



Efficient Water Use and Water Transfers

San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water
Authority

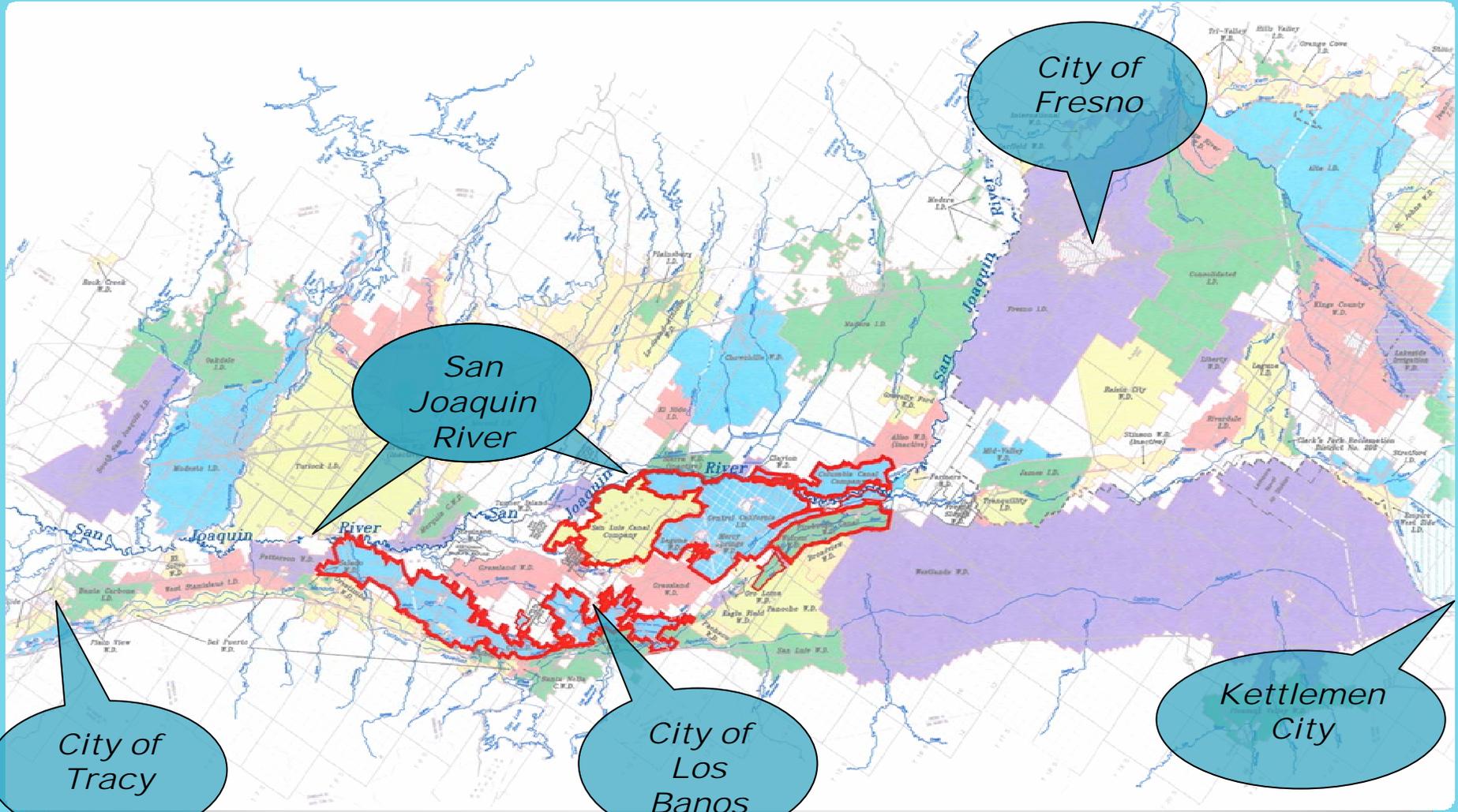
SJRECWA is comprised of four irrigation water purveyors that have served their districts for over 130 years.

