



## NEWS RELEASE

A Century of  
Water for the West  
1902-2002

**Mid-Pacific Region  
Sacramento, California**

MP-04-008  
Jeffrey S. McCracken  
916-978-5100

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 10, 2004**

### **RECLAMATION AND DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES BEGIN ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS ON ADDITIONAL SAN JOAQUIN RIVER STORAGE**

Reclamation will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, to evaluate proposed actions to increase water in the upper San Joaquin River basin by raising Friant Dam or with a functionally equivalent storage program. At the same time, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

Potential uses of stored water include: contributing to future restoration of the San Joaquin River, improving water quality in the San Joaquin River, and delivering water to facilitate additional conjunctive management or exchanges that improve water quality for urban areas. Other potential benefits include increased flood protection in the San Joaquin Valley and additional hydropower development.

Public meetings are scheduled to obtain comments from interested parties to assist in determining the significant issues and the scope of the environmental analysis related to the proposed action. The meetings will be held in:

#### **Sacramento**

Tuesday, March 16, 2004 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
Federal Building Cafeteria Conf. Room 1  
2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825

#### **Modesto**

Tuesday, March 16, 2004 6 – 8 p.m.  
Modesto Irrigation District Multipurpose Room  
1231 11th Street, Modesto, CA 95354

#### **Friant**

Wednesday, March 17, 2004 6 – 8 p.m.  
Table Mountain Rancheria  
General Council Meeting Hall  
23736 Sky Harbour Road, Friant, CA 93626

#### **Visalia**

Thursday, March 18, 2004 6 – 8 p.m.  
Tulare County Farm Bureau Assembly Hall  
737 Ben Maddox Way, Visalia, CA 93292

The upper San Joaquin River basin is among five potential surface storage projects identified in the CALFED Programmatic EIS/EIR Record of Decision for study. Federal authorization for preparation of a feasibility report was provided in fiscal year 2003 appropriations legislation. In October 2003, Reclamation and DWR released a Phase 1 Investigation Report that provided information on preliminary alternatives under consideration. Project documents are available at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/sccao>.

Written comments are due by April 16, 2004. They may be submitted by mail to Jason Phillips, Project Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, MP-700, Sacramento CA 95825; e-mail [jphillips@mp.usbr.gov](mailto:jphillips@mp.usbr.gov); or fax 916-978-5094.

If you have any questions or require assistance to attend these meetings, please contact Marian Echeverria at 916-978-5105 (TDD 978-5608) or [mecheverria@mp.usbr.gov](mailto:mecheverria@mp.usbr.gov).

**###**

Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States , with operations and facilities in the 17 Western States. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits.