



San Joaquin River restoration begins with interim flows

Interim flow water releases began from Friant Dam into the San Joaquin River on Oct. 1, 2009, marking another milestone in the implementation of the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement reached in 2006. San Joaquin River Restoration Program staff will collect information from stream gages, scour chains, staff gauges, monitoring wells and in-river bathymetric surveys to measure and characterize in-river and groundwater temperatures, fish needs, seepage losses, water recirculation, recapture and reuse, and levee stability. [See a map of the restoration area here.](#) Estimated releases over the next five months are shown below:



Interim Flow Start Date/Duration	Estimated Riparian Release (cfs)	Estimated Interim Flow Release (cfs)	Total Release from Friant Dam (cfs)	Estimated Interim Flow Volume (acre-feet)
October 2009	160	190	350	12,000
November 1-14, 2009	130	570	700	16,000
February 2010	120	210	330	14,000
Total Release Volume				42,000

The Settlement has two goals: 1) **Restoration**—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 2) **Water Management**—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. The full restoration flows start no later than Jan. 1, 2014. [More information here.](#)

U.S. Senators wade into Delta water issues

California’s two U.S. Senators, Feinstein and Boxer, are sponsoring legislation to grant new authority to the Bureau of Reclamation to approve new voluntary water transfers between sellers and buyers in the San Joaquin Valley. The measure also would streamline environmental reviews for Central Valley water transfers and reduce unnecessary delays in water transfers. U.S. House of Representatives members Costa and Cardoza of California introduced companion legislation in the House. [More here.](#) Feinstein also told the San Francisco Chronicle on Oct. 1 that she is planning to introduce major legislation to comprehensively address water and environmental issues in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. [Read the Chronicle article here.](#)

DWR flood coordination meetings wrap up

DWR’s Division of Flood Management will present two more Flood Coordination meetings this fall: Sacramento on Oct. 22 and Stockton on Oct. 27. The sessions are aimed at emergency responders, water managers, and personnel who deal with flood preparedness and response. For meeting details, [click here.](#)

San Joaquin River tour offered in November

The Water Education Foundation will conduct a tour specific to the San Joaquin River on Nov. 12 and 13, 2009. The 2-day, 1-night tour begins and ends in Fresno. [Click here for more information.](#)



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