, the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), and the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal EPA) regarding the State's role in the implementation of the Settlement.

The program established to implement the Settlement is the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP or Program), and the “Implementing Agencies” responsible for the management of the Program include the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), DWR, and DFG.

San Joaquin River Restoration Area

The geographic area for the SJRRP includes California's Central Valley from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) to the base of the Tehachapi Mountains south of Bakersfield. This area includes the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam to the Delta, the Friant Division of the Central Valley Project (CVP), other water service areas potentially affected by changes in water deliveries or restoration of the San Joaquin River, and tributaries to the San Joaquin River downstream of the river restoration area. The river restoration area is 153 miles long and reaches from Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River. This stretch of river crosses the counties of Fresno, Madera, Merced, and Stanislaus. For the purposes of the Program, the river has been divided into five primary reaches (see Figure 2). The Program will also evaluate the Eastside and Mariposa Bypasses for carrying restoration flows.

Reaches of the San Joaquin River under evaluation include:

- Reach 1 – Friant Dam to Gravelly Ford
- Reach 2 – Gravelly Ford to Mendota Dam
- Reach 3 – Mendota Dam to Sack Dam
- Reach 4 – Sack Dam to the confluence of Bear Creek and the Eastside Bypass
- Reach 5 – Eastside Bypass/Bear Creek confluence to the Merced River confluence



Reaches of the San Joaquin River under evaluation include the following:

- **Reach 1** – Friant Dam to Gravelly Ford
- **Reach 2** – Gravelly Ford to Mendota Dam
- **Reach 3** – Mendota Dam to Sack Dam
- **Reach 4** – Sack Dam to the confluence of Bear Creek and the Eastside Bypass
- **Reach 5** – Eastside Bypass/Bear Creek confluence to the Merced River confluence

Figure 2 - Map of River Restoration Area



Authorization and Funding

Federal participation in the SJRRP is currently authorized under the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) and the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act (SJRRS Act), part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, now Public Law 111-11. The CVPIA, signed in 1992, included provisions for the potential restoration of the San Joaquin River and authorized planning and environmental compliance for such activities. Federal funding obligated for the SJRRP in Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 for planning and environmental compliance activities under these authorities was approximately \$13.3 million. The SJRRS Act, signed in March 2009, authorizes and directs the Secretary to fully implement the Settlement.

The State of California has committed its support of the Settlement by entering into the State MOU with the Settling Parties that outlines a collaborative role for the State in planning, design, funding and implementation of the actions set forth in the Settlement. In the November 2006 election, State propositions 84 and 1E were passed by the California voters and should provide about \$200 million of State bond funds for projects that will directly contribute to the restoration efforts.