Most ~~customers are smaller,~~ family-owned farms that have been here for generations.



SJRECWA services approximately 240,000 acres of prime agricultural land spanning Fresno, Madera, Merced and Stanislaus counties.

Background



Service Area

Conservation is a key part of our efforts to be good stewards of our water resources, as well as maintaining reasonable and beneficial use while reducing water diversions.

Conservation reduces threats to our water supply from:

- Water quality and water supply regulations
- Unclear statewide & regional water policies
- San Joaquin River Restoration Program



Micro Sprinkler System on an Almond Orchard in Gustine

The Need for Conservation

As a result of member agency conservation programs, water service to the growers has improved and the SJRECWA has the ability to redirect up to 80,000 acre feet of water to other local water agencies.

These savings come from large investments in both large district-wide projects and smaller on-farm conservation projects.

Due to high investment costs, we needed an innovative approach to fund these efforts.



Increased Regional Water Availability

Year	To West-Side Agricultural Users (acre-feet)	To Reclamation for Refuges (acre-feet)	Other CVP (acre-feet)	Total (acre-feet)
1993	18,000			18,000
1994	0	0	0	0
1995	0	25,000	0	25,000
1996	0	30,348		30,348
1997	0	40,000	0	40,000
1998	0	0	0	0
1999	40,000	20,000	0	60,000
2000	43,000	21,500	0	64,500
2001	15,500	49,000	0	64,500
2002	1,000	63,500	1,000	65,500
2003	400	60,000	11,237	71,637
2004	30,000	50,210	0	80,210
2005	72,200	7,800	0	80,000
2006	30,417	49,583	0	80,000
2007	50,000	30,000	0	80,000
2008	54,393*	24,132	1,475	80,000
2009	59,438*	18,687	1,875	80,000
2010	54,286*	25,714	0	80,000

*Includes M&I Deliveries

Water Transfer Programs

Approximately \$52 million has been invested to date in district-wide water conservation projects, saving approximately 60,000 acre feet of water per year.

Summary of Investments by SJRECWA Member Agencies

Central California Irrigation District

- SCADA
- Regulating Reservoirs
- Automated Weirs
- Spill Reduction
- Canal Lining

Columbia Canal Company

- Rubber and Concrete Lining of all canals
- Long Crested Weirs
- Regulating Reservoirs

Firebaugh Canal Water District

- SCADA
- Canal Lining & Piping
- Variable Speed Pumps
- Booster Pumps

San Luis Canal Company

- SCADA
- Regulating Reservoirs
- Long Crested Weirs
- Spill Reduction
- Canal Compaction

District-Wide Water Conservation Projects

SJRECWA member agencies reinvest water transfer proceeds in their own farmers in the form of grants and low interest loans through their On-Farm Conservation Programs. This seed money makes possible projects which both conserve water and keep regional agriculture sustainable.

Since 1990, the On-Farm Conservation Program has provided nearly \$40 million in loans and grants, conserving approximately 20,000 acre feet of water yearly.



On-Farm Conservation Program

Central California Irrigation District

- Grants of up to 25% with \$400/ac limit (up to 50% for pipelines and ditches)
- Loans of up to \$1000/ac

Columbia Canal Company

- Grants of up to 50% of project cost

Firebaugh Canal Water District

- Grants of up to 25% with \$1000/ac limit
- Loans of up to \$1,000/ac

San Luis Canal Company

- Grants of up to 50% with \$250/ac limit (up to 80% and \$400/ac for easement ditches, etc.)
- Loans of up to \$500/ac

On-Farm Conservation Program Grants and Loans

The Pereira Bros., a third-generation family farm in Los Banos, were able to install a drip irrigation system for their tomato farm due to the On-Farm Conservation Program.

Pereira Bros. (est. 1917)		
Project Type: Drip System	Cost: \$1,200 per acre	Savings: 55 acre-feet per year
Farming yield doubled from 35 tons per acre to 70 per acre.		



On-Farm Conservation Program



San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors
Water Authority

<http://www.sjrecwa.net>