

**CALENDAR ITEM  
C78**

A 5, 23, 31  
S 12, 14

04/23/15  
PRC 9280.9  
R. Collins

**RESCISSION OF APPROVAL AND  
ISSUANCE OF A GENERAL LEASE – PUBLIC AGENCY USE**

**APPLICANT:**

United States Bureau of Reclamation

**AREA, LAND TYPE, AND LOCATION:**

Eight (8) parcels of sovereign land in the San Joaquin River, at Ledger Island, Highway 41 Bridge, Scout Island, Milburn, Highway 99, Herndon, Donnie Bridge, and Gragnani property, Fresno and Madera Counties.

**AUTHORIZED USE:**

Temporary placement of fish collection structures.

**LEASE TERM:**

10 years, beginning April 23, 2014.

**CONSIDERATION:**

Public benefit; with the State reserving the right at any time to set a monetary rent of the Commission finds such action to be in the State's best interests.

**OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:**

1. Applicant has the right to use the upland adjoining the lease premises.
2. In September 2006, a settlement was reached in an 18-year lawsuit brought by a coalition of conservation and fishing groups led by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) against the United States Bureau of Reclamation and the Friant Water Users Authority (*Natural Resources Defense Council, et al. v. Rodgers, Civ. No. S-88-1658 LKK/GGH (E.D. Cal.)*). The San Joaquin River Restoration Program (Program) is a direct result of the settlement. Federal legislation was passed in March 2009 authorizing federal agencies to implement the settlement. There are two primary goals of the settlement:

CALENDAR ITEM NO. **C78** (CONT'D)

- a. 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; and
  - b. 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.
3. In Fall 2013, more than 360 adult fall-run Chinook salmon were translocated into the upper San Joaquin River and nearly 70 spawning redds (nests where eggs were laid) were documented. The successful outmigration of juvenile salmon is critical for survival to adulthood and to support the goal of the Program to restore Chinook salmon to the river. Factors determining successful outmigration include suitable water temperatures, adequate and timely flow for downstream movement, and a passable watercourse, none of which are available in some of the reaches of the restoration area due to the “Critical Low” hydrologic water year.
4. In order to capture juvenile fish, the Applicant will construct v-shaped fence weirs from bank to bank, using wire mesh panels and supporting metal posts. Each v-shaped weir will form a passageway leading to a 3’ x 4’ collection box. In addition, entrainment-type netting may be installed upstream of proposed weir locations. The entrainment-type nets are attached to steel frames that are guided horizontally in steel channels so they can be fished daily and removed when not in use. Temporary fish collection structures will include flashing lights and flagging to alert boaters. Temporary fence weirs will include a removable panel marked with bright paint and signage to direct boaters upstream and downstream from the temporary fish collection structures.
5. Collection boxes will be checked for fish and weirs cleaned of debris daily. Any fish species other than fall-run Chinook salmon that may be incidentally trapped will be released immediately downstream of the collection structures. Captured fall-run Chinook salmon will be transported by truck to release sites downstream.
6. Juvenile fall-run Chinook salmon trap and haul activities will occur from mid-February through May, depending on hydrologic conditions. Following completion of the trap and haul activities, fish collection structures will be removed from the river and stored at an off-site facility.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. **C78** (CONT'D)

7. In 1992, Commission staff completed and published a set of “Administrative Maps of the San Joaquin River” between Friant Dam and State Highway 99 depicting the location of the high and low water lines. At several locations along this stretch of the San Joaquin River, the boundary between public and private ownership has been fixed by agreement. At those locations, the agreement(s) would supersede the Administrative Maps.
8. On April 23, 2014, the Commission authorized the issuance of Lease No. PRC 9280.9, a General Lease – Public Agency Use, to the United States Bureau of Reclamation for a period of 10 years, for the temporary placement of fish collection structures in four (4) locations of the San Joaquin River. The Applicant recently advised Commission staff of complications it found in the lease language that prevented it from executing the lease as authorized. The Applicant has also applied to increase the number of locations to place temporary fish structures from four (4) to eight (8). Staff recommends rescission of the prior Commission action, and authorization for the issuance of a new lease to the Applicant with revised lease language and an increase in the number of sites included in the Lease.
9. **Rescission of Lease Approval:** The staff recommends that the Commission find that the rescission of the subject lease approval does not have a potential for resulting in either a direct or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and is, therefore, not a project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Authority: Public Resources Code section 21065 and California Code of Regulations, Title 14, sections 15060, subdivision (c)(3), and 15378.

10. **Issuance of a Lease:** The CSLC adopted an Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) as a Negative Declaration (ND)-equivalent document at its April 23, 2014 meeting as part of agenda item C46 ([http://archives.slc.ca.gov/Meeting\\_Summaries/2014\\_Documents/04-23-14/Items\\_and\\_exhibits/C46.pdf](http://archives.slc.ca.gov/Meeting_Summaries/2014_Documents/04-23-14/Items_and_exhibits/C46.pdf)). The proposed lease includes minimal changes to the timing and location of the fish collection structures that were originally analyzed in the adopted EA. The impacts associated with these minimal timing and location changes were analyzed and included in the adopted EA. However, to disclose the minimal timing and location changes, the United States Bureau of Reclamation adopted a new FONSI on February 3, 2015. Therefore, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15221, the

CALENDAR ITEM NO. **C78** (CONT'D)

staff recommends the use of the new FONSI in place of an addendum to the 2014 EA/FONSI.

11. This activity involves lands identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to Public Resources Code section 6370 et seq., but such activity will not affect those significant lands. Based upon the staff's consultation with the persons nominating such lands and through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process, it is the staff's opinion that the project, as proposed, is consistent with its use classification.

**EXHIBITS:**

- A. Land Description
- B-1. Site and Location Map
- B-2. Site and Location Map
- C. Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

It is recommended that the Commission:

**CEQA FINDING:**

**Rescission of Lease Approval:** Find that the rescission of the subject lease approval is not subject to the requirements of CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15060, subdivision (c)(3), because the subject activity is not a project as defined by Public Resources Code section 21065 and California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15378.

**Issuance of a Lease:** Find that the CSLC adopted the EA and FONSI prepared for this Project and adopted by the United States Bureau of Reclamation in place of a Negative Declaration on April 23, 2014 (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 15221 and 15225).

Find that a new FONSI prepared and adopted by the United States Bureau of Reclamation on February 3, 2015, meets the requirements of CEQA as an addendum pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15164.

Find that the Commission has reviewed and considered all the information contained in the Negative Declaration (EA and original FONSI) together with the addendum (new FONSI), as contained in Exhibit C, and that in its independent judgment, none of the events specified in Public Resources Code section 21166 or State CEQA Guidelines section 15162 resulting in

CALENDAR ITEM NO. **C78** (CONT'D)

any new or substantially more severe significant impacts has occurred, and therefore, no additional CEQA analysis is required.

**SIGNIFICANT LANDS INVENTORY FINDING:**

Find that this activity is consistent with the use classification designated by the Commission for the land pursuant to Public Resources Code section 6370 et seq.

**AUTHORIZATION:**

1. Authorize rescission of the Commission's approval of Lease No. PRC 9280.9, a General Lease – Public Agency Use, at the April 23, 2014 meeting.
2. Authorize issuance of a General Lease – Public Agency Use to the United States Bureau of Reclamation, beginning April 23, 2014, for a term of 10 years, for the temporary placement of fish collection structures as described in Exhibit A and as shown on Exhibit B (for reference purposes only) attached and by this reference made a part hereof; consideration is the public benefit, with the State reserving the right at any time to set a monetary rent if the Commission finds such action to be in the state's best interests.

**EXHIBIT A**

**PRC 9280.9**

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Eight parcels of sovereign land situate in the bed of the San Joaquin River, Counties of Fresno and Madera, State of California and more particularly described as follows:

**PARCEL 1 (Ledger Island Site)**

A circular parcel of land having a one hundred (100) foot radius with a central point having a NAD 83 coordinate of 36° 56' 38.34" North Latitude, 119° 44' 18.93" West Longitude.

**PARCEL 2 (Highway 41 Bridge Site)**

A circular parcel of land having a one hundred (100) foot radius with a central point having a NAD 83 coordinate of 36° 52' 15.56" North Latitude, 119° 47' 59.87" West Longitude.

**PARCEL 3 (Scout Island Site)**

A circular parcel of land having a one hundred (100) foot radius with a central point having a NAD 83 coordinate of 36° 51' 38.31" North Latitude, 119° 50' 48.13" West Longitude.

**PARCEL 4 (Milburn Site)**

A circular parcel of land having a one hundred (100) foot radius with a central point having a NAD 83 coordinate of 36° 51' 20.52" North Latitude, 119° 52' 39.89" West Longitude.

**PARCEL 5 (Highway 99 Site)**

A circular parcel of land having a one hundred (100) foot radius with a central point having a NAD 83 coordinate of 36° 50' 31.42" North Latitude, 119° 56' 00.18" West Longitude.

**PARCEL 6 (Herndon Site)**

A circular parcel of land having a one hundred (100) foot radius with a central point having a NAD 83 coordinate of 36° 50' 13.40" North Latitude, 119° 56' 06.61" West Longitude.

PARCEL 7 (Donnie Bridge Site)

A circular parcel of land having a one hundred fifty (150) foot radius with a central point having a NAD 83 coordinate of 36° 49' 59.93" North Latitude, 119° 57' 56.78" West Longitude.

PARCEL 8 (Gragnani Site)

A circular parcel of land having a one hundred (100) foot radius with a central point having a NAD 83 coordinate of 36° 47' 52.77" North Latitude, 120° 09' 34.19" West Longitude.

EXCEPTING THEREFROM any portion lying landward of the low water mark of the right and left banks of said river.