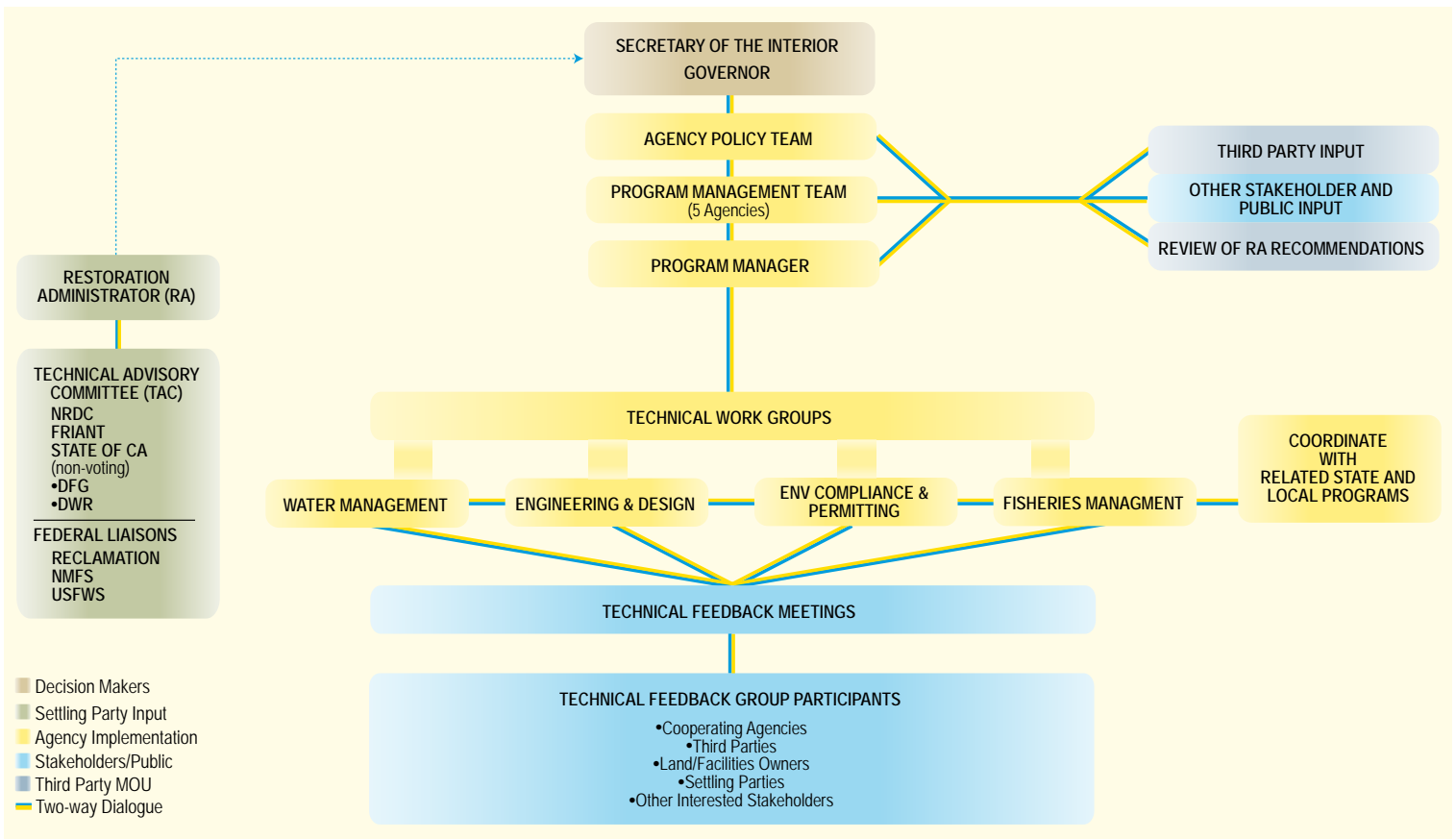


Figure 3 – Program Organizational Chart

Program Management Structure



San Joaquin River

The following section explains the structure of the SJRRP and related entities involved. The Settlement included clear commitments that the Settling Parties and downstream water and land interests (referred to as Third Parties) would be involved in the development of implementation plans by the Secretary. Court approval of the Settlement initiated a series of actions that resulted in a program approach structured to provide for effective oversight, management and transparency of the SJRRP. Key among these actions was the development of MOUs with the State of California and Third Party Stakeholders.

- State MOU – Signed at the same time as the Settlement, the State MOU recognizes that the State of California, through DFG, DWR, the Natural Resources Agency, and CalEPA, will play a major, collaborative role in the planning, design, funding, and implementation of the actions on the San Joaquin River called for by the Settlement; and
- Third Party Stakeholders MOU – Signed in February 2007, this MOU recognizes that the Third Parties will play a collaborative role in the planning, design, implementation, and potential adaptation of the actions on the San Joaquin River called for by the Settlement and in the implementing legislation.

The Program Organizational Chart (Figure 3) reflects the provisions of the Settlement and subsequent MOUs.

The Program organization consists of the following:

► San Joaquin River Restoration Program Team

The SJRRP Team is a multi-tiered group that includes staff from the Implementing Agencies. Roles and responsibilities of this group include:

- Program Management Team - Includes executives from the Implementing Agencies and is responsible for overall direction and coordination of the SJRRP;
- Program Manager - Provides direction and management of the Technical Work Groups (TWG) and serves as chair of the Program Management Team; and
- Technical Work Groups - The SJRRP features four primary Technical Work Groups (TWGs), each supported by various subject-matter specific sub-groups, as described later in this report.

The four TWGs are:

- Water Management,
- Engineering & Design,
- Environmental Compliance & Permitting, and
- Fisheries Management.





SJRRP Program Manager
Jason Phillips

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT TEAM
<p>Bureau of Reclamation (U.S. Department of the Interior) Jason Phillips SJRRP Program Manager 2800 Cottage Way, MP-170 Sacramento, CA 95825-1898 916-978-5455 jphillips@usbr.gov</p>
<p>Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S. Department of the Interior) John Engbring (retired December 2009) Robert Clarke, (Interim, as of January 2010) Fisheries Program Manager California and Nevada Operations Office 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W2606 Sacramento, CA 95825-1846 916-978-6178 robert_clarke@fws.gov</p>
<p>National Marine Fisheries Service (U.S. Department of Commerce) Rhonda Reed Program Manager 650 Capital Mall, Suite 8-300 Sacramento, CA 95814 916-930-3615 rreed@noaa.gov</p>
<p>California Department of Water Resources Kevin Faulkenberry San Joaquin District 3374 East Shields Avenue Fresno, CA 93726 559-230-3320 faulkenb@water.ca.gov</p>
<p>California Department of Fish and Game Dean Marston Environmental Program Manager 1234 East Shaw Avenue Fresno, CA 93710 559-243-4014 ext. 241 dmarston@dfg.ca.gov</p>

► **Restoration Administrator and Technical Advisory Committee**

The Settlement specified the roles and responsibilities for a Restoration Administrator who is supported by a Technical Advisory Committee. The SJRRP management structure integrates these resources to obtain timely input on technical issues related to the Restoration Goal.

- **Restoration Administrator** – The Restoration Administrator (RA), selected jointly by the NRDC and FWUA, provides recommendations to the Secretary regarding specific elements of the Settlement and certain issues related to the SJRRP’s Restoration Goal and consults with the Technical Advisory Committee.

- **Technical Advisory Committee** – The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) features six voting members selected by and representing FWUA and NRDC. Voting members of the TAC assist and advise the RA regarding areas outlined in the Settlement, have relevant technical or scientific background or expertise in fields related to river restoration or fishery restoration, and serve for 3 years. Two non-voting members representing the State agencies serve as liaisons to the RA and TAC. The Federal agencies have three liaisons to the TAC to ensure coordination and information-sharing with the Implementing Agencies.
- **Recommendations in 2009** - In accordance with the Settlement, the RA submitted the following recommendations to the SJRRP, with the support of the TAC:
 - Recommendations on Monitoring and Evaluating Interim Flows to the Upper San Joaquin River, February 2009
 - RA 2008 Annual Report, February 2009
 - Recommendations on Interim Flow Releases from Friant Dam for October 1 through November 20, 2009 to the Upper San Joaquin River, August 2009
 - Transmittal Letter and Recommendations to Evaluate Reoperation of the Chowchilla Bypass Structure for Routing of Interim and Restoration Flows, August 2009

► Third Party Stakeholders

Third Parties are persons or entities diverting or receiving water pursuant to applicable State and Federal laws and includes Central Valley Project contractors outside of the Friant Division of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project.

