

Central Valley Flood Protection Board Meeting

**INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING**

## San Joaquin River Restoration Program Update

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### **BRIEFING SUMMARY**

The Stipulations of Settlement for *NRDC, et al., v. Rodgers, et al.*, (Settlement) seeks to restore and maintain fish populations in “good condition” in the 153 miles of the main stem of the San Joaquin River below Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River. The San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act in PL 111-11 authorizes and directs the Secretary of Interior through the Bureau of Reclamation to implement the Settlement. Consistent with a Memorandum of Understanding between the State of California and the Federal government, several state Implementing Agencies including Department of Water Resources also work to implement the Settlement.

The goals of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program from 2017 to 2024 continue to focus on reestablishment of spring-run and fall-run Chinook salmon in the San Joaquin River. Construction of the Mendota Pool Bypass, improvements at Arroyo Canal and Sack Dam, and fish passage and levee stability projects in the Eastside Bypass are essential to achieving these goals as these projects provide key fish passage and protections such that Restoration Flows up to 2,500 cfs can be released. To make substantial and demonstrable progress toward reestablishment of salmonid populations requires sufficient fish passage and increased Restoration Flows which will improved fish habitat (i.e. increased fish rearing habitat and improved water temperature control).

The Eastside Bypass Improvements Project includes four components: Reach O levee work; installation of fish passage at the Eastside Bypass control structure; modification of the Dan MacNamara Road crossing; and removal of two Merced National Wildlife Refuge weirs and development of a near surface well on the Mariposa wetlands unit of the Refuge. This suite of projects improve fish passage and levee stability in the Eastside Bypass. An encroachment permit application for several components of the Eastside Bypass Improvements Project has been submitted to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board by the Department of Water Resources.