**END OF DESCRIPTION**

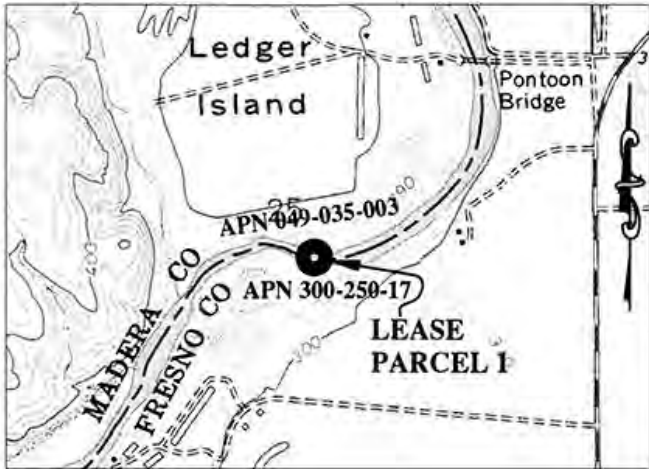
NAD 83 Geographic Coordinates provided by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Prepared 03/04/15 by the California State Lands Commission Boundary Unit

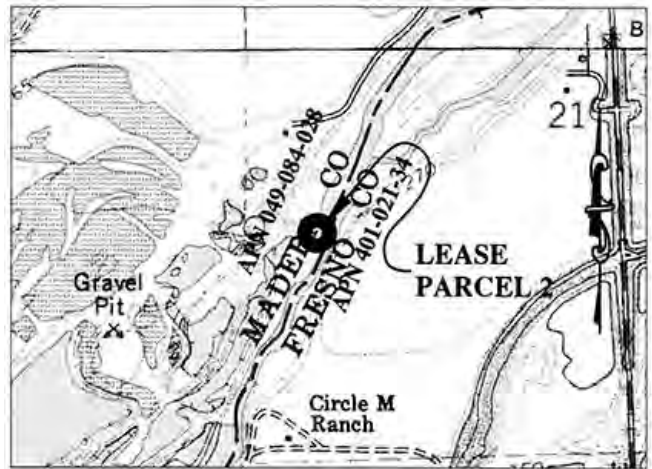


NO SCALE

# SITE



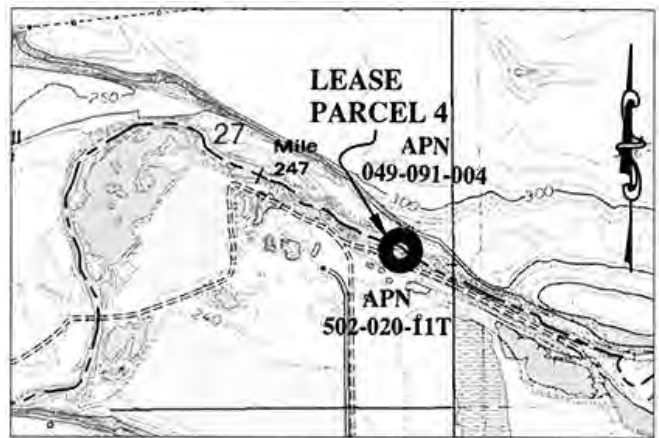
LEDGER ISLAND SITE



HIGHWAY 41 BRIDGE SITE



SCOUT ISLAND SITE



MILBURN SITE

## FISH COLLECTION STRUCTURES, SAN JOAQUIN RIVER

NO SCALE

# LOCATION



MAP SOURCE: USGS QUAD

This Exhibit is solely for purposes of generally defining the lease premises, is based on unverified information provided by the Lessee or other parties and is not intended to be, nor shall it be construed as, a waiver or limitation of any State interest in the subject or any other property.

## Exhibit B-1

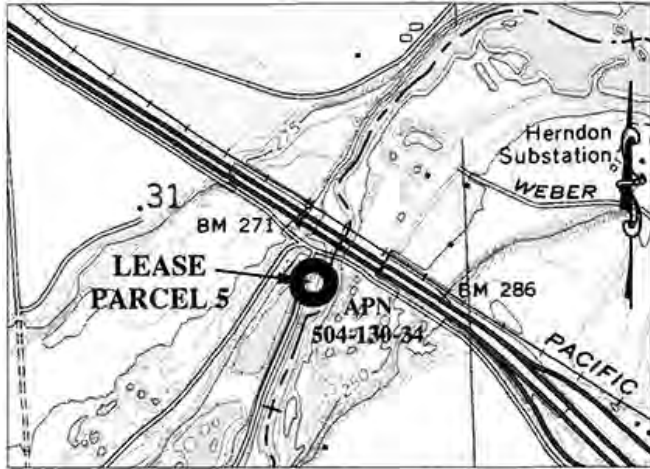
PRC 9280.9  
 U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
 APNs - MULTIPLE  
 GENERAL LEASE -  
 PUBLIC AGENCY USE  
 FRESNO & MADERA  
 COUNTIES





NO SCALE

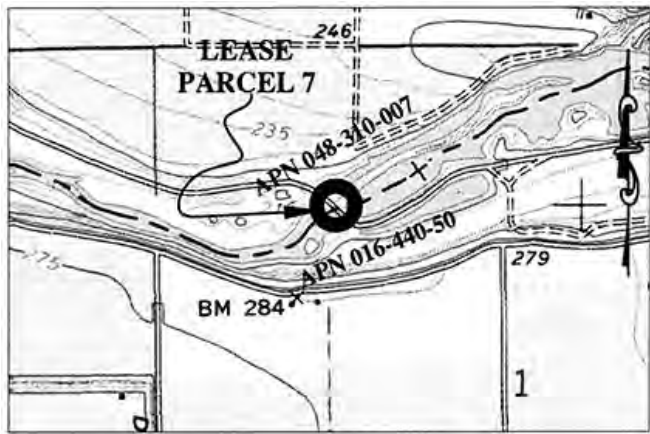
# SITE



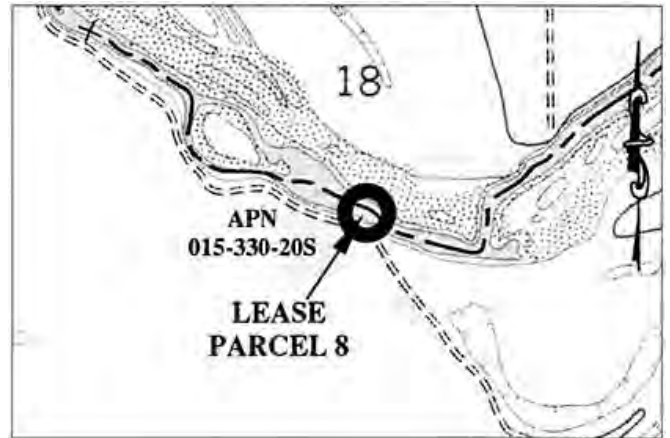
HIGHWAY 99 SITE



HERNDON AVENUE SITE



DONNIE BRIDGE SITE



GRAGNANI SITE

## FISH COLLECTION STRUCTURES, SAN JOAQUIN RIVER

NO SCALE

# LOCATION



MAP SOURCE: USGS QUAD

This Exhibit is solely for purposes of generally defining the lease premises, is based on unverified information provided by the Lessee or other parties and is not intended to be, nor shall it be construed as, a waiver or limitation of any State interest in the subject or any other property.

## Exhibit B-2

PRC 9280.9

U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
APNs - MULTIPLE  
GENERAL LEASE -  
PUBLIC AGENCY USE  
FRESNO & MADERA  
COUNTIES



TS 03/04/15

**EXHIBIT C – JUVENILE FALL-RUN CHINOOK SALMON TRAP  
AND HAUL STUDY**

**United States Bureau of Reclamation**

**Environmental Assessment  
2014 Finding of No Significant Impact**

**SUPPLEMENT C-1  
2015 Finding of No Significant Impact**

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

Environmental Assessment

## 2014 San Joaquin River Restoration Program Juvenile Fall-Run Chinook Salmon Trap and Haul Study

*Prepared by:*

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Mid-Pacific Region



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

February 2014

## **Mission Statements**

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitments to island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

# Contents

<b>Section 1</b>	<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>1-1</b>
1.1	Background.....	1-1
1.2	Purpose and Need .....	1-3
<b>Section 2</b>	<b>Alternatives Including the Proposed Action.....</b>	<b>2-1</b>
2.1	No Action Alternative.....	2-1
2.2	Proposed Action.....	2-1
<b>Section 3</b>	<b>Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences .....</b>	<b>3-1</b>
3.1	Water Resources .....	3-1
3.1.1	Affected Environment.....	3-1
3.1.2	Environmental Consequences.....	3-1
3.2	Biological Resources .....	3-1
3.2.1	Affected Environment.....	3-1
3.2.2	Environmental Consequences.....	3-3
3.3	Recreation .....	3-4
3.3.1	Affected Environment.....	3-4
3.3.2	Environmental Consequences.....	3-4
3.4	Visual Resources.....	3-5
3.4.1	Affected Environment.....	3-5
3.4.2	Environmental Consequences.....	3-5
3.5	Cultural Resources .....	3-4
3.5.1	Affected Environment.....	3-5
3.5.2	Environmental Consequences.....	3-6
3.5	Indian Trust Assets .....	3-6
3.6	Air Quality .....	3-7
3.6.1	Affected Environment.....	3-7
3.6.2	Environmental Consequences.....	3-7
3.7	Global Climate Change.....	3-8
3.7.1	Affected Environment.....	3-8
3.7.2	Environmental Consequences.....	3-8
3.8	Cumulative Impacts .....	3-8
<b>Section 4</b>	<b>Consultation and Coordination .....</b>	<b>4-1</b>
4.1	National Environmental Policy Act.....	4-1

2014 San Joaquin River Restoration Program  
Juvenile Chinook Salmon Trap and Haul Study

4.2	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934 .....	4-1
4.3	Endangered Species Act of 1973 .....	4-1
4.4	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act .....	4-2
4.5	Clean Water Act.....	4-3
4.6	Rivers and Harbors Act (Section 10) .....	4-3
4.7	National Historic Preservation Act.....	4-3
4.8	Migratory Bird Treaty Act.....	4-3
4.9	American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978.....	4-3
4.10	Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations.....	4-3
<b>Section 5</b>	<b>List of Preparers .....</b>	<b>5-1</b>
<b>Section 6</b>	<b>References .....</b>	<b>6-1</b>