RESTORATION ADMINISTRATOR AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
RESTORATION ADMINISTRATOR Rod Meade
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE Voting Members Monty Schmitt – Senior Water Resources Scientist, NRDC Bill Luce – Consulting Resources Manager, Friant Water Users Authority Scott McBain – McBain and Trush Chuck Hanson – Hanson Environmental Peter Moyle – University of California, Davis Ed Solbos (as of December 2009) – Independent Consultant
Non-voting Members Paula Landis - DWR Gerald Hatler - DFG
FEDERAL LIAISONS Jason Phillips – Reclamation Rhonda Reed – NMFS Robert Clarke – USFWS



THIRD PARTY MOU SIGNATORS

ENTITIES ALONG THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER

- San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority
- Central California Irrigation District
- Firebaugh Canal Water District
- San Luis Canal Company
- Columbia Canal Company
- San Joaquin River Resource Management Coalition

DOWNSTREAM TRIBUTARY WATER USERS

- Merced Irrigation District
- Turlock Irrigation District
- Modesto Irrigation District
- Oakdale Irrigation District
- South San Joaquin Irrigation District
- San Joaquin Tributaries Association

OTHER CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT WATER USERS

- Westlands Water District
- San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority



Friant Dam



2009: Progress and Accomplishments



Reclamation hydrologist Stephen Lee takes a reading from a monitoring well

This section summarizes the accomplishments of the Program towards meeting the Settlement's Restoration and Water Management goals. The section also includes a summary of the activities of the four work groups for 2009 and highlights the extensive public involvement efforts throughout the last year.

2009 Restoration and Water Management Goal Accomplishments

Restoration Goal Accomplishments:

- Completed the planning, environmental compliance, and permitting activities for the first year of initial experimental flow releases from Friant Dam, termed Interim Flows, that began on October 1, 2009.
- Held public scoping meetings to further the planning, environmental compliance, and design efforts for two of the high priority, Phase 1 channel improvements identified in the Settlement:
 - Reach 4B, Eastside Bypass, and Mariposa Bypass Low Flow Channel and Structural Improvements Project, and
 - Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project.
- Initiated planning, environmental compliance, and design efforts for the Arroyo Canal Fish Screen and Sack Dam Fish Passage Project.
- Monitored Fall Interim Flow releases with information to be disseminated in an Annual Technical Report.

Water Management Goal Accomplishments:

- Continued progress on the development of specific operational guidelines for releasing Restoration Flows and the framework for a Recovered Water Account.
- Continued progress on recapture and recirculation planning to return water back to the Friant Division long-term contractors including coordination with other water users.
- Continued progress on the preparation of Guidelines for Financial Assistance to Local Projects.
- Continued progress on the Friant-Kern and Madera Canals Capacity Correction Feasibility Study.
- Continued progress on the Friant-Kern Canal Reverse Flow Pumpback Feasibility Study.



2009 Technical Work Group Activities

The four Technical Work Groups (TWGs) of the SJRRP and their related sub-groups have contributed significantly in their areas of expertise towards the development of the Draft PEIS/R to cover SJRRP actions. Listed below is a summary of each TWG's focus and accomplishments for the past year.

Engineering and Design Technical Work Group

This TWG is responsible for preliminary engineering and design of structures and flow channels needed to meet the Restoration and Water Management goals of the Settlement. Through coordination with other TWGs, the Engineering and Design TWG is estimating the costs of structures and flow channels for inclusion in the Draft PEIS/R.



Mendota Pool in Reach 2B

Activities of this TWG include development of the initial drawings and concepts for the site-specific studies including Reach 2B and the Mendota Pool Bypass, Reach 4B and the Eastside/Mariposa Bypass, and the Arroyo Canal Screening and Sack Dam Passage Projects. These initial drawings will assist in the development of alternatives for each of the projects.

The Engineering and Design TWG is also responsible for development of a comprehensive geologic investigation work plan for Reaches 2B and 4B, including two proposed bypasses around Mendota Pool Bypass and for installation of seepage monitoring wells. Subsurface information on soils and groundwater is needed to initiate site-specific planning and engineering studies of river channel and structural modifications, or new structural features, as necessary to convey Restoration Flows in these reaches. Work will be performed in compliance with all pertinent Federal and State regulations and standards, and was modeled after the geologic survey approach developed by DWR for the California FloodSAFE initiative. Through this, the Restoration Program sought to assure that consistent protocols are followed for all work done in support of the geologic surveys and that findings can be applied across related programs. The description and approach of these activities were provided at several public meetings held for riverine and bypass landowners throughout the year.

Environmental Compliance and Permitting Work Group

This TWG plans and coordinates efforts to implement elements of the Settlement in relation to environmental studies, permits, alternative formulation, and other requirements necessary for actions needed to meet the Restoration and Water Management goals.

Accomplishments in 2009:

- Continued progress towards preparation of the Draft PEIS/R and assisted with plan formulation for the PEIS/R.
- Completed the Water Year 2010 Interim Flows Environmental Assessment/ Finding of No Significant Impact and Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, associated Biological Assessment, and the Endangered Species Act compliance for the project.



- Created a new subgroup: Streamflow and Water Quality Monitoring. This group consists of representatives from DFG, USFWS, NMFS, EPA, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, DWR, and Reclamation. The group meets weekly during Interim Flow releases to go over water monitoring data, manage real-time conditions, and comply with water quality monitoring requirements stated in the Water Rights Order for the Water Year 2010 Interim Flows Project.
- Completed the 2009-2013 Interim Flow Release Program Water Quality Monitoring Plan. This plan includes monitoring criteria for upcoming years and a real-time management strategy.
- Initiated scoping and presented initial options for site-specific studies related to Reach 4B, Eastside Bypass, and Mariposa Bypass Low-Flow Channel and Structural Improvements Project and the Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project. The Environmental Compliance and Permitting Workgroup provided input into these processes.

Water Management Work Group

Working in collaboration with all TWGs, the Water Management Technical Work Group addresses water operations for accomplishing the Restoration and Water Management goals. In 2009, this group continued work on a plan to feature strategies for recirculation and recapture of river flows for the benefit of Friant Division long-term contractors; development of Restoration Flow Guidelines; and creation of a Recovered Water Account.

