

Summary of Comments from the Flood Corridor Program Public Hearing on McMullin On-Farm Flood Capture and Recharge Project

A public hearing was held on September 25, 2012 in Helm, CA to receive comments on the McMullin On-Farm Flood Capture and Recharge Project, to be funded by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) through the Flood Corridor Program. Approximately nineteen people were in attendance including Ruth Darling, Ron Unger, and Earl Nelson, representing DWR's Flood Corridor Program.

Ruth Darling gave an overview of the Flood Corridor Program and the purpose of the public hearing. Phil Bachand, who represented the project proponent, Kings River Conservation District, gave an overview of the project. A handful of comments were received, all in favor of the project, including letters of support from the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, James Irrigation District, and Reclamation District No. 1606. A summary of the comments are provided below; please contact Ruth Darling at (ruth.darling@water.ca.gov) for further information.

1. The project's groundwater recharge will benefit users in the James Irrigation District.
2. This project offers greater flexibility and capacity for the Kings River and San Joaquin River systems to reduce peak flows.
3. The project will provide a flood control benefit to upstream and downstream towns.
4. The project will provide a groundwater recharge benefit to overlying lands.
5. The project may help with the subsidence issues within the basin.
6. The project benefits both agriculture and the environment and can benefit the San Joaquin River restoration efforts.