

Draft Minutes of the
San Joaquin River Management Program
Action Team Meeting
May 13, 2002

Stanislaus County Agricultural Center
Modesto, California

Introductions and Approval of Minutes

The San Joaquin River Management Program Action Team met in the main conference Room of the Stanislaus Building at the Stanislaus County Agricultural center in Modesto, California. There were no comments on the draft minutes of the March 11, 2002 meeting. Draft minutes from the most recent meeting and pertinent documents are posted on the SJRMP website at:

<http://www.dpla.water.ca.gov/sjd/sjrmp/index.html>

Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation

Jason Phillips, USBR, gave a briefing on the Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation (USJRBSI). The project is sponsored by CALFED. Jason covered CALFED's purpose in the investigation, problems, solutions, and the planning approach. The area designated for restoration is the reach from Friant Dam to the Merced River confluence with the SJR. The CALFED goals for the USJRBSI are to contribute to restoration of the San Joaquin River (SJR), improve SJR water quality for environmental and urban use, and limit regional problems like groundwater overdraft and flood damage. Some measures considered to achieve these goals are to improve water quality through better coordination of flows with time, re-operate existing storage facilities, enlarge existing storage facilities, and construct new on-stream and off-stream storage. The main alternative discussed was the Friant Dam enlargement. The maximum investigation analyzed several levels of enlargement alternative investigated increased the height of the dam by, the largest was raising the Dam 144 feet, increasing the storage capacity of the reservoir an additional 700,000 acre-feet. Millerton Lake existing capacity was reported to be around 520,000 acre-feet. The beneficial uses for the additional storage were discussed and included hydropower, agriculture, increased flood control, water supply, and groundwater recharge. Jason mentioned that he is coordinating with DWR's Integrated Storage Investigations and Corps/DWR Comp Study. There are a series of workshops planned to form a stakeholder group and the first workshop will be held on May 29 in Fresno. Most of the Stakeholders have been notified of the current investigation. This study is just phase 1 of the investigation that will include a report of the analysis, planning approach, several alternatives, cost, benefit, and water supply. Phase 2 will be a detailed feasibility study if approved by Congress and supported by local interests.

Comp Study Update

Kevin Elcock, DWR, and Fraser Gensler, USACE, gave an update on the Comprehensive Study. The Comp group is still open to comments on the "Lower San Joaquin River Regional Project" working paper that was passed out at the March 22, 2002 Advisory Council and March 11, 2002 Action Team meetings. The group has been meeting with stakeholders from the agricultural community. They visited the Madera, Stanislaus, Merced, and Fresno Farm Bureaus. The Farm Bureaus want to be part of the process. They have also met with Stanislaus County to discuss easements. They are looking at more detailed planning for the Yolo Bypass (Sacramento River) and the lower SJR. They have also been talking with Jason Phillips on some of the issues with his study. A Comprehensive Report, covering the methodology on how alternatives will be implemented, is due to be released in September. In addition, the Enhanced Flood Warning and Emergency Response will be accompanied by the Comp plan to demonstrate how it fits into the project and to update the plan. Kevin and Fraser would like to be informed of any group that should be involved with the Comp study.

SJRMP Coordinator Position Update

Ernie Taylor, DWR, introduced David Young as the future coordinator for the SJRMP. The hiring process is in the final stages. The job description was posted on the website and several interested candidates contacted Ernie for interviews. Once the funding was secured, the interviews were conducted and the best candidate was selected. DWR is currently negotiating with Reclamation to finalize the agreement.

Other Business

A California Farm Bureau Publication, "Commitment to Conservation," was passed around the room by Mike McElhiney from NRCS. An online version of the publication is available at <http://www.cfbf.com/issues/conserv/> .

Next Action Team Meeting: July 8, 2002

**SJRMP ACTION TEAM MEETING
of
May 13, 2002**

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