

**Proposed Panel Questions Form
(Due 12 Noon, Wednesday, December 22, 2010)**

**January 6 and 7, 2011 Public Workshop on Draft Technical Report
on the Scientific Basis for Alternative San Joaquin River Flow and
Southern Delta Salinity Objectives**

National Marine Fisheries Service requests that the following prioritized questions be addressed in the above workshop:

PRIORITY	QUESTION DIRECTED TO:	PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR PANEL ON THE HYDROLOGIC ANALYSIS OF THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER BASIN
1	Entire Panel	How do changes in flow in one time of the year (e.g. spring flows) affect instream flows and other river conditions important to fish or water supply at another time of the year?
2	Entire Panel	How would you envision a “percentage of unimpaired flow standard” could be implemented? Is it reasonable to use this standard at one time (season) of the year, but not all year round? How should such an approach be monitored or modeled?
3	Entire Panel	When considering new flows, are there modeling tools available to analyze the magnitude, duration, frequency, and timing of flows in a river system in a manner meaningful to salmonid needs? Why is it important, or not? Does this approach mimic a historical unimpaired natural hydrograph?
4	Entire Panel	How do the proposed flows relate to the San Joaquin River Restoration Program flows?
5	Entire Panel	Are there alternatives other than flow alteration that could or should be considered to achieve water quality objectives resulting in the sustainable environment for fish?

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PRIORITY	QUESTION DIRECTED TO:	PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR PANEL ON THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER FLOW OBJECTIVES
1	Entire Panel	Can you briefly discuss the importance a natural flow regime within the San Joaquin River Watershed and how that relates to the viability of fish populations (i.e., genetic diversity, spatial diversity, etc.) and how natural flow regime based objectives for the San Joaquin River contribute to the recovery of the Delta's ecosystem and rebuilding its resiliency?
2	Entire Panel	What is the current status of Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead in the San Joaquin River Basin? Why are they important?
3	Entire Panel	Why aren't existing flows enough to recover or sustain the San Joaquin River salmonids?
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PRIORITY	QUESTION DIRECTED TO:	PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR PANEL ON THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVE SOUTHERN DELTA SALINITY OBJECTIVES
1	Entire Panel	Is it technically adequate to alter the salinity standard based on steady state modeling (as in the Report), or is it preferable or more informative to employ transient state models to develop alternative salinity standards?
2	Entire Panel	Is the salinity level for leaching requirements so low that it is overly protective and crop damage overestimated? Are the current salinity levels protective of fish for each life stage?
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PRIORITY	QUESTION DIRECTED TO:	PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR PANEL ON THE POTENTIAL WATER SUPPLY IMPACTS OF POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER FLOW AND SOUTHERN DELTA SALINITY OBJECTIVES
1	Entire Panel, Cameron Speir	Is the use of "diversion reduction" as the measure of water supply impact appropriate? The draft report uses "diversion reduction" as a proxy for economic impact. Are there other tools or metrics that could be used to evaluate water supply impact?
2	Entire Panel, Cameron Speir	What is the economic effect of changes in water supply? Is there a direct and predictable response?
3	Entire Panel	The draft report (Eqn 5.4 on page 84) assumes that water use efficiency will double (indirectly, since it assumes that return flows from delivered water will be reduced by half). Would this be an appropriate assumption? What would be an appropriate timeline to phase-in assumed water conservation? It appears that this assumption is applied uniformly to all diversion reductions (agricultural and urban uses combined); is this a realistic assumption? Do the panel members have suggestions about how to model reductions to (and return flows from) diversion reductions for agricultural vs. urban uses, from a water supply and from an economic perspective?
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