



San Joaquin River Restoration

In September 2006, an historic settlement agreement was approved to restore flows and salmon populations in the San Joaquin River.

The State of California has joined with federal agencies to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to help implement this settlement agreement. The planned enhancements on the state's second largest river will have far-reaching benefits for all of California, including environmental and wild-life improvements, enhanced flood protection, water management, economic development, and recreational opportunities.

State agencies, including the Resources Agency, Cal/EPA, Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Department of Fish and Game (DFG), and the settling parties have pledged to work collaboratively to plan, design, fund, and implement actions to support the restoration project.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

Improvements on the San Joaquin River will focus on ecosystem restoration to return the river to more natural conditions. The State will design and construct facilities to provide for fish passage and minimize fish entrainment, establish riparian habitat, and implement the best available science and monitoring procedures so the system can be adaptively and effectively managed.

WATER MANAGEMENT

A key goal of the settlement is to minimize impacts to water users who depend on the San Joaquin River. The State will help identify specific projects and actions to meet this objective, as well as the nature and level of state assistance for such projects in future agreements.

FLOOD PROTECTION

To address flooding and better protect residents living in the area, the State will work on new and existing projects related to flood protection along the river including levee repairs and improvements, maintenance, levee relocation, and work on channel facilities.

The San Joaquin River restoration will be one of the nation's most significant river restoration projects.

The State of California supports efforts to develop the full potential of the San Joaquin River. The state has a significant interest in restoration activities, including water management and flood control operations, water quality, species and habitat restoration, land use, and maintaining the agricultural economy of California.



San Joaquin River near Fresno



San Joaquin River Restoration • Department of Water Resources

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The State is committed to a public participation process that will provide residents, stakeholders and interested groups with project information so they can understand the process and participate effectively. State agencies, together with the signatories to the MOU and settling parties, will establish or convene working groups to assure public participation, ensure the planning effort addresses issues of importance to those affected by the plan, and help build consensus and support for the plan.

FUNDING

The State will spend \$10 million over the next three years to support San Joaquin River Restoration activities related to the fishery, wetland and riparian resources and regional water supply reliability in the San Joaquin Valley. Proposition 84 on the November 2006 ballot would provide an additional \$100 million in bond funds for channel and structural improvements and related to the settlement.

