STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT
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Providing Service Since 1948

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AGM - Operations

John M. Green
AGM - Administration

Elpedio "Jun" Jamosmos, Jr.
Finance Director

Jeanne M. Zolezzi
General Counsel

Phone 209-948-0333
Fax 209-948-0423

E-mail sewd@sewd.net

6767 East Main Street
Stockton, CA 95215

Post Office Box 5157
Stockton, CA 95205

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Stockton East Water District
Stockton, CA
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Stockton East Water District (SEWD) will hold a groundbreaking ceremony for the first of its four anadromous fish passage restoration projects on Wednesday, September 7th, 2011 at the Budiselich Flashboard Dam located within the Stockton Diverting Canal on the eastern boundary of the City of Stockton. The Stockton Diverting Canal is a part of the Calaveras River system. The site is located upstream of the intersection of Highway 99 and Waterloo Road (Highway 88). When complete, this project will enable anadromous fish, like fall and winter run chinook salmon and steelhead, to more easily migrate upstream with minimal river flow rates of 30 cubic-feet-per-second (cfs).

The project is comprised of seven 'V'-shaped rock-boulder weirs filled with an engineered streambed material (rocks, cobbles, gravel and sand) in a manner that creates a rock ramp roughened channel allowing the fish migrate upstream at a 3% gradient. The streambed and banks will be reshaped to improve the existing steep seven-foot unfriendly drop with a more gentle channel profile that will lower river flow velocities, reduce turbulence, and provide enough water depth allowing fish to more easily navigate upstream of the project site. The reshaping extends 250-feet downstream of the existing flashboard dam foundation, with a maximum width of about 125-feet.

Prior to this project, river flows of approximately 200 cfs were required for fish passage. After completion it is estimated that fish will be able to migrate with flows as low as 30 cfs.

The $350,000 project is a joint effort between California Department of Water Resources (DWR), which provided design work, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation who jointly provided 50% grant funding. Stockton East Water District is providing the other 50% of the project cost through cash contributions and in-kind support including engineering , administration and project construction.

The project was endorsed by SEWD's agricultural customers and urban contractors (California Water Service Company, City of Stockton, and San Joaquin County) and approved by numerous regulatory agencies. In order to secure permits, detailed hydraulic modeling was completed by DWR staff. Completion of the hydraulic modeling ensured that this project will have no significant impact on water surface elevations for either the 100-year or 200-year flows that occur in the Stockton Diverting Canal.

Construction of the project is scheduled to begin on September 12, 2011, and be complete in time for the fall and winter migration of anadromous fish.

Since 2000, SEWD has been involved with the National Marine Fisheries Service to address fish passage issues in the Calaveras River. Grants provided through CALFED and DWR allowed for the river to be thoroughly studied for fish passage issues. Results of these studies informed all stakeholders of the challenges to fish passage on the river from the confluence of the Stockton Diverting Canal and the Old Calaveras River Channel upstream to New Hogan Dam and Reservoir.

Additional support for this project has come from the input of the Calaveras River Fish Group (CRFG). The CRFG is made up of interested stakeholders representing both governmental and non-governmental entities. SEWD Board of Director's President Richard Atkins said, "as one of four proposed fish passage improvements supported by the CRFG, breaking ground on Budiselich is a significant milestone to show that SEWD is committed to the proper management of the Calaveras River system".

Please contact SEWD for further information on this and other issues at (209) 948-0333 or www.sewd.net.

END OF RELEASE