Accomplishments in 2009:

- Monthly Water Management Technical Feedback Group Meetings.
- Monitoring of Fall Interim Flow releases with information to be disseminated in an Annual Technical Report.
- Completion of an allocation and scheduling process for releasing Restoration Flows.
- Completion of planning and simulations for Water Management Goal actions for the public Draft PEIS/R.
- Continued progress on the development of specific operational guidelines for releasing Restoration Flows and the framework for a Recovered Water Account.
- Continued progress on recapture and recirculation planning to return water back to the Friant Division long-term contractors including coordination with other water users.
- Continued progress on the preparation of Guidelines for Financial Assistance to Local Projects.
- Continued progress on the Friant-Kern and Madera Canals Capacity Correction Feasibility Study.
- Continued progress on the Friant-Kern Canal Reverse Flow Pumpback Feasibility Study.

The plans for recirculation, Recovered Water Account, and Restoration Flow Guidelines will be incorporated into Restoration Program-level alternatives for evaluation in the Draft and Final PEIS/R.



MONITORING SUBGROUP

The Monitoring Subgroup met monthly during 2009 to plan, coordinate and implement monitoring activities required for implementation of the Settlement.

Accomplishments for 2009 include:

- Monitoring of the fall Interim Flows including flow rates, groundwater, temperature, and other water quality parameters.
- Installed 35 groundwater monitoring transect wells in the public right of way in addition to landowner-requested seepage monitoring wells.
- Engaged USGS and DWR in planning the operation and quality assurance oversight for the stream gaging and sediment monitoring program.
- Continued streambed sediment sampling and analysis.

MODELING SUBGROUP

The SJRRP is employing several system operations models to evaluate the State and Federal water project operations along with several different models to estimate water quality, physical processes, potential flood damage, and potential economic impacts.

The modeling subgroup continued to support the PEIS/R and presented tools at the Restoration Goal Technical Feedback Group as well as the California Water and Environmental Modeling Forum (CWEMF). Future efforts will refine modeling tools for site-specific project evaluations.

Fisheries Management Work Group

The Fisheries Management Work Group is responsible for planning and coordination efforts to implement sections in the Settlement related to meeting the fisheries components of the Restoration Goal. Work during 2009 consisted of fisheries management as well as implementation planning.

Accomplishments in 2009:

- Developed and released for public review a draft Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). The FMP incorporates Strategic Habitat Conservation Planning concepts and lays out a structured approach to adaptively manage the reintroduction of Chinook salmon and other fishes to the San Joaquin River. The FMP also incorporates many of the recommendations from the Independent Review of the CVPIA Fisheries Program including the following: public feedback in the development process; a life cycle oriented conceptual model framework; quantitative modeling tools; and a peer review process. The public draft FMP was released in June 2009.
- Additional work on the Fisheries Management Plan in response to public comment.
- Completion of a draft 2010 Interim Flow Fisheries Implementation Plan detailing specific monitoring procedures and recommendations to gather the appropriate fisheries and physical habitat needs.

- Continued building the Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment quantitative model for the SJRRP.
- Completion of a draft Fish Reintroduction schedule that identifies the necessary steps required for the USFWS Endangered Species Act 10(A)(1)(a) permit application and the subsequent NMFS Experimental Population Designation (ESA 10(j)) rule making.
- Completion of a draft Stock Selection Plan that will be included in an updated version of the FMP. The draft Stock Selection Plan identifies strategies and procedures for the selection of Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon for reintroduction.
- Made progress towards completion of the Central Valley spring-run Reintroduction Strategy document.

Technical Memoranda

Numerous Technical Memoranda (TMs) and key program documents are being developed prior to the scheduled release of the Draft PEIS/R in 2010. As they became available, these TMs and documents were posted on the Program web site (www.restoresjr.net), in order to facilitate early coordination with the Settling Parties, Third Parties, other stakeholders, and interested members of the public regarding initial concepts and approaches under consideration. While the Program Team does not request formal comments on the TMs, to the extent possible, all comments received are considered in refining the concepts and approaches in the TMs during the formation of the Draft PEIS/R.

Documents released in 2009:

- Draft Fisheries Management Plan - June
- Water Year 2010 Interim Flows Project Environmental Assessment/Initial Study
 - Draft - June
 - Final with a Finding of No Significant Impact and Mitigated Negative Declaration - September



San Joaquin River at the base of Friant Dam





Water Education Foundation tour participant speaks to Program staff at the Skaggs Bridge stop

Public Involvement and Outreach

The SJRRP includes a variety of public outreach activities intended to create an open and transparent process. The general public, stakeholders, affected Third Parties, and other interested parties can participate in these activities to keep track of Program activities and progress, and give input in identifying potential Program issues and the formulation of alternatives. To this end, the Program developed a Public Involvement Plan (PIP) that describes how the five Federal and State agencies implementing the Program inform and involve all levels of leaders, managers, stakeholders, and the general public. Effective communication and coordination with all interested and affected parties helps ensure that stakeholders and the public are fully informed and Program actions are implemented efficiently and effectively. Outreach activities conducted in 2009 are described below.

► Technical Feedback Group Meetings

Technical Feedback Group (TFG) meetings continued during 2009 in support of the Water Management and Fisheries Management Work Groups. These meetings assist Program staff in soliciting input from technical experts, interested stakeholders, and the public in the development of key Program documents and implementation activities. The meetings also provide an open and transparent process for the various steps of Program development and implementation. In addition to the Water Management and Fisheries Management TFGs, the SJRRP established a new Restoration Goal TFG in 2009 to address technical topics related to the implementation of the Settlement’s Restoration Goal. Beginning in July, the Restoration Goal TFG met approximately every six weeks. Participation is open to the public, including the Settling Parties, Third Parties, and any stakeholder or individual with an interest in SJRRP Phase 1 channel and structural improvements projects.

