

Final Minutes of the  
San Joaquin River Management Program  
Action Team Meeting  
September 18, 2001

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 July 24, 2001, 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>

## **CALFED Update**

Campbell Ingram, CALFED, briefed the group with some information on funding. Ingram mentioned that watershed work groups are going out to the regions. He also added that there is a possible statewide funding opportunity from Prop. 13. Solicitation for funding from Prop. 13 could be as early as February of 2002 according to Earl Nelson, DWR. Due to the tragic events that occurred on September 11, 2001 in the East, the ERP deadline has been moved to October 5, 2001, but the final selection date has not been moved.

## **Letters of Support**

### **Bobcat Flat Instream Restoration 2 River Mile 44 Channel Restoration**

Allison Boucher, Friends of the Tuolumne, gave a presentation to the group on the proposal to be submitted to CALFED's ERP funding cycle. Boucher is requesting a letter of support from SJRMP to supplement the proposal. The proposal consists of lowering terraced floodplains, fill in bass habitat, and increase spawning habitat for Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Boucher added that the engineering was done by McBain & Trush who will do the monitoring as well. Since no objections were received from the group, the draft letter was forwarded to the Advisory Council as an Action Item.

### **Merced River Dredger Tailings Reach**

Jennifer Vick, Stillwater Sciences, requested a letter of support for their CALFED proposal. The proposal includes restoration implementation in the Dredger Tailings Reach of the Merced River. Vick informed the group that the tailings were the result of the river being dredged for gold in the twentieth century. Vick showed to the group illustrations of the conceptual restoration approach and discussed the current framework

consisting of four tasks. No objections were received and the draft letter was forwarded to the Advisory Council as an Action Item.

### **Evaluate, Demonstrate, and Promote Irrigation Return Flow Technologies in the San Joaquin River Watershed**

Rick Sandberg, Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship, presented their CALFED proposal to the group. CURES is requesting a letter of support from SJRMP to supplement their proposal. Sandberg discussed the three components of the project proposal that included 1) Demonstration Plots, 2) Project Monitoring, and 3) Education and Outreach. Sandberg explained that the project objective is to facilitate the development and transfer of information on irrigation return flow management and technologies to farmers of riparian fields with the goal of reducing off-site movement, pesticides, nutrients, and other contaminants. The draft letter will be added to the list of Action Items on the Advisory Council agenda.

### **Central San Joaquin Floodplain Restoration**

Pat Fitzmorris, Ducks Unlimited (DU), gave a brief summary to the group on their proposal to be submitted to CALFED. Fitzmorris mentioned that the project proposal is designed to create riparian wetland areas, improve water quality, and create habitat for fish and migratory birds. He added that setback levees would be built, along with excavating oxbows and channel work. DU is currently working with the local government, East & West Stanislaus Resource Conservation Districts and the Natural Resource Conservation District in developing the proposal. The estimated total budget is \$1.4 million. No objections were received therefore it is added to the Action Item list for the Advisory Council.

### **Management Protocols for Agroecosystem Conservation in the San Joaquin Valley**

Mike McElhiney, NRCS, briefly described the proposal by Jeff Mitchell, University of California Cooperative Extension, who is requesting a letter of support from SJRMP. Jeff Mitchell was not present at the meeting. McElhiney explained that the benefits from this proposal are huge and that the barriers with growers will finally come down. He also added that the proposal is a concept of precision farming and its focus is primarily on education and demonstration. No objections were received and this letter was also forwarded to the Advisory Council.

### **Tuolumne River Floodplain Restoration-La Grange**

Tim Ford, TID/MID, mentioned a few things about the proposal to CALFED for Patrick Koepele, Tuolumne River Preservation Trust, who was not in attendance. Ford explained that the floodplain improvements are from the Old La Grange Bridge to the New La Grange Bridge. He added that the county owns the property (banks) on both sides of the river. The banks consist of bare floodplain surfaces with limited riparian habitat. This project will be educational opportunity for the county who is supportive of the project. This letter was forwarded to the Advisory Council.

### **Upper Merced Tailings Study Area**

Rich Lundin, Wondjina Research Institute, was not at the meeting to give a presentation on his proposal. The proposal was briefly discussed at the meeting. The proposal

consists of assessing the mercury and heavy metals in the tailings. After further discussion a change was made in the draft letter to support the investigation and assessment of the material but not support the end-use. With this modification, the letter was forwarded to the Advisory Council.

### **Stanislaus River Research and Restoration Prioritization and Weir Proposal**

Doug Demko, S.P. Cramer & Associates, was not present at the meeting to discuss both proposals. Paula Landis, DWR was to check with DFG before moving letters forward to the Advisory Council meeting.

### **Briefing on Aggradation**

Paula Landis, DWR, addressed the issue of aggradation at the meeting. An attempt was made to get Alex Hildebrand, SJRFCA, on speakerphone but was unsuccessful. Landis explained that SJRMP worked on this issue in 1997 and a decision is still being made. A suggestion was made to draft a letter to the Corps to address Hildebrand's concern for aggradation and review it at the next meeting for possible action.

### **Other**

Biodiversity Council Meeting on November 14 & 15, 2001 in Modesto.

Next Action Team Meeting: November 6, 2001 at 1:00 p.m. Stanislaus County Agricultural Center in Modesto, CA. Later rescheduled for November 27, 2001.

**SJRM ACTION TEAM MEETING**  
**Of**  
**September 18, 2001**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Address/ Organization</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>E-mail Address</b>
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