## Figures

Figure 1 – Collection Locations Vicinity Map.....	2-2
Figure 2 - Example Weir.....	2-5
Figure 3 – Example Entrainment Netting.....	2-5

## Attachments

Attachment A – US Fish and Wildlife Service Special Status Species List

# Abbreviations and Acronyms

CVP Friant Division	Central Valley Project Friant Division
EA	environmental assessment
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FMP	San Joaquin River Restoration Program Fisheries Management Plan
FWCA	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
GGS	giant garter snake
ITAs	Indian Trust Assets
Kit Fox	San Joaquin kit fox
National Register	National Register of Historic Places
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NRDC	Natural Resources Defense Council
PEIS/R	San Joaquin River Restoration Program Environmental Impact Statement/Report
RHA	Rivers and Harbors Act
ROD	record of decision
SJRRP	San Joaquin River Restoration Program
Service	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
SJVAB	San Joaquin Valley Air Basin
SJVAPCD	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
VELB	valley elderberry longhorn beetle

2014 San Joaquin River Restoration Program  
Juvenile Chinook Salmon Trap and Haul Study

*This Page Intentionally Left Blank*



# Section 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

In 1988, a coalition of environmental groups, led by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), filed a lawsuit challenging the renewal of long-term water service contracts between the United States and Central Valley Project (CVP) Friant Division (Friant Division). After more than 18 years of litigation, *NRDC, et al., v. Kirk Rodgers, et al.*, a settlement was reached (Settlement). On September 31, 2006, the Settling Parties, including NRDC, Friant Water Users Authority (now represented by the Friant Water Authority), and the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Commerce, agreed on the terms and conditions of the Settlement, which was subsequently approved by the U.S. Eastern District Court of California on October 23, 2006. The Settlement establishes two primary goals:

- 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 on all of the Friant Contractors that may result from the Interim Flows and Restoration Flows provided for in the Settlement.

The planning and environmental review necessary to implement the Settlement is authorized under Section 3406(c)(1) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (Public Law 102-575) and the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act (Act), included in Public Law 111-11, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to implement the terms and conditions of the Settlement through the Act. The San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) is implementing the Settlement.

The SJRRP Fisheries Management Plan (FMP; SJRRP 2010) provides an adaptive management approach for the reintroduction of Chinook salmon and other fishes. Given the uncertainty associated with reintroduction of Chinook salmon and native fish to the San Joaquin River, and the complexity of the SJRRP, an adaptive management program is needed to ensure the SJRRP can be flexible in reaching its goals. The responses of translocated Chinook salmon and their progeny to physical factors such as streamflow, water temperature, and climate change are unknown. Adaptively managing fish populations under challenging water constraints will require the SJRRP to use a variety of strategies and techniques to take action when unfavorable environmental conditions persist, such as this year, which is projected to be a critical low water year. Because of the current hydrologic conditions, Reclamation is proposing to move captured juvenile fall-run Chinook salmon from upstream areas with unsuitable environmental conditions to downstream locations where their ocean migration can continue.

## Incorporation of Related Environmental Documents

The SJRRP Program Environmental Impact Statement/Impact Report (PEIS/R) was finalized in July 2012 and the corresponding Record of Decision (ROD) was issued on September 28, 2012 (Reclamation 2012a and 2012b). The PEIS/R and ROD analyzed at a project-level the reoperation of Friant Dam to release Interim and Restoration Flows to the San Joaquin River, making water supplies available to Friant Division long-term contractors at a pre-established rate, and the recapture of Interim and Restoration Flows at existing facilities within the Restoration Area and the Delta.

This EA incorporates by reference the following information from the PEIS/R:

- **Chapter 3.0 - Considerations for Describing the Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences.** This EA incorporates the analysis and assumptions presented in the chapter; specifically, analysis of the Study Area for the PEIS/R, the explanation of significance criteria, impact comparisons, impact levels, and mitigation measures are incorporated into the contents of this EA.
- **Chapter 4.0 – Air Quality.** This EA incorporates the affected environment description and analysis performed to assess impacts related to program-level actions. The assessment of impacts and ultimate determinations, all being less than significant for the operation of the SJRRP, are also incorporated.
- **Chapter 5.0 – Biological Resources - Fisheries.** This EA incorporates the affected environment description and analysis performed in order to support the analysis for the SJRRP. The incorporated material from the PEIS/R includes the quantitative and qualitative assessments of aquatic species impacts as a result of the implementation of the SJRRP, specifically related to physical processes such as water temperatures, water quality, flow patterns, fish habitat conditions, pollutant discharge and mobilization, turbidity, diversions and entrainment, predation, and food web support in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The assessment of impacts and determinations are also incorporated.
- **Chapter 6.0 – Biological Resources – Vegetation and Wildlife.** This EA incorporates the affected environment description and analysis performed in the PEIS/R related to the assessment of sensitive species and habitats in or near the project area.
- **Chapter 25.0 – Visual Resources.** This EA incorporates by reference the affected environment description and analysis performed in the

PEIS/R related to the assessment of impacts to visual resources in the project area.

- **Chapter 26.0 – Cumulative Impacts.** This EA incorporates by reference the discussion of the effects of the SJRRP in relation to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. This includes discussion of planned actions associated with the collective CALFED Water Resources Projects, other water resource projects, resource management plans and programs, and the related impact analysis from the SJRRP on cumulative impacts to the resources addressed in this EA.

## 1.2 Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed action is to support the previously described Settlement Restoration Goal by taking adaptive management action to assess the feasibility of trapping and moving fall-run Chinook salmon in response to unsuitable environmental conditions. The FMP identifies rearing and juvenile migration as a life stage to be supported for successful completion of the salmon life cycle. Outmigration of juvenile salmon is critical for survival to adulthood. Factors determining successful outmigration include suitable water temperatures, adequate and timely flow for downstream movement, and a passable watercourse, none of which are available in the lower portions of the San Joaquin River and other downstream reaches of the SJRRP Restoration Area during a Critical Low hydrologic water-year type. There are no restoration pulse flow requirements during a Critical Low water year. Low water conditions and water temperatures exceeding salmon thermal tolerance limits will cause physical and environmental barriers to downstream migration and result in lower salmon survival if no management action is taken.

2014 San Joaquin River Restoration Program  
Juvenile Chinook Salmon Trap and Haul Study

*This Page Intentionally Left Blank*

## **Section 2 Alternatives**

### **2.1 No Action Alternative**

Under the no action alternative, Reclamation would not facilitate moving captured juvenile salmon from unsuitable conditions to downstream locations where their ocean migration can continue.

### **2.2 Proposed Action**

Under the proposed action, Reclamation would implement a trap and haul study in 2014 to assess the feasibility of moving juvenile fall-run Chinook salmon downstream of the Restoration Area where the San Joaquin River is connected in low flow years and no migration barriers exist, and monitor fish movements in Reach 1 of the San Joaquin River during a Critical Low hydrologic water-year type where no flow pulses are available to cue juvenile salmon to downstream migration in already low water conditions. To capture juvenile fall-run Chinook salmon, temporary fence weirs would be installed at 2 locations in Reach 1 of the San Joaquin River (Figure 1): within 1 mile downstream of the Highway 41 Bridge, and at Scout Island.

The temporary fence weirs would be constructed from bank to bank, using wire mesh panels and supporting metal t-posts leading to a collection box (Figure 2). Fish would enter the collection box through a V-shaped passageway that inhibits exit. Restrictive bars at the collection box entrance would allow smaller fish to enter and block larger fish (i.e., predators). Collection boxes would most likely be 3'x4' or larger depending on site-specific river characteristics. In locations with flows exceeding the durability of mesh panels, weirs would be constructed of metal pickets (i.e., galvanized conduit) which are more resistant to higher water pressures and the accumulation of debris. Metal pickets supported by tripods and stringers would form a permeable wall at a 90° angle entering a trap box to guide and collect fish.

In addition, temporary fish collection netting would be installed at Donnie Bridge, and a rotary screw trap temporarily installed at Ledger Island Bridge.

2014 San Joaquin River Restoration Program  
Juvenile Chinook Salmon Trap and Haul Study

Collection boxes would be checked for fish and weirs cleaned of debris daily. Any fish species other than fall-run Chinook salmon that may be incidentally trapped will be released immediately downstream of the collection structures. Fall-run Chinook salmon would be collected daily in the morning and transported to the release site using a standard size pickup truck. Fall-run Chinook salmon would be netted and placed in 5-gallon buckets with lids to transfer them to a fish transport tank. Fish would be observed for suture marks (acoustically tagged fish) and wanded for PIT tags. Tagged fish would be released downstream of traps at all but the furthest downstream location.

Trap efficiency would be measured by marking 2 size classes of fall-run Chinook salmon collected to differentiate them from wild fish. The larger class size may be implanted with a PIT tag. Small fall-run Chinook salmon that are collected would not be marked in order to avoid causing additional handling stress that could decrease their chance for survival post-transport.

Collected fall-run Chinook salmon would be transported in a 300-gallon tank filled with water collected from Reach 1 of the San Joaquin River using a submersible pump. Salt (6‰) and Polyqua would be added to transport tank water to alleviate osmotic imbalance and stress-related effects. Oxygen would be supplied and maintained at 8mg/L during transport. Visual inspections of fish and water quality would be made during transport to the release site. Any mortality during transport will be observed for physical damage, weighed, and measured.

Proposed release sites will be determined by water temperature, flow, and river connectivity, but could include: the confluence of the San Joaquin and Merced Rivers near Newman, or the confluence of the San Joaquin and Tuolumne Rivers near Patterson. Once at the release location, the transport tank water would be tempered to within 2° C of the receiving water by slowly pumping release site water directly into the transportation tank. Once desired temperature is reached, fish would be released via a release tube. Any mortality during transport will be observed for physical damage, weighed, and measured.