► Technical Feedback Group Meeting Dates (2009)

WATER MANAGEMENT	FISHERIES MANAGEMENT	RESTORATION GOAL
January 9	January 16	July 21
February 20	February 10	September 22
March 20	May 27	November 17
April 17	June 24	
May 8	September 22	
June 5		
July 10		
September 4		
October 2		
November 6		

► Landowners Meetings

To prepare for fall 2009 Interim Flow releases required by the Settlement and other identified river restoration activities, Program staff resumed regular meetings with landowners in early 2009. As with sessions held in 2008, the meetings have sought to coordinate with landowners on a variety of topics that may affect private property, including the Interim Flows, installation of monitoring equipment, and the Phase 1 channel and structural improvements projects.

LANDOWNER MEETING DATES	MEETING FOCUS AREA AND GOALS
January 27, 2009	Coordinate with landowners in Reaches 2B and 4B on the potential location and monitoring activities for monitoring wells.
March 26, 2009	Meetings were held with landowners in Reaches 2B and 4B to review Interim Flows, the Seepage Management and Monitoring Program, and to receive updates on the distribution of Temporary Entry Permits and the pending Draft PEIS/R.
April 23, 2009	Workshops were held in Reaches 2B and 4B seeking input from landowners and others with first-hand knowledge of known seepage problem areas along the San Joaquin River and the bypass system downstream of Sand Slough. The workshop presented preliminary monitoring well transects proposed for Reaches 2A, 2B, 3, 4A, 4B, and the Eastside and Mariposa bypasses. These proposed well transects are part of a comprehensive effort by the Program to monitor changes in shallow groundwater elevations in response to changes in river flows.
June 17, 2009	Two landowner meetings were held to introduce the Program to area landowners (Reach 2A, 3, and 4A) not previously actively engaged. The meetings provided an overview of the Settlement, a description of Water Year 2010 Interim Flows, and an overview of the Seepage Management and Monitoring Program.
June 25, 2009	Landowners along the San Joaquin River downstream of the Chowchilla Bifurcation were provided a preliminary overview of the Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project. Items discussed during the meeting included a description of the project's purpose and need, a discussion of the potential locations of setback levees capable to pass a non-damaging flow of 4,500 cubic feet per second, and a display of the conceptual bypass alignments described in the Settlement and by local landowners.
September 24, 2009	A meeting was held with Reach 2B landowners. It included a display of conceptual setback levee alignments developed by DWR for the Reach 2B area.
November 19, 2009	A landowner workshop was held to outline and discuss development and implementation of the Reach 4B, Eastside/Mariposa Bypass Low Flow Channel and Structural Improvements Project.



► **Field Advisories**

The Program initiated the preparation and distribution of field advisories in 2009 to inform landowners of upcoming field activities and the timeframes.

- Field Investigations in Various Reaches – April
- Biological Field Surveys in the Eastside Bypass – May
- Field Investigations in Reach 2A – May
- Installing Monitoring Wells - June
- Bathymetric Surveys in Reach 3 – August

► **Public Scoping Meetings for Site-specific Projects**

Reclamation and DWR held public meetings to inform the preparation of a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for two site-specific projects in 2009, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The scoping meetings were designed to solicit comments from stakeholders to assist in determining the scope of the EIS/EIRs, including the alternatives to be addressed, and to identify any significant environmental issues. The meetings were advertised on the Program website, in advertisements in local newspapers (including Spanish-language publications), in notices distributed via email to the Program mailing list, and through a press release to regional media. Letters were also sent to landowners in the area of the river reaches under discussion. An interview with Program representatives publicizing the Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project Scoping Meeting in Firebaugh was aired in Spanish on Univision TV in Fresno.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING DATES	PROJECT
July 28 - Fresno July 29 - Firebaugh	Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project.
September 23 - Los Banos September 24 - Merced	Reach 4B, Eastside Bypass and Mariposa Bypass Low Flow Channel and Structural Improvements Project.

► **Program Information Development and Distribution**

- Program Mailing List: In order to provide targeted information to individuals and groups, the Program actively maintains a mailing list of individuals, organizations, and public agencies who wish to receive notifications of Program activities. Interested individuals are able to submit contact information at meetings, on printed material, and on the website. As of December 2009, the list includes approximately 3,400 contacts.
- Quarterly Program Updates: Four-page Program Updates were developed for distribution to the mailing list and posting on the Program web site. Updates were distributed in January, May, August and November 2009, and will continue on a quarterly basis.



San Joaquin River at the Reach 4B headgates

- Fact Sheets: SJRRP Fact Sheets and Frequently Asked Questions handouts were developed to disseminate specific information on certain components of the Program. A fact sheet on the passage of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 that contained legislation authorizing the Settlement was distributed in April 2009. In addition, a Frequently Asked Questions fact sheet concerning spring and early fall Biological Resource Surveys was distributed in May 2009.
- Press Releases were distributed for the following events:
 - Interim Flows Draft EA Availability – June 2009
 - Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project Public Scoping Meetings – July 2009
 - Reach 4B, Eastside Bypass and Mariposa Bypass Low Flow Channel and Structural Improvements Project Public Scoping Meetings – September 2009
 - Water Releases begin October 1 for SJRRP; Final Environmental Document available - and included press event at Friant Dam – October 2009
 - Reclamation increases water releases from Friant Dam for SJRRP Interim Flows - and included press availability at Dam – October 2009
- Annual Report: The 2008 annual report was released and publicly available in March.
- Additional Efforts Supporting the 2009 Interim Flows:
 - Notice of Availability for the Water Year 2010 Interim Flows Environmental Assessment/Initial Study mailed – June 2009
 - USGS Video of drilling activities for monitoring wells available via the web - June 2009
 - Interim Flows Notification List and Informational Packet developed and used to contact and inform interested parties about increased flows from Friant Dam – October 2009
 - Updated information related to the Interim Flows, including “Tracking the River’s End,” posted to the SJRRP’s Interim Flows web page as it became available – October and November 2009

