

Description of Proposed Changes

This proposed temporary transfer is for the rediversion at PID and BCID facilities of flows dedicated for instream use pursuant to the terms and conditions of the subject water right Permits and License. These are flows that, pursuant to Cal. Water Code § 1707, are and remain under the dominion and control of Reclamation after having been (a) released from Millerton Reservoir following collection to storage, or (2) taken control of using direct diversion rights at Friant Dam, but allowed to pass into the river channel in lieu of being conveyed into the Madera and Friant-Kern canals. Authorization for instream flow dedication has been received pursuant to the Division of Water Rights Order Dated October 21, 2013. Reclamation will make use of instream conveyance by means of the San Joaquin River to meet obligations of the Central Valley Project (CVP) under existing contracts. The temporary transfer will facilitate a change in CVP operations that will provide water for instream beneficial uses in a longer reach of the San Joaquin River.

Rediverted flows would be conveyed through PID and BCID facilities to the Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC). Reclamation's CVP contractors capable of receiving CVP supply in the San Luis Unit would receive this water. In addition, the rediverted water in the San Luis Canal would be conveyed through the Cross-Valley Canal to the Friant Division service area, or would be provided to entities in the Tulare Lake region for exchange. Reclamation would make the recaptured SJRRP Interim and Restoration Flows available in south-of-Delta facilities (for example, such as San Luis Reservoir, O'Neill Forebay, Delta-Mendota Canal, California Aqueduct, Cross-Valley Canal) for recirculation and beneficial use by the Friant Contractors. Recirculation to the Friant Contractors would be accomplished through direct delivery, exchange, and/or transfer.

A total maximum of up to 28,979 acre-feet of water is proposed for transfer through rediversion at the PID facility. Table 2-1 of the below described FEA shows potential capacity available for the rediversion at the PID facility for delivery into the Delta Mendota Canal. The maximum rate of rediversion at the PID facility is 40 cubic feet per second (cfs). A total maximum of up to 47,090 acre-feet of water is proposed for transfer through rediversion at the BCID facility. Table 2-2 of the FEA shows potential capacity available for the rediversion at the BCID facility for delivery into the Delta Mendota Canal. The maximum rate of rediversion at the BCID facility is 65 cfs. A total combined maximum recapture of 76,069 acre-feet of water is proposed for transfer through both PID and BCID facilities up to a combined rediversion rate of 105 cfs. The period for the proposed temporary transfer is for one year.

Reclamation has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) (*One Year Recapture of San Joaquin River Restoration Flows at Patterson Irrigation District and/or Banta-Carbona Irrigation District*) and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) (Number 16-03-SJRRP) on July 29, 2016, that incorporates the affected environment and environmental analysis in the SJRRP Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report

(PEIS/R) finalized in July 2012 and for which a corresponding Record of Decision was issued on September 28, 2012. The recapture of Restoration Flows at existing facilities on the lower San Joaquin River is included among actions analyzed at the program-level in the PEIS/R. The Recirculation of recaptured water at existing facilities, using Central Valley Project, Department of Water Resources, and private facilities, back to Friant Division contractors was covered in the Recirculation of Recaptured Water Year 2013-2017 SJRRP Flows Environmental Assessment (Recirculation EA) which, along with the corresponding Recirculation FONSI, is dated April, 2013.

Reclamation has determined that at this time none of the conditions underlying the FEA has changed, and therefore it intends to utilize the existing FEA and to issue a new FONSI for recapture commencing after March 22, 2017. The FEA can be found at https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_projdetails.cfm?Project_ID=24095.

The proposed recapture will not change or affect the manner in which Reclamation will make Recapture and Recirculation Water available to Friant Contractors under the Recirculation EA/FONSI. The Recirculation EA states that the recirculation and recapture of Restoration Flows in contract water year 2017 was found to have no impact on water resources, land use, biological resources, cultural resources, Indian Trust Assets, socioeconomic resources, environmental justice, air quality, or global climate change.

Federal and State Permits

Reclamation's point of contact is Lonnie Wass, 559-445-6051 at the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Reclamation's point of contact at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is Gerald Hatler, 559-243-4005, ext. 127.

Photographs

The proposed points of diversion using existing facilities and proposed places of use are well known with the State Water Board. Therefore, no representative photographs have been provided here and are presumed to be on file already with the State Water Board.

Maps

Map 1785-202-176 displays the locations of the proposed points of diversion; Map 1785-202-50, also, depicts the existing San Joaquin River Restoration Program instream dedication and places of use. Both maps are on file with the State Water Board.