Juvenile fall-run Chinook salmon trap and haul activities would occur from mid-February through May 2014, as allowed by hydrologic conditions. If water temperatures reach a level that would compromise fall-run Chinook salmon survival, trapping would cease at that location. Following completion of trap and haul activities, fish collection structures would be removed from the channel and stored at an off-site disposal facility.

To minimize potential impacts of the proposed action, Reclamation will implement the following measures:

- In accordance with the Service Conservation Guidelines for valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB), to avoid any impacts to VELB, no mechanized equipment will operate within 100 feet of elderberry shrubs, and no work will be done within 20 feet of the outer edge of any elderberry shrubs.
- The project area will be visually inspected prior to fish collection and release activities to ensure no San Joaquin kit foxes (kit foxes) or dens are present.
- In order to avoid potentially working within areas that may be suitable for giant garter snake (GGS), a 100-foot buffer will be maintained around all backwater sloughs when installing t-posts for the temporary fish collection structures. Cut banks will be avoided when moving or anchoring equipment in order to avoid potential GGS dens.
- Reclamation will place signage to alert boaters of the temporary fish collection structures upstream and downstream of the temporary fish collection structures, and at Fresno Sportsmen's Club, Fort Washington Campground, Sycamore Island, and Friant Dam Landing.
- Temporary fish collection structures will include flashing lights, and flagging to alert boaters.
- Temporary fence weirs will include a removable panel marked with bright paint and signage to direct boaters and allow for boat passage.
- Fall-run Chinook Salmon collection actions under the proposed action will be coordinated with any potential planned SJRRP releases of spring-run Chinook salmon in the San Joaquin River so that any potential impacts to spring-run Chinook salmon are avoided.

2014 San Joaquin River Restoration Program  
Juvenile Chinook Salmon Trap and Haul Study

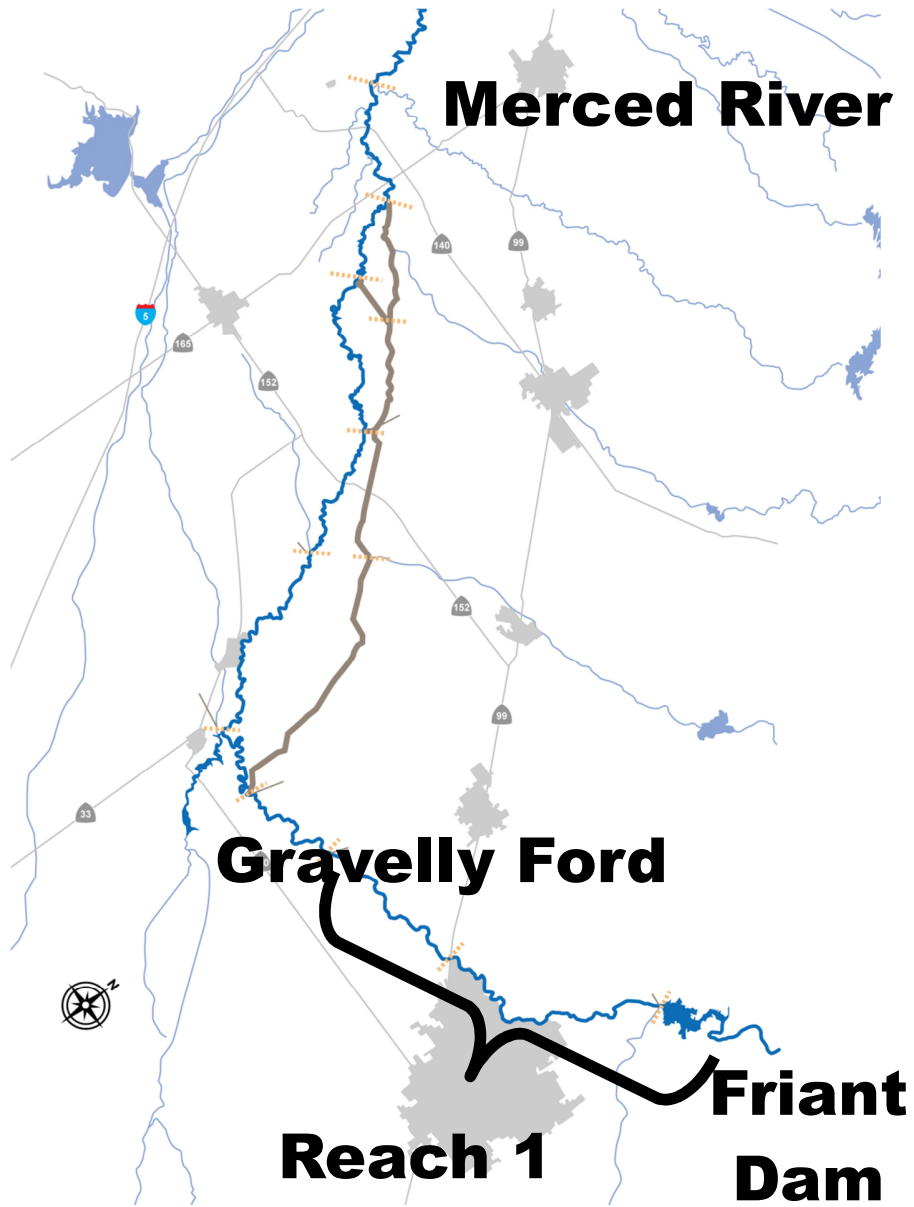


Figure 1 – Trapping Location General Vicinity





**Figure 2. Example Weir (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife)**



**Figure 3. Example Entrainment Netting (Bureau of Reclamation)**



## **Section 3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences**

This section provides an overview of the physical environment and existing conditions that could be affected by the alternatives. The affected environment condition assumptions consist of the existing physical environmental conditions as of January 2014. The alternatives would have no effect on the following resources, and therefore they are not further discussed in this EA: groundwater, land use, geology and soils, agricultural resources, noise, power, public health, transportation, utilities, and growth inducing impacts.

### **3.1 Surface Water Resources**

#### **3.1.1 Affected Environment**

Under a Critical Low hydrologic water year type, flows will likely be only approximately 250 cfs to meet demands in February and will likely be reduced to around 130 cfs March 1st. There is no water allocated for restoration pulse flows during a Critical Low water year.

#### **3.1.2 Environmental Consequences**

##### ***No Action Alternative***

The No Action Alternative would have no effect on surface water quantity, quality or hydrodynamics in the channel.

##### ***Proposed Action***

Installation of the temporary fish collection structures and fish collection and release activities are not anticipated to significantly alter hydrodynamics in the river channel given the anticipated low flows. While increases in turbidity may occur during installation of the temporary fish collection structures and collection and release of fish, these impacts are anticipated to be minor, as all work would be done by hand, and these impacts would be temporary in nature.

### **3.2 Biological Resources**

#### **3.2.1 Affected Environment**

The PEIS/R further describes biological resources potentially present in Reaches 1 and 5 of the San Joaquin River. The Pacific Fisheries Management Council included the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and their tributaries as Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for Central Valley Chinook stocks, including Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon, Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon and Central Valley fall-/late fall-run Chinook salmon and starry flounder.

2014 San Joaquin River Restoration Program  
Juvenile Chinook Salmon Trap and Haul Study

Reclamation obtained a list of species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) potentially occurring in the project area from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on 2/3/14 (Attachment A). The species that have the greatest potential to be in or near the project area are kit fox, GGS, and VELB. Spring-run Chinook salmon are currently not present in the proposed action area. The SJRRP is currently developing a plan for potential release of spring-run Chinook salmon in 2014. However, location and timing details of the potential release are not yet available. Other listed species are not anticipated to be present in the project area, and therefore are not further addressed.

**San Joaquin Kit Fox**

Kit fox diets vary based on prey availability, and includes small to mid-size mammals, ground-nesting birds, and insects. Kit foxes excavate their own dens, use dens made by other animals, or use human-made structures such as culverts, abandoned pipelines, and banks in sumps or roadbeds. Primary reasons for species decline include loss and degradation of habitat. Kit foxes would not occur in the direct project area for the proposed action. It is unlikely that kit foxes would be present in the project vicinity.

**Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle**

VELB habitat consists of elderberry shrubs that are at least 1 inch or greater in diameter at ground level. While not present in the direct action area of the river channel, elderberry shrubs may be located elderberry shrubs in riparian environments adjacent to the river channel in the project vicinity.

**Giant Garter Snake**

GGS inhabit sloughs, low-gradient streams, marshes, ponds, agricultural wetlands (e.g. rice fields), irrigation canals and drainage ditches and adjacent uplands. GGS populations in the San Joaquin Valley are small, fragmented unstable and believed to be decreasing. The species is threatened primarily by habitat conversion, fragmentation, and degradation resulting from urban development and incompatible agricultural practices.

While GGS are an aquatic species, it is highly unlikely that they would be present within the river channel itself, where the proposed action would occur. GGS generally prefer slow-moving or stagnant pools as opposed to moving water. While the species would not occur in the river, it may incidentally be located in upland areas adjacent to the river or in backwater sloughs that are connected to the river.

### **3.2.2 Environmental Consequences**

#### ***No Action***

Under the no action alternative, low water conditions and water temperatures exceeding salmon thermal tolerance limits would result in unsuitable environmental conditions for these fish. Physical and environmental barriers to downstream migration would result in lower salmon survival if no management action is taken.

#### ***Proposed Action***

The proposed action would have a potential beneficial effect on fall-run Chinook salmon by moving captured juveniles from unsuitable conditions to downstream locations where their ocean migration can continue. While larger fish would be excluded from the collection structures, it is possible that some smaller fry and lamprey may inadvertently be collected. Any fish species collected that are not Chinook salmon will be placed immediately downstream of the collection structures. Significant diurnal water temperature changes are not anticipated in the collection locations. Implementation of the proposed action will be closely coordinated with any planned releases to avoid any potential impacts to spring-run Chinook salmon. The proposed action is not anticipated to have any adverse impacts on any other aquatic species, and would have no effect on ESA listed fish species or EFH.