► Temporary Entry Permit Coordination

The SJRRP continues to work with local landowners – including the San Joaquin River Resource Management Coalition (RMC) – in the development of the terms and conditions for the Program to conduct pre-construction surveys and investigations on private property. Access to private property is requested through a Temporary Entry Permit, an agreement between property owners, Reclamation, and DWR allowing Program staff access to assist with a wide range of pre-construction surveys and investigations including geotechnical surveys, seepage studies, and channel capacity studies. In February 2009, 40 TEP packages were distributed to landowners in reaches 2B, 4B and Eastside and Mariposa bypasses. Program staff and landowners in the area were able to come to agreement on a TEP for geotechnical surveys and a TEP and Realty Agreement for the installation of seepage wells on private property. Program staff continue to work with landowners on a second TEP to allow for further surveys needed.



► Program Website

The SJRRP maintains a publicly accessible, SJRRP-specific web site that is used as the primary vehicle for information dissemination to the wide range of stakeholders and the public. The website contains the following information:

- Background and history of the SJRRP
- Current activities
- General information on SJRRP staff, stakeholders, schedule and management
- Opportunities for public involvement and outreach
- Work Group activities and progress
- Timely information and updates
- Document repository that includes Technical Memoranda and other milestone SJRRP documents
- SJRRP outreach materials, including annual reports, quarterly Program Updates, news releases, and fact sheets.

The website is updated frequently. The SJRRP web pages were redesigned in 2009 to allow easier access to Program news and events, faster viewing and downloading of Program documents, and a link on the front page to reach Program staff, among many other improvements. SJRRP basic information in Spanish, Programa de Restauración del Río San Joaquín, was added in 2009. Visit the website at www.restoresjr.net.



► San Joaquin River Restoration Tour

The SJRRP cooperated with the Water Education Foundation in November 2009 to conduct the second public San Joaquin River Restoration Tour. About 40 participants attended the tour exclusively highlighting the projects and challenges related to restoring the San Joaquin River. The tour provided diverse perspectives from several resource speakers and stopped at numerous key locations on the San Joaquin River.

Landowner Coordination and Outreach

Since 2007, The Program has provided a Landowner Coordinator to serve as a technical resource and liaison between Program staff and landowners for conducting all field activities necessary for the successful implementation of the SJRRP. Throughout 2009, the Landowner Coordinator continued to work closely with individuals or organizations whose land could be affected by implementation of the Settlement.

The following accomplishments occurred during the past year:

- **Temporary Entry Permits** – Two distinct Temporary Entry Permits (TEP) were

distributed in 2009 in support of Program activities. The first TEP was sent in February to more than 40 property owners in the Reach 2B and 4B and the Eastside and Mariposa Bypasses. This request sought access rights for all pre-construction surveys and investigations as identified by the Program for Reclamation and DWR staff. Of these, one TEP in Reach 4B and seven for the Eastside Bypass were signed and returned. In August, a TEP tailored solely for the conduct of geotechnical investigations was approved and distributed to nearly 110 landowners in Reach 2A through Reach 5. Of these, 47 have been signed and returned by landowners and have been exercised for seepage monitoring well installation.

- **Reach-Specific Landowner Meetings** – The SJRRP organized and facilitated a range of monthly or bimonthly meetings tailored specifically to landowners in one or more river reach. Meetings were held for property owners in Reach 2B and 4B. These sessions primarily sought to inform and engage landowners of the site-specific projects in their areas. In June, a Reach 2A-specific meeting was held. A meeting targeted to Reach 3 and 4A landowners as also held in June primarily intended to initiate engagement with landowners not previously contacted by the Program and advise them of the pending Interim Flow releases. The Landowner Coordinator and SJRRP staff also attended monthly RMC meetings.
- **Seepage Monitoring Well Installation** – Seepage monitoring wells were sited on public and private property throughout the 153 river mile restoration area. Fifty wells were installed in 2009 on a variety of public and private lands, with another 28 wells staked and slated for installation in 2010. In support of this installation, field activity advisories were developed and distributed to adjacent landowners in April (siting) and June (installation). These advisories were also posted on the Program website.
- **Environmental Surveys** – A series of field surveys were coordinated in collaboration with DWR, Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, and the California State University, Stanislaus for the blunt-nosed leopard lizard in the Eastside Bypass in the summer and early fall. Conducted to identify the presence of this listed endangered species at the adult and juvenile life cycles, the survey protocol included up to 17 surveys at each location over a span of several weeks. No lizards were found. These surveys were required as part of the Program's implementation of Interim Flows in October 2009.
- **Bathymetric Surveys** – In support of sonar mapping of the river channel from Mendota Dam to Sack Dam in August, a field advisory of the planned activity was developed and distributed via email and the Program website. Additional activities included distribution of daily email notifications to adjacent landowners the approximate location of survey crews in the river and at nearby control points.
- **Interim Flows** – To inform landowners of the initiation of Interim Flows on October 1, an Advisory was developed and distributed by mail and email that outlined the anticipated flow regime, flow schedule, and resources for landowners in the event they experience seepage or anticipate seepage. Additional support provided in advance of the flows included coordination of access to properties in Reach 1B and 2A for the installation of scour chains. Further facilitation provided access to private property along Reach 2B during Interim Flows for the performance of flow velocity surveys.



