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Secretary for
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State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Water Rights

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will hold a Workshop to receive information relating to the San Joaquin River Restoration Program

The **Public Workshop** will commence on

Monday, November 15, 2010, at 10:00 a.m.

Coastal Hearing Room – Second Floor
Joe Serna, Jr. Cal/EPA Headquarters Building
1001 “I” Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT OF WORKSHOP

The State Water Board will hold a public workshop, at which a quorum of the board may be present, to receive information relating to the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP). Opportunity will be given to the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the San Joaquin River Group Authority to describe the historic and existing configuration and infrastructure of the San Joaquin River Watershed; the operation of Friant Dam, the San Joaquin River and major tributaries, and flood control system; and the South Delta Pumps. Opportunity will be given to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the Friant Water Authority (formerly the Friant Water Users Authority), and Reclamation to discuss the SJRRP settlement agreement. Opportunity will be given to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to discuss fishery issues related to the agreement. Opportunity will also be given to those persons listed below who use water from the San Joaquin River or the Delta to discuss the SJRRP as it relates to their operations. Other interested persons will also be provided an opportunity to provide comments. Time for oral comment may be limited based on the number of speakers.

The State Water Board will take no formal action during the workshop.

BACKGROUND

The SJRRP was established following a settlement between parties that include the NRDC, Reclamation, NMFS, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Friant Water Authority with the goals of restoring and maintaining fish populations in the mainstream of the San Joaquin River while reducing or avoiding adverse water supply impacts to the Friant Division long-term contractors. Congress provided federal authorization for implementing the settlement in the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act. The settlement provides for releases of both interim flows and long-term restoration flows. To provide interim flows, Reclamation proposes to dedicate water released from Millerton Reservoir for instream use from Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced and San Joaquin Rivers, and use instream conveyance of water in order to meet existing Reclamation obligations in lieu of making such deliveries from the Delta-Mendota Canal. Due to capacity issues, both natural and artificial conveyance means may be utilized to facilitate flow throughout the designated stretch of the river. The purpose of the interim flow program is to collect relevant data on flows, temperatures, fish needs, seepage losses, and water recirculation, recapture and reuse. The Water Year 2010 interim flow program began on October 1, 2009, for a one-year period pursuant to [Order WR 2009-0058](#).

California Environmental Protection Agency

On July 2, 2010, Reclamation filed petitions requesting authorization to continue the interim flow program during the 2011 Water Year. On September 30, 2010, the State Water Board, Division of Water Rights issued Order [WR 2010-0029](#), which conditionally approved the petitions for a one-year period.

Reclamation has not yet filed petitions to implement the long-term restoration program.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION IN THE WORKSHOP

The State Water Board will hear presentations regarding implementation of the SJRRP, as follows:

Background – Presentations on:

1. Historic and current configuration and infrastructure of the San Joaquin River Watershed; the operation of Friant Dam, the San Joaquin River and major tributaries, and flood control system; and the South Delta Pumps. Presenters: (a) Reclamation, and (b) San Joaquin River Group Authority;
2. San Joaquin River Settlement Agreement. Presenters: (a) NRDC and (b) Friant Water Authority;
3. Fishery restoration goals and timelines, necessary infrastructure modifications, and any obstacles to reintroduction of anadromous fish. Presenter: National Marine Fisheries Service;

Operational Perspective – Presentation on:

1. Information gathered during the first year of the SJRRP, discussion of baseline water quality compared to restoration of water quality, water quality issues associated with reoperation at Mendota Pool and description of the seepage monitoring and mitigation program. Planned actions and timelines for removal of flow impediments. Presenters: (a) Reclamation, (b) Friant Water Authority; and (c) San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority and San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

To ensure a productive and efficient workshop, and to ensure that all participants have an opportunity to participate, comments by interested persons may be given time limits of three minutes. There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants, but the State Water Board and its staff may ask clarifying questions. If you have questions that you would like the Board to ask during the workshop, you may submit the questions in writing in Microsoft Word format by November 8, 2010, to Katherine Mrowka via e-mail: kmrowka@waterboards.ca.gov. State Water Board members and staff will consider these questions and will ask questions that are useful to inform the proceeding. Persons with similar questions are requested to submit joint questions.

The State Water Board requests that presenters bring to the workshop 10 hardcopies and one electronic copy of information to be presented, for Board Member and staff use. Presenters may wish to bring additional copies for the other participants and the public.

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

A parking garage is located across from the Joe Serna Jr./Cal/EPA building with entrances on 10th and 11th Streets between "I" and "J" Streets. Metered parking spaces are also available in the vicinity of the building. For a map, refer to the State Water Board's Web site: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPAbldg/location.htm>.

Please note: All visitors to the Joe Serna Jr./Cal/EPA Building are required to sign in and receive a badge at the Visitor Services Center located inside the main entrance (10th Street entrance). Valid picture identification may be required due to the security level. Please allow up to 15 minutes for receiving clearance before proceeding to the Coastal Hearing Room on the 2nd floor.

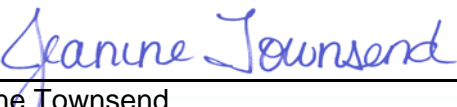
The Joe Serna Jr./Cal/EPA Building is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to call (916) 341-5880 at least five working days prior to the meeting date. Persons with hearing or speech impairments can contact us by using the California Relay Service Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD). TDD is reachable only from phones equipped with a TDD Device.

HEARING IMPAIRED RELAY SERVICE: TDD to voice 1 800-735-2929; voice to TDD 1-800-735-2922.

A video/audio broadcast of the meeting will be available via the internet and can be accessed at: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/broadcast>.

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Katherine Mrowka, Chief, Inland Streams Unit, at (916) 341-5363 or kmrowka@waterboards.ca.gov.

October 21, 2010
Date



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board