#### **Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle**

No vegetation will be removed under the proposed action. Vehicle access for activities under the proposed action will be on existing roads and disturbed areas. In accordance with the Service Conservation Guidelines for VELB, to avoid any impacts to VELB, no mechanized equipment will operate within 100 feet of elderberry shrubs, and no work will be done within 20 feet of the outer edge of any elderberry shrubs.

#### **San Joaquin Kit Fox**

No habitat loss for kit fox or their prey would occur under the proposed action. While highly unlikely that kit fox would occur in the riparian areas adjacent to the project area, they could passively enter the project vicinity. The project area will be visually inspected prior to trap and haul activities to ensure no kit foxes or dens are present.

#### **Giant Garter Snake**

While the species would not occur in the river, it may incidentally be located in upland areas adjacent to the river or in backwater sloughs that are connected to the river. In order to avoid potentially working within areas that may be suitable for GGS, a 100-foot buffer will be maintained around all backwater sloughs when installing t-posts for the temporary fish collection structures. Cut banks will be avoided when moving or anchoring equipment in order to avoid potential GGS dens.

2014 San Joaquin River Restoration Program  
Juvenile Chinook Salmon Trap and Haul Study

With the implementation of the previously described avoidance measures, the proposed action would have no effect on EFH or ESA listed species, including VELB, GGS, kit fox and spring-run Chinook Salmon. The proposed action would have no adverse effects on any other vegetation, wildlife, including species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

### **3.3 Recreation**

#### **3.3.1 Affected Environment**

As further described in Chapter 21 of the PEIS/EIR, a range of recreation opportunities is possible in the proposed action area, including boating, interpretation and educational activities, hiking, biking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and nature observation, picnicking, and hunting.

#### **3.3.2 Environmental Consequences**

##### ***No Action***

The no action alternative would have no effect on recreation.

##### ***Proposed Action***

Reclamation has coordinated with local stakeholders to better determine the potential level of impact, given the anticipated low water levels during the period of the proposed action, and feasible impact minimization measures. Because they would extend bank to bank, installation of the temporary fish collection weirs could adversely impact boaters in this reach of the river, as they would have to navigate around the structures. However, coordination with stakeholders indicated that most canoers and kayakers utilize areas upstream of the proposed action, and thus would not be affected. Initial coordination with power boat operators has indicated that they can be present in this reach of the river at flows as low as 170-180 cfs (Moyle pers comm.). However, given current hydrologic conditions, flows in this reach of the river are anticipated to be around 130 cfs for the majority of the proposed action period, and flows are anticipated to be too low for power boats to navigate.

To further avoid and minimize potential impacts to boaters from the proposed action, Reclamation will implement the following impact minimization measures:

- Reclamation will place signage to alert boaters of the temporary fish collection structures upstream and downstream of the temporary fish collection structures, and at Fresno Sportsmen's Club, Fort Washington Campground, Sycamore Island, and Friant Dam Landing.
- Temporary fish collection structures will include flashing lights, and flagging to alert boaters.
- Temporary fence weirs will include a removable panel marked with bright paint and signage to direct boaters and allow for boat passage.

## **3.4 Visual Resources**

### **3.4.1 Affected Environment**

As further described in Section 25.1.2 of the PEIS/R, the overall visual quality in Reach 1A, where the temporary fish collection structures would be located, is low to moderate, and the overall visual quality in Reach 5, where fish release would occur is moderate.

### **3.4.2 Environmental Consequences**

#### **No Action**

The no action alternative would not affect visual resources.

#### **Proposed Action**

The proposed installation of fish collection structures could affect the visual resources of the project area in the areas described for fish collection. These structures would only be installed for approximately three months, and therefore any potential impacts to visual resources would be temporary, localized, and minor.

## **3.5 Cultural Resources**

### **3.5.1 Affected Environment**

Cultural resources is a term used to describe both 'archaeological sites' depicting evidence of past human use of the landscape and the 'built environment' which is represented in structures such as dams, roadways, and buildings. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 is the primary Federal legislation which outlines the Federal Government's responsibility to cultural resources. Other applicable cultural resources laws and regulations that could apply

## 2014 San Joaquin River Restoration Program Juvenile Chinook Salmon Trap and Haul Study

include, but are not limited to, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. Section 106 of the NHPA requires the Federal Government to take into consideration the effects of an undertaking on cultural resources on or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). Those resources that are on or eligible for inclusion in the National Register are referred to as historic properties.

The Section 106 process is outlined in the Federal regulations at 36 CFR Part 800. These regulations describe the process that the Federal agency (Reclamation) takes to identify cultural resources and the level of effect that the proposed undertaking will have on historic properties. In summary, Reclamation must first determine if the action is the type of action that has the potential to affect historic properties. If the action is the type of action to affect historic properties, Reclamation must identify the area of potential effects (APE), determine if historic properties are present within that APE, determine the effect that the undertaking will have on historic properties, and consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), to seek concurrence on Reclamation's findings. In addition, Reclamation is required through the Section 106 process to coordinate with Indian Tribes concerning the identification of sites of religious or cultural significance, and consult with individuals or groups who are entitled to be consulting parties or have requested to be consulting parties.

Cultural resources in this area are generally prehistoric in nature and include remnants of native human populations that existed before European settlement. Prior to the 18th Century, many Native American tribes inhabited the Central Valley. It is possible that many cultural resources lie undiscovered across the valley. The San Joaquin Valley supported extensive populations of Native Americans, principally the Northern Valley Yokuts, in the late prehistoric period. Cultural studies in the San Joaquin Valley have been limited. The conversion of land and intensive farming practices over the last century has probably destroyed many Native American cultural sites.

The historic era cultural resources along the Valley are diverse. Many of the historic era resources are related to farming in the San Joaquin Valley. Additionally, many of the urban landscapes have potentially significant architecture and other historic features such as roads bridges.

### **3.5.2 Environmental Consequences**

#### ***No Action***

Under the no action alternative, existing conditions would persist. Reclamation would not have an undertaking as defined by Section 301(7) of the NHPA and thus there would be no Federal nexus on Reclamation's part to initiate Section 106 review. As a result, implementation of the No Action alternative would result in no impacts to cultural resources by Reclamation.

#### ***Proposed Action***

The proposed action involves the installation of temporary fish collection structures into the main stem of the San Joaquin River. Reclamation would fund this activity, which constitutes an undertaking as defined by Section 301(7) of the NHPA and its implementing regulations at 36



CFR § 800. Construction of the temporary fish collection weirs will be limited to the main stem of the waterway and involve the anchoring of T-posts into the waterway. The project is a small scale construction project and would not require additional staging beyond the existing roadways and parking areas. Once the collection is complete, the temporary fish collection structures will be removed. The captured fish will be transported downstream and placed back into the San Joaquin River utilizing existing roadways. Because all ground actions are limited to the main stem of the San Joaquin River, the undertaking has no potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). Should the proposed action alternative be selected, the resulting activity will have no impact to cultural resources resulting from the proposed action alternative.

### **3.6 Indian Trust Assets**

Indian Trust Assets (ITAs) are legal interests in assets that are held in trust by the U.S. Government for federally recognized Indian tribes or individuals. The trust relationship usually stems from a treaty, executive order, or act of Congress. The Secretary of the Interior is the trustee for the United States on behalf of federally recognized Indian tribes. “Assets” are anything owned that holds monetary value. “Legal interests” means there is a property interest for which there is a legal remedy, such a compensation or injunction, if there is improper interference. ITAs cannot be sold, leased or otherwise alienated without the United States’ approval. Assets can be real property, physical assets, or intangible property rights, such as a lease, or right to use something; which may include lands, minerals and natural resources in addition to hunting, fishing, and water rights. Indian reservations, rancherias, and public domain allotments are examples of lands that are often considered trust assets. In some cases, ITAs may be located off trust land. Reclamation shares the Indian trust responsibility with all other agencies of the Executive Branch to protect and maintain ITAs reserved by or granted to Indian tribes, or Indian individuals by treaty, statute, or Executive Order. The proposed action does not have the potential to impact ITAs.

### **3.7 Air Quality**

#### **3.7.1 Affected Environment**

The project area is located within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB) which is the second largest air basin in California. Despite years of improvements, the SJVAB does not meet State and Federal health-based air quality standards. The governing body over the SJVAB, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD), has adopted stringent control measures to reduce emissions and improve overall air quality within the SJVAB.

#### **3.7.2 Environmental Consequences**

##### ***No Action***

Under the no action alternative, there would be no increase in emissions and, therefore, it is reasonable to assume there would be no impacts or change to air quality.

***Proposed Action***

The proposed action would be temporary in nature, and would only result in daily trips in a standard size pickup truck to the fish collection and release sites for approximately 3 months. The proposed action would not result in a substantial increase in long-term regional or local emissions. Therefore, emissions would not be anticipated to violate an air quality standard, contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation or conflict with or obstruct implementation of the California Air Resources Board and SJVAPCD air planning efforts.

### **3.8 Global Climate Change**

#### **3.8.1 Affected Environment**

Climate change refers to significant change in measures of climate that last for decades or longer. Many environmental and anthropogenic factors can contribute to climate change, including the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, changes in ocean currents, urbanization, etc. Carbon dioxide, which is produced when fossil fuels are burned, is a greenhouse gas (GHG) that effectively traps heat in the lower atmosphere. Some carbon dioxide is liberated naturally, but this may be augmented greatly through human activities.

Increases in air temperature may lead to changes in precipitation patterns, runoff timing and volume, sea level rise, and changes in the amount of irrigation water needed due to modified evapotranspiration rates. Approximately 20 million Californians rely on the CVP and SWP for water deliveries. Global shifts related to climate change may lead to impacts to California's water resources and project operations.

#### **3.8.2 Environmental Consequences**

***No Action Alternative***

Under the no action alternative, there would be no increase in emissions and, therefore, it is reasonable to assume there would be no impacts or change to or from climate change.