The River's end as it moves down the dry river bed with the release of Interim Flows



- Coordination with Other Programs** – Landowner access consultation was provided to the Non-Urban Levees Evaluation (NULE) Program in the fall. A part of the DWR-led FloodSAFE California initiative, the NULE Program is an effort to evaluate the physical condition of private levees in Reaches 2B through Reach 4A. This description will be used by the SJRRP to the extent applicable. Landowner Coordination in 2009 consisted of facilitating an introduction of NULE Program consultant staff to the RMC executive committee and assistance for access to private property for the performance of surveys.

Program Costs and Funding

Funding for the SJRRP during FY09 and FY10 is provided by the Federal government and the State of California, as summarized below. These funds are used to support the implementation of actions outlined in the Settlement.

Annual Budget

SOURCE		FISCAL YEAR 2009	FISCAL YEAR 2010
FEDERAL FUNDS			
Reclamation ⁽¹⁾	Central Valley Project Improvement Act	\$13,646,800 ⁽⁵⁾	\$1,000,000
	San Joaquin River Restoration Fund, Friant Surcharge	\$0 ⁽⁴⁾	\$5,600,000 ⁽²⁾
	San Joaquin River Restoration Fund, Capital Repayment	\$5,000,000 ⁽³⁾	\$10,300,000 ⁽³⁾
	CALFED	\$1,000,000	\$0
	California Department of Water Resources	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
	Federal Appropriations	\$0	\$5,000,000
	National Marine Fisheries Service		
	Protected Resources – salmon		
Federal Sub-total		\$21,623,000	\$23,400,000
STATE FUNDS			
Department of Water Resources	Proposition 1E	\$505,000	\$0
	Proposition 13	\$2,028,000	\$0
	Proposition 84	\$3,572,000	\$13,880,000
Department of Fish and Game	Proposition 13	\$0	TBD
	Proposition 84	\$1,340,000	TBD
State Sub-total		\$	\$
Total		\$	\$

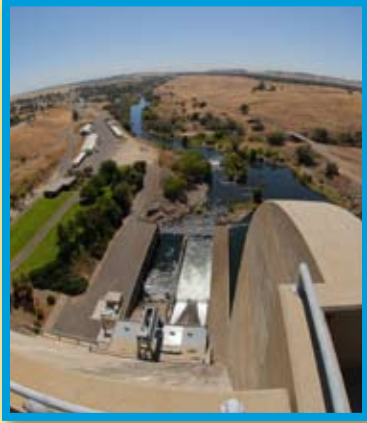
- Includes funding for FWS and NMFS participation.
- The Friant Surcharge amount is an estimate. The actual amount will vary depending on water sales.
- Estimated capital repayment for Fiscal Year 2009 and 2010. Actual repayment amounts will be determined after the end of the Fiscal Year and Reclamation's final accounting procedures.
- Friant surcharge amount for FY 2009 is included in the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.
- Of this amount, \$13,305,400 was obligated in FY 2009. The remainder was carried over into FY 2010.
State Fiscal Year is from July 1-June 30; Federal Fiscal Year is from October 1-September 30.

Status of Federal Legislation

The San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act (SJRRS Act), included in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, was signed by the President on March 30, 2009, and became Public Law 111-11. The SJRRS Act authorizes and directs the Secretary to fully implement the Settlement.



Looking Ahead: 2010 Program Activities



Friant Dam

The proposed actions in the Settlement outline how the Implementing Agencies will achieve the Restoration and Water Management Goals. As part of the Settlement, the Settling Parties developed a detailed timeline for developing and implementing Program improvements. This section highlights planned activities for 2010.