***Proposed Action***

The proposed action would not result in a substantial increase in long-term regional or local emissions. Because the proposed action would not add to the global inventory of gases that would contribute to global climate change, the proposed action would not result in increases in GHG emissions. The proposed action would be temporary and occur over approximately three months, and thus would not be affected by long term effects of climate change.

### **3.9 Cumulative Impacts**

The proposed action would not have any controversial or highly uncertain effects, or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. The proposed action would not contribute to cumulative effects to physical resources when added to other past, present or reasonably foreseeable actions.

The remainder of the SJRRP actions, including the continued release of future Restoration flows from Friant Dam, the recapture of flows at specific San Joaquin River diversion and/or pumping facilities, and future site-specific actions are all reasonably foreseeable and required under the Settlement and the Act. Future program actions related to the SJRRP have been addressed in the SJRRP PEIS/R (Reclamation 2012a), discussed earlier in this EA. Areas of potential concern, such as water supply impacts, recapture mechanisms, and cumulative impacts have been discussed within the PEIS/R.

The proposed action analyzed in this EA, when added to other actions, would not contribute to significant improvements or declines in environmental conditions. The proposed action would occur only for only approximately three months. The proposed action would not contribute to cumulative impacts on water resources, biological resources, recreation, cultural resources, ITAs, air quality, or global climate change.

2014 San Joaquin River Restoration Program  
Juvenile Chinook Salmon Trap and Haul Study

*This page left blank intentionally.*

## **Section 4 Consultation and Coordination**

### **4.1 National Environmental Policy Act**

This EA has been prepared pursuant to NEPA, which was signed into law in 1969 (42 USC Section 4321 et seq.). In addition, it was prepared in accordance with CEQ regulations for implementing NEPA, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, and General Services Administration Order ADM 1095.1F. This EA assesses if the proposed action would cause any significant environmental effects. Given the short time allotted to implement the proposed action in response to extreme hydrologic conditions, a draft of this EA was circulated for 10 days for public review and comment. One comment letter was received. Comments received were incorporated into this final draft of the EA.

### **4.2 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934**

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) requires that Reclamation consult with fish and wildlife agencies (federal and state) on all water development projects that could affect biological resources. The proposed action does not involve federal water development projects; therefore, the FWCA does not apply.

### **4.3 Endangered Species Act of 1973**

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires Federal agencies, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, to ensure that their actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of the critical habitat of these species. As previously described, the proposed action would have no effect on ESA listed species.

#### **4.4 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act**

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act establishes a management system for national marine and estuarine fishery resources. This legislation requires that all Federal agencies consult with NMFS regarding proposed actions that may adversely affect EFH. EFH is defined as “those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity”. The proposed action would not adversely affect EFH.

#### **4.5 Clean Water Act**

Sections 404 and 401 of the CWA address discharge of fill or pollutants into waters of the United States. Reclamation coordinated with the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding the proposed action and has determined that the proposed action would not involve discharge of fill or pollutants.

#### **4.6 Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 as Amended (Section 10)**

The Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) addresses activities that involve construction in navigable waters. Reclamation coordinated with the Corps regarding compliance with Section 10 of the RHA, and determined that the proposed action would not occur in navigable waters.

#### **4.7 National Historic Preservation Act**

The National Historic Preservation Act is discussed in Section 3.5.

## **4.8 Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918**

The MBTA implements various treaties and conventions between the U.S. and Canada, Japan, Mexico and the former Soviet Union for the protection of migratory birds. Unless permitted by regulations, the MBTA provides that it is unlawful to pursue, hunt, take, capture or kill; attempt to take, capture or kill; possess, offer to or sell, barter, purchase, deliver or cause to be shipped, exported, imported, transported, carried or received any migratory bird, part, nest, egg or product, manufactured or not. Subject to limitations in the MBTA, the Secretary of the Interior may adopt regulations determining the extent to which, if at all, hunting, taking, capturing, killing, possessing, selling, purchasing, shipping, transporting or exporting of any migratory bird, part, nest or egg will be allowed, having regard for temperature zones, distribution, abundance, economic value, breeding habits and migratory flight patterns. The proposed action would have no effect on birds protected by the MBTA.

## **4.9 Executive Order 113007 and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act**

Indian Trust Assets and Sacred Sites on Federal Lands Executive Order 113007 and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 are designed to protect ITAs, accommodate access and ceremonial use of Native American sacred sites by Native American religious practitioners, avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites, and protect and preserve the observance of traditional Native American religions. The proposed action would not violate these protections.

## **4.10 Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations**

Executive Order 12898 requires Federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects of Federal programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. The proposed action has been assessed for potential environmental, social, and economic impacts on minority and low-income populations. Minority and low-income populations would not be disproportionately exposed to adverse effects relative to the benefits of the action.

2014 San Joaquin River Restoration Program  
Juvenile Chinook Salmon Trap and Haul Study

*This page left blank intentionally.*



## **Section 5 List of Preparers**

### **5.1 U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation**

Becky Victorine, Natural Resources Specialist, San Joaquin River Restoration Program

2014 San Joaquin River Restoration Program  
Juvenile Chinook Salmon Trap and Haul Study

*This page left blank intentionally.*

## Section 6 References

Reclamation 2012a. San Joaquin River Restoration Program Program Environmental Impact Statement/Impact Report (PEIS/R).

Reclamation 2012b. San Joaquin River Restoration Program Record of Decision.

San Joaquin River Restoration Program 2010. San Joaquin River Restoration Program Fisheries Management Plan.

Moyle, Craig. Personal communication, January 27, 2014.



# **Attachment A**

## **US Fish and Wildlife Service Species List**

*This Page Intentionally Left Blank*

- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office
- Federal Endangered and Threatened Species that Occur in or may be Affected by Projects in the Counties and/or U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 Minute Quads you requested

Document Number: 140203011445

Database Last Updated: September 18, 2011

---

No quad species lists requested.

---

### County Lists

#### Fresno County

##### Listed Species

##### Invertebrates

- Branchinecta conservatio
  - Conservancy fairy shrimp (E)
  
- Branchinecta longiantenna
  - longhorn fairy shrimp (E)
  
- Branchinecta lynchi
  - Critical habitat, vernal pool fairy shrimp (X)
  - vernal pool fairy shrimp (T)
  
- Desmocerus californicus dimorphus
  - valley elderberry longhorn beetle (T)

- *Lepidurus packardii*
  - Critical habitat, vernal pool tadpole shrimp (X)
  - vernal pool tadpole shrimp (E)

#### Fish

- *Gila bicolor snyderi*
  - Owens tui chub (E)
- *Hypomesus transpacificus*
  - delta smelt (T)
- *Oncorhynchus (=Salmo) clarki henshawi*
  - Lahontan cutthroat trout (T)
- *Oncorhynchus (=Salmo) clarki seleniris*
  - Paiute cutthroat trout (T)
- *Oncorhynchus mykiss*
  - Central Valley steelhead (T) (NMFS)

#### Amphibians

- *Ambystoma californiense*
  - California tiger salamander, central population (T)
  - Critical habitat, CA tiger salamander, central population (X)
- *Rana draytonii*
  - California red-legged frog (T)
  - Critical habitat, California red-legged frog (X)



- *Rana muscosa*
  - Mountain yellow legged frog (PX)
  
- *Rana sierrae*
  - Mountain yellow legged frog (PX)

#### Reptiles

- *Gambelia* (=Crotaphytus) *silae*
  - blunt-nosed leopard lizard (E)
  
- *Thamnophis gigas*
  - giant garter snake (T)

#### Birds

- *Gymnogyps californianus*
  - California condor (E)

#### Mammals

- *Dipodomys ingens*
  - giant kangaroo rat (E)
  
- *Dipodomys nitratoides exilis*
  - Critical habitat, Fresno kangaroo rat (X)
  - Fresno kangaroo rat (E)
  
- *Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides*
  - Tipton kangaroo rat (E)

- *Ovis canadensis californiana*
  - Sierra Nevada (=California) bighorn sheep (E)
  
- *Vulpes macrotis mutica*
  - San Joaquin kit fox (E)

**Plants**

- *Calyptidium pulchellum*
  - Mariposa pussy-paws (T)
  
- *Camissonia benitensis*
  - San Benito evening-primrose (T)
  
- *Castilleja campestris* ssp. *succulenta*
  - Critical habitat, succulent (=fleshy) owl's-clover (X)
  - succulent (=fleshy) owl's-clover (T)
  
- *Caulanthus californicus*
  - California jewelflower (E)
  
- *Cordylanthus palmatus*
  - palmate-bracted bird's-beak (E)
  
- *Monolopia congdonii* (=Lembertia *congdonii*)
  - San Joaquin woolly-threads (E)
  
- *Orcuttia inaequalis*

- Critical habitat, San Joaquin Valley Orcutt grass (X)
  - San Joaquin Valley Orcutt grass (T)
  
- *Orcuttia pilosa*
  - Critical habitat, hairy Orcutt grass (X)
  - hairy Orcutt grass (E)
  
- *Pseudobahia bahiifolia*
  - Hartweg's golden sunburst (E)
  
- *Pseudobahia peirsonii*
  - San Joaquin adobe sunburst (T)
  
- *Sidalcea keckii*
  - Critical habitat, Keck's checker-mallow (X)
  - Keck's checker-mallow (=checkerbloom) (E)
  
- *Tuctoria greenei*
  - Greene's tuctoria (=Orcutt grass) (E)

### **Proposed Species**

#### **Amphibians**

- *Anaxyrus canorus*
  - Yosemite toad (PX)

### **Candidate Species**

#### **Amphibians**

- *Bufo canorus*

- Yosemite toad (C)
- Rana muscosa
  - mountain yellow-legged frog (C)

#### **Birds**

- Coccozyus americanus occidentalis
  - Western yellow-billed cuckoo (C)

#### **Mammals**

- Martes pennanti
  - fisher (C)

#### **Key:**

- (E) Endangered - Listed as being in danger of extinction.
- (T) Threatened - Listed as likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.
- (P) Proposed - Officially proposed in the Federal Register for listing as endangered or threatened.
- (NMFS) Species under the Jurisdiction of the [National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service](#). Consult with them directly about these species.
- Critical Habitat - Area essential to the conservation of a species.
- (PX) Proposed Critical Habitat - The species is already listed. Critical habitat is being proposed for it.
- (C) Candidate - Candidate to become a proposed species.
- (V) Vacated by a court order. Not currently in effect. Being reviewed by the Service.
- (X) Critical Habitat designated for this species

### **Important Information About Your Species List**

#### **How We Make Species Lists**

We store information about endangered and threatened species lists by U.S. Geological Survey 7½ minute quads. The United States is divided into these quads, which are about the size of San Francisco.