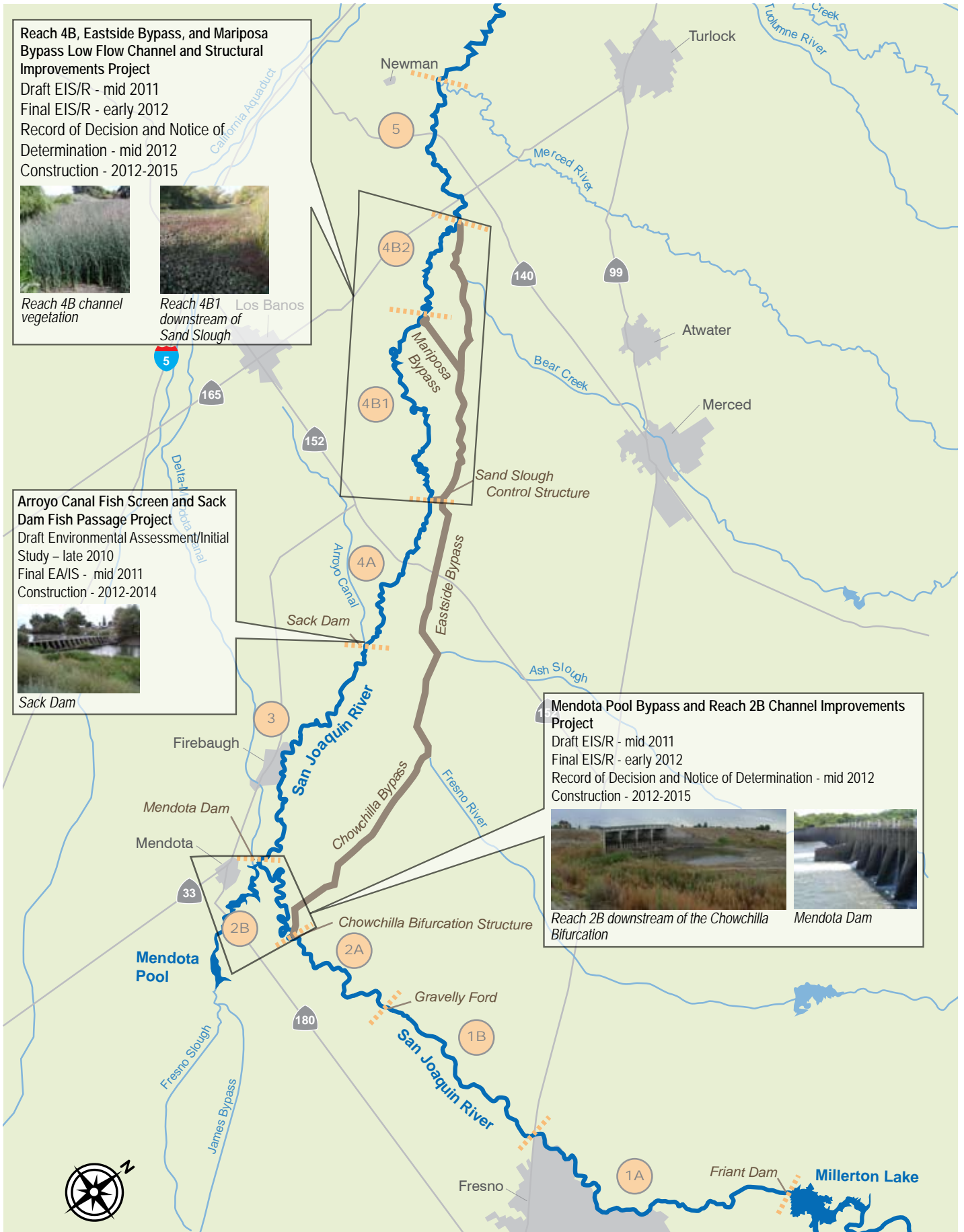
2010 Activities

Overview of planned activities for 2010:

- Continue work on, and prepare for, release of a Draft and Final PEIS/R.
- Continue development of a comprehensive Fisheries Management Plan, Fisheries Implementation Plan, and related analysis required to apply for a permit from the NMFS to reintroduce salmon.
- Initiate process for experimental population designation for reintroduced Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon consistent with Public Law 111-11 and the Endangered Species Act.
- Continue development of Water Management actions and implementation of Settlement Paragraph 16(a) actions including water transfer provisions, developing Restoration Flow Guidelines, and developing guidelines for local assistance consistent with Public Law 111-11.
- Continue Interim Flows through 2010 to collect a range of information regarding river and channel characteristics, including flows, temperatures, fish needs, seepage losses, and water recirculation, recapture and reuse.
- Continue with site-specific planning, engineering, environmental review, and other activities required to implement the actions called for in Paragraph 11(a) of the Settlement. These activities include:
 - Reach 4B, Eastside Bypass, and Mariposa Bypass Low Flow Channel and Structural Improvements Project
 - Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project
 - Arroyo Canal Fish Screen and Sack Dam Fish Passage Project.
- Continue development of the Friant-Kern and Madera Canals Capability Correction Feasibility Study.
- Continue development of the Friant-Kern Canal Reverse Flow Pumpback Feasibility Study.



Status of Key River Improvement Projects



Program Milestones

The following information highlights upcoming significant milestones and timelines in the three stages of the SJRRP.

Stage 1

Stage 1 focuses on program-level planning and environmental review, including formulating and evaluating reasonable alternatives for accomplishing the Restoration and Water Management Goals with a focus on system-wide aspects of implementation. Stage 1 has been initiated and includes the development of a PEIS/R and the identification of significant data needs that will be completed during Stage 2.

STAGE 1	PROGRAM PLANNING	2010
	Draft PEIS/R	March 2010
	Final PEIS/R	September 2010
	Record of Decision/Notice of Determination	Early 2011

Stage 2

Stage 2 commenced in October 2009 with the release of Interim Flows and will conclude in December 2013. During Stage 2, the Interim Flows program will continue to collect relevant data concerning flows, temperatures, fish needs, seepage losses, recirculation, recapture, and reuse. Stage 2 also includes the reintroduction of spring-run and fall-run Chinook salmon and the implementation of all Phase 1 channel improvements.

STAGE 2	INTERIM FLOWS, PROJECT CONSTRUCTION, AND SALMON INTRODUCTION	2009 - 2013
	Initiate Interim Flows and Monitoring Program	October 2009
	Reintroduce Chinook salmon	December 2012
	Complete all Phase 1 priority construction activities	December 2013
	Complete Final Interim Flow Study Report	June 2014



Stage 3

The primary activities in Stage 3 include the release of full Restoration Flows from Friant Dam, continued implementation of the Fishery Management Plan, implementation of Phase 2 actions, and the operation and maintenance of project facilities. The full Restoration Flows shall commence no later than January 1, 2014. Stage 3 will conclude once all activities called for in the Settlement are completed; however, ongoing operations and maintenance of facilities and structures will continue indefinitely.

STAGE 3	FULL RESTORATION FLOWS AND CONTINUED OPERATION	2014 - 2025
	Restoration Flow Release Schedules	Annual
	Restoration Goal Progress Reports	Annual
	Recovered Water Account Progress Reports	Annual
	Restoration Flow Monitoring Reports	Annual

Public Outreach and Involvement

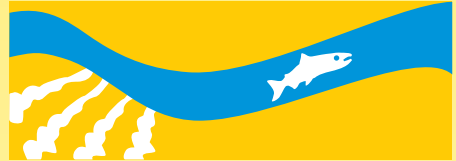
The SJRRP anticipates that the Draft PEIS/R will be available for public review and comment in March 2010. As part of the public review process, a series of meetings will be held to gather comments on the document and provide additional information about the Program. Agencies, stakeholders and the public will have 60 days after the document's release to provide comments, accepted in writing via U.S. mail, by fax, and email as well as verbally at the public meetings. Once the comment period closes, the comments received will be reviewed, compiled, and responded to in the Final PEIS/R, expected to be available in the fall of 2010.

All other Program public involvement opportunities and avenues as described earlier in this report will continue to be available to anyone interested in learning about, participating in, or tracking the progress of the SJRRP.



Participants at a public scoping meeting in Los Banos

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER
RESTORATION PROGRAM



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