The animals on your species list are ones that occur within, or may be affected by projects within, the quads

covered by the list.

- Fish and other aquatic species appear on your list if they are in the same watershed as your quad or if water use in your quad might affect them.
- Amphibians will be on the list for a quad or county if pesticides applied in that area may be carried to their habitat by air currents.
- Birds are shown regardless of whether they are resident or migratory. Relevant birds on the county list should be considered regardless of whether they appear on a quad list.

### **Plants**

Any plants on your list are ones that have actually been observed in the area covered by the list. Plants may exist in an area without ever having been detected there. You can find out what's in the surrounding quads through the California Native Plant Society's online [Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants](#).

### **Surveying**

Some of the species on your list may not be affected by your project. A trained biologist and/or botanist, familiar with the habitat requirements of the species on your list, should determine whether they or habitats suitable for them may be affected by your project. We recommend that your surveys include any proposed and candidate species on your list.

See our [Protocol](#) and [Recovery Permits](#) pages.

For plant surveys, we recommend using the [Guidelines for Conducting and Reporting Botanical Inventories](#). The results of your surveys should be published in any environmental documents prepared for your project.

### **Your Responsibilities Under the Endangered Species Act**

All animals identified as listed above are fully protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Section 9 of the Act and its implementing regulations prohibit the take of a federally listed wildlife species. Take is defined by the Act as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect" any such animal.

Take may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or shelter (50 CFR §17.3).

### **Take incidental to an otherwise lawful activity may be authorized by one of two procedures:**

- If a Federal agency is involved with the permitting, funding, or carrying out of a project that may result in take, then that agency must engage in a formal [consultation](#) with the Service.
- During formal consultation, the Federal agency, the applicant and the Service work together to avoid or minimize the impact on listed species and their habitat. Such consultation would result in a biological opinion by the Service addressing the anticipated effect of the project on listed and proposed species. The opinion may authorize a limited level of incidental take.
- If no Federal agency is involved with the project, and federally listed species may be taken as part of

the project, then you, the applicant, should apply for an incidental take permit. The Service may issue such a permit if you submit a satisfactory conservation plan for the species that would be affected by your project.

- Should your survey determine that federally listed or proposed species occur in the area and are likely to be affected by the project, we recommend that you work with this office and the California Department of Fish and Game to develop a plan that minimizes the project's direct and indirect impacts to listed species and compensates for project-related loss of habitat. You should include the plan in any environmental documents you file.

### **Critical Habitat**

When a species is listed as endangered or threatened, areas of habitat considered essential to its conservation may be designated as critical habitat. These areas may require special management considerations or protection. They provide needed space for growth and normal behavior; food, water, air, light, other nutritional or physiological requirements; cover or shelter; and sites for breeding, reproduction, rearing of offspring, germination or seed dispersal.

Although critical habitat may be designated on private or State lands, activities on these lands are not restricted unless there is Federal involvement in the activities or direct harm to listed wildlife.

If any species has proposed or designated critical habitat within a quad, there will be a separate line for this on the species list. Boundary descriptions of the critical habitat may be found in the Federal Register. The information is also reprinted in the Code of Federal Regulations (50 CFR 17.95). See our [Map Room](#) page.

### **Candidate Species**

We recommend that you address impacts to candidate species. We put plants and animals on our candidate list when we have enough scientific information to eventually propose them for listing as threatened or endangered. By considering these species early in your planning process you may be able to avoid the problems that could develop if one of these candidates was listed before the end of your project.

### **Species of Concern**

The Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office no longer maintains a list of species of concern. However, various other agencies and organizations maintain lists of at-risk species. These lists provide essential information for land management planning and conservation efforts. [More info](#)

### **Wetlands**

If your project will impact wetlands, riparian habitat, or other jurisdictional waters as defined by section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, you will need to obtain a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Impacts to wetland habitats require site specific mitigation and monitoring. For questions regarding wetlands, please contact Mark Littlefield of this office at (916) 414-6520.

### **Updates**

Our database is constantly updated as species are proposed, listed and delisted. If you address proposed and candidate species in your planning, this should not be a problem. However, we recommend that you get an updated list every 90 days. That would be May 04, 2014.

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**2014 San Joaquin River Restoration Program Juvenile Fall-Run Chinook Salmon  
Trap and Haul Study**

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Mid-Pacific Region  
Sacramento, California

**Recommended:** Rebecca Victorine 2/18/14  
Natural Resource Specialist Date

**Approved:** Alicia Forsythe 2/20/14  
Program Manager Date

FONSI Number: 14-05-MP



*This Page Intentionally Left Blank*

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

### BACKGROUND

In 1988, a coalition of environmental groups, led by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), filed a lawsuit challenging the renewal of long-term water service contracts between the United States and Central Valley Project Friant Division. After more than 18 years of litigation, *NRDC, et al., v. Kirk Rodgers, et al.*, a settlement was reached (Settlement). On September 31, 2006, the Settling Parties, including NRDC, Friant Water Users Authority (now represented by the Friant Water Authority), and the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Commerce, agreed on the terms and conditions of the Settlement, which was subsequently approved by the U.S. Eastern District Court of California on October 23, 2006. The Settlement establishes two primary goals:

- 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 on all of the Friant Contractors that may result from the Interim Flows and Restoration Flows provided for in the Settlement.

Under the proposed action, in support of the Settlement Restoration Goal, Reclamation will implement a trap and haul study in 2014 to assess the feasibility of moving juvenile fall-run Chinook salmon downstream of the Restoration Area to areas where the San Joaquin River is connected in low flow years and no migration barriers exist, and monitor fish movements in Reach 1 of the San Joaquin River during a Critical Low hydrologic water-year type where no flow pulses are available to cue juvenile salmon to downstream migration in already low water conditions. To capture juvenile fish, temporary fence weirs will be installed in two locations in Reach 1 of the San Joaquin River: within 1 mile downstream of the Highway 41 Bridge, and at Scout Island. In addition, temporary fish collection netting will be installed at Donnie Bridge, and a rotary screw trap temporarily installed at Ledger Island Bridge.

Collection structures will be checked for fish and weirs cleaned of debris daily. Any fish species other than Chinook salmon that may be incidentally trapped will be released immediately downstream of the collection structures. Fish will be collected daily in the morning and transported to the release site using a standard size pickup truck. Proposed release sites will be determined by water temperature, flow, and river connectivity, but could include: the confluence of the San Joaquin and Merced Rivers

near Newman, or the confluence of the San Joaquin and Tuolumne Rivers near Patterson.

Juvenile fall-run Chinook salmon trap and haul activities will occur from mid-February through May 2014, as allowed by hydrologic conditions. If water temperatures reach a level that would compromise Chinook salmon survival, trapping will cease at that location. Following completion of trap and haul activities, fish collection structures will be removed from the channel and stored at an off-site disposal facility. The proposed action is further described in the attached environmental assessment (EA).

To minimize potential impacts of the proposed action, Reclamation will implement the following measures:

- In accordance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Conservation Guidelines for Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB), to avoid any impacts to VELB, no mechanized equipment will operate within 100 feet of elderberry shrubs, and no work will be done within 20 feet of the outer edge of any elderberry shrubs.
- The project area will be visually inspected prior to fish collection and release activities to ensure no San Joaquin kit foxes (kit foxes) or dens are present.
- In order to avoid potentially working within areas that may be suitable for giant garter snake (GGS), a 100-foot buffer will be maintained around all backwater sloughs when installing t-posts for the temporary fish collection structures. Cut banks will be avoided when moving or anchoring equipment in order to avoid potential GGS dens.
- Fall-run Chinook salmon collection actions under the proposed action will be coordinated with any potential planned SJRRP releases of spring-run Chinook salmon in the San Joaquin River so that any potential impacts to spring-run Chinook salmon are avoided.
- Reclamation will place signage to alert boaters of the temporary fish collection structures upstream and downstream of the temporary fish collection structures, and at Fresno Sportsmen's Club, Fort Washington Campground, Sycamore Island, and Friant Dam Landing.
- Temporary fish collection structures will include flashing lights and flagging to alert boaters.
- Temporary fence weirs will include a removable panel marked with bright paint and signage to direct boaters and allow for boat passage.

## FINDINGS

The attached EA was prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed action and the no action alternative. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the San Joaquin River Restoration Program has found that the proposed 2014 juvenile fall-run Chinook salmon trap and haul study is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required.

This finding of no significant impact is based on the following:

- The proposed action will have no effect on the following resources: groundwater, land use, geology and soils, agricultural resources, noise, power, public health, transportation, utilities, visual resources, cultural resources, Indian trust assets, or greenhouse gases and climate change. The proposed action will not have any adverse cumulative effects.
- Under the proposed action, installation of the temporary fish collection structures and fish collection and release activities are not anticipated to significantly alter hydrodynamics in the river channel given the anticipated low flows. While increases in turbidity may occur during installation of the temporary fish collection structures and collection and release of fish, these impacts are anticipated to be minor, as all work would be done by hand, and these impacts will be temporary in nature.
- The proposed action will have a potential beneficial effect on fall-run Chinook salmon by moving captured juveniles from unsuitable conditions to downstream locations where their ocean migration can continue. Fall-run Chinook salmon collection actions under the proposed action will be coordinated with any potential planned SJRRP releases of spring-run Chinook salmon in the San Joaquin River so that any potential impacts to spring-run Chinook salmon are avoided. Under the proposed action, there will be no significant effects to vegetation and wildlife, including Endangered Species Act listed species, critical habitats, essential fish habitat, or species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- Because they will extend bank to bank, installation of the temporary fish collection weirs could adversely impact boaters in this reach of the river, as they would have to navigate around the structures. However, initial coordination with stakeholders indicated that most canoers and kayakers utilize areas upstream of the proposed action, and thus will not be affected. Initial coordination with power boat operators has indicated that they can be present in this reach of the river at flows as low as 170-180 cfs. However, given current hydrologic conditions, flows in this reach of the river are anticipated to be around 130 cfs for the majority of the proposed action period, and flows are anticipated to be too low for power boats to navigate. As previously described, Reclamation will implement

several measures to avoid and minimize potential impacts to boaters in the proposed collection areas.

- The proposed action will not result in a substantial increase in long-term regional or local emissions. Therefore, emissions are not anticipated to violate an air quality standard, contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation or conflict with or obstruct implementation of Air Resources Board and San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District air planning efforts.

**SUPPLEMENT C-1 – JUVENILE FALL-RUN CHINOOK  
SALMON TRAP AND HAUL STUDY**

**United States Bureau of Reclamation  
2015 Finding of No Significant Impact**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**San Joaquin River Restoration Program  
2015 Juvenile Fall-Run Chinook Salmon Trap and Haul Study**

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Mid-Pacific Region  
Sacramento, California

Recommended: Rebecca Victoria 2/3/15  
Natural Resource Specialist Date

Approved: Alic Forsythe 2/3/15  
Program Manager Date

FONSI Number: 15-02-MP

*This Page Intentionally Left Blank*

---



## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

### BACKGROUND

In 1988, a coalition of environmental groups, led by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), filed a lawsuit challenging the renewal of long-term water service contracts between the United States and Central Valley Project Friant Division. After more than 18 years of litigation, *NRDC, et al., v. Kirk Rodgers, et al.*, a settlement was reached (Settlement). On September 31, 2006, the Settling Parties, including NRDC, Friant Water Users Authority (now represented by the Friant Water Authority), and the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Commerce, agreed on the terms and conditions of the Settlement, which was subsequently approved by the U.S. Eastern District Court of California on October 23, 2006. The Settlement establishes two primary goals:

- 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 on all of the Friant Contractors that may result from the Interim Flows and Restoration Flows provided for in the Settlement.

Under the proposed action, in support of the Settlement Restoration Goal, Reclamation will implement a study in 2015 to assess the feasibility of moving juvenile fall-run Chinook salmon to the downstream portion of the Restoration Area to areas where the San Joaquin River is connected in low flow years and no migration barriers exist. In addition, under the proposed action, Reclamation will monitor fish movements in Reach 1 of the San Joaquin River during a critical hydrologic water-year type where minimal to no flow pulses are available to cue juvenile salmon to downstream migration in already low water conditions.

In 2014, the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) implemented a Fall-Run Juvenile Trap and Haul Study, as analyzed and disclosed in the 2014 SJRRP Trap and Haul Environmental Assessment (2014 EA) (Attachment 1). The intent of this finding of no new significant impact is to disclose the minimal changes to the proposed action for implementation in 2015 (changes in dates and locations). The impacts associated with the proposed action of implementing a trap and haul study in 2015 will be within those analyzed and disclosed in the 2014 EA.

To capture juvenile fish, temporary fence weirs will be installed in four locations in Reach 1 of the San Joaquin River: Scout Island, Milburn Avenue, Highway 99, and West Herndon Avenue (Attachment 2). In addition, temporary fish collection netting will be installed at Donnie Bridge. A total of four nets will be installed from the bridge allowing boat passage on the Fresno County side of the river. If Friant Dam flows improve to over

300 cfs, there is potential to install a rotary screw trap near Highway 99. Installation of the temporary weirs, netting, and rotary screw trap is anticipated to take up to two weeks to complete.

Collection devices will be checked for fish and cleaned of debris daily. Any fish species other than Chinook salmon that may be incidentally trapped will be released immediately downstream of the collection structures. Trapped fall-run salmon will be netted and placed in 5-gallon buckets with lids to transfer them to a 300 gallon fish transport tank. Salmon will be collected daily and transported to the release site using a standard-size pickup truck.

In order to evaluate the efficiency of the collection methods presented above, efficiency tests will be performed at the sampling locations. PIT tagged salmon will be used to evaluate this efficiency. PIT tag antennas will be installed both upstream and downstream of all sample locations. This will allow biologists to determine whether released salmon were “experiment participants” (*i.e.*, if the fish swim upstream of the collection device, they are considered non-participants and cannot be included in the total numbers of fish used to evaluate the efficiency). Downstream PIT tag arrays will also determine how many salmon pass and are not collected. Downstream arrays also determine the “catch efficiency” of the collection devices. Numbers of salmon used in the efficiency test will be determined by availability in March or April. Representative samples of collections (all mortalities and sacrificed samples) will be provided to California Department of Fish and Wildlife and California State University, Fresno for genetic analysis and stomach content analysis. Proposed release sites will be determined by water temperature, flow, and river connectivity, and could include the confluence of the San Joaquin and Merced Rivers near Newman, or the confluence of the San Joaquin and Tuolumne Rivers near Patterson.

The proposed action will occur from February through June 2014, as allowed by hydrologic conditions and fish presence. If water temperatures reach a level that would compromise salmon survival, trapping will cease at that location. Following completion of trap and haul activities, fish collection structures will be removed from the channel and stored at an off-site facility. With the exception of the changes in dates and locations for 2015, the proposed action is further described in the attached 2014 EA.

To minimize potential impacts of the proposed action, Reclamation will implement the following measures as described in the 2014 EA.

- In accordance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Conservation Guidelines for Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB), to avoid any impacts to VELB, no mechanized equipment will operate within 100 feet of elderberry shrubs, and no work will be done within 20 feet of the outer edge of any elderberry shrubs.
- The project area will be visually inspected prior to fish collection and release activities to ensure no San Joaquin kit foxes or dens are present.

- In order to avoid potentially working within areas that may be suitable for giant garter snake (GGS), a 100-foot buffer will be maintained around all backwater sloughs when installing t-posts for the temporary fish collection structures. Cut banks will be avoided when moving or anchoring equipment in order to avoid potential GGS dens.
- Spring-run Chinook salmon released by the SJRRP in April 2014 are not anticipated to be present in the proposed action area. Fall-run Chinook salmon collection actions under the proposed action will be coordinated with any planned 2015 SJRRP releases of spring-run Chinook salmon in the San Joaquin River so that any potential impacts to spring-run Chinook salmon are avoided.
- Reclamation will place signage to alert boaters of the temporary fish collection structures upstream and downstream of the temporary fish collection structures, and at Camp Pashayan, Milburn Unit, Scout Island, Fresno Sportsmen's Club, Fort Washington Campground, Lost Lake County Park, and Friant Dam Landing.
- Temporary fish collection structures will include flashing safety lights and flagging to alert boaters.
- Temporary fence weirs will include boat passage with bright paint and signage to direct boaters to its location.

Although the 2014 EA found that there would be no adverse impacts to vegetation and wildlife, including aquatic species and species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, additional measures will be incorporated into the proposed action for 2015 to ensure avoidance of any nesting birds, burrowing owls, special-status raptors, and Western pond turtle. These measures include the following:

- In order to avoid working in areas of any nesting birds, burrowing owls, and special-status raptors, the project area will be surveyed prior to project activities to ensure no nesting birds, burrowing owls, and special-status raptors are present in the area; and
- Prior to project activities, surveys for Western pond turtle will be conducted to ensure no turtles or nests are located in the vicinity of project activities and ensure a 300-foot no-disturbance buffer of any known nest sites.

## **FINDINGS**

The impacts associated with the proposed action will be within those analyzed and disclosed in the 2014 EA (attached for reference). The attached EA was prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the 2014 proposed action and the no action alternative. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, Reclamation has found that the proposed action, the 2015 juvenile fall-run Chinook salmon trap and haul study, is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required.

This finding of no significant impact is based on the following (as described in the 2014 EA):

- The proposed action will have no effect on the following resources: groundwater, land use, geology and soils, agricultural resources, noise, power, public health, transportation, utilities, visual resources, cultural resources, Indian trust assets, or greenhouse gases and climate change. The proposed action will not have any adverse cumulative effects.
- Under the proposed action, installation of the temporary fish collection structures and fish collection and release activities are not anticipated to significantly alter hydrodynamics in the river channel given the anticipated low flows. While increases in turbidity may occur during installation of the temporary fish collection structures and collection and release of fish, these impacts are anticipated to be minor, as all work will be done by hand, and these impacts will be temporary in nature.
- The proposed action will have a potential beneficial effect on fall-run Chinook salmon by moving captured juveniles from unsuitable conditions to downstream locations where their ocean migration can continue. Fall-run Chinook salmon collection actions under the proposed action will be coordinated with any potential planned SJRRP releases of spring-run Chinook salmon in the San Joaquin River so that any potential impacts to spring-run Chinook salmon are avoided. Reclamation obtained a list of special status species potentially occurring in the project vicinity from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on January 29, 2015. Under the proposed action, there will be no adverse effects to vegetation and wildlife, and no effect to Endangered Species Act listed species, critical habitats, essential fish habitat, or species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- The temporary fish collection structures will be located outside (upstream) of the area of the San Joaquin River subject to regulation by the US Army Corps of Engineers under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Because they will extend bank to bank, installation of the temporary fish collection weirs could adversely impact boaters in this reach of the river, as they would have to navigate around the structures. However, initial coordination with stakeholders indicated that most canoers and kayakers utilize areas upstream of the proposed action, and thus will not be affected. As previously described, Reclamation will implement several measures to provide boat passage and avoid and minimize potential impacts to boaters in the proposed collection areas.
- The proposed action will not result in a substantial increase in long-term regional or local emissions. Therefore, emissions are not anticipated to violate an air quality standard, contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation or conflict with or obstruct implementation of Air Resources Board and San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District air planning efforts.