



Restoration of the San Joaquin River

Presentation to the
California Water Commission

November 20, 2013

Monty Schmitt

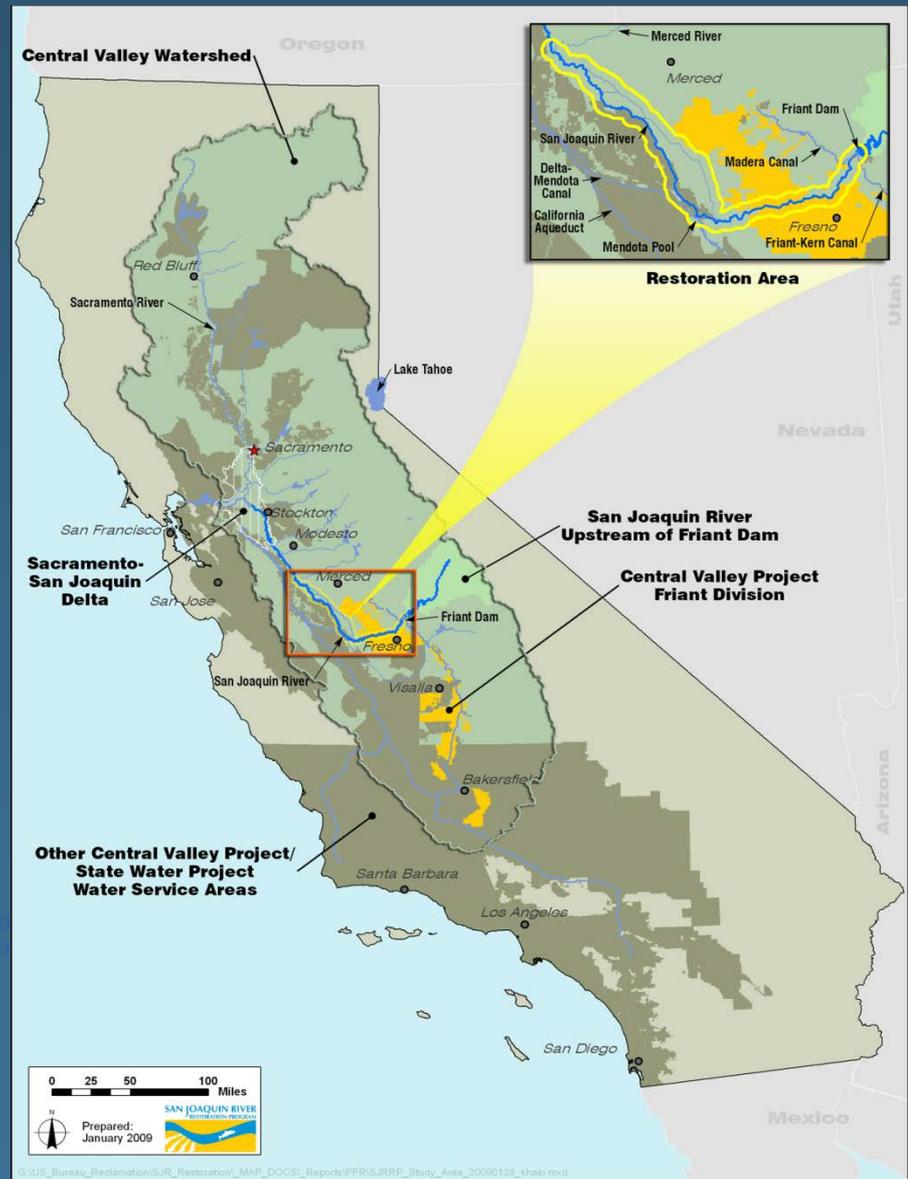
Senior Water Resources Scientist

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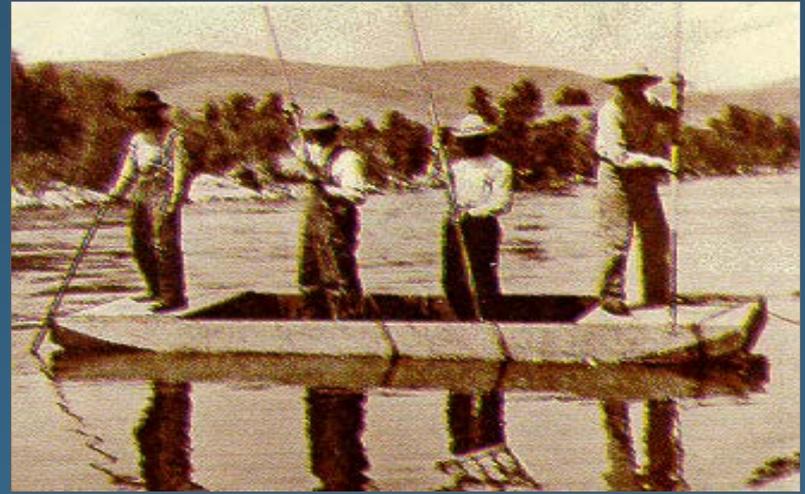
The Upper San Joaquin River

Restoration Program Reach
150 river miles
from Friant Dam to Merced River





The River - Then and Now





Friant Dam and San Joaquin River Salmon



1941

1942-1947

1948-1949

1950

Thousands of spring run successfully return, spawn, and outmigrate:

1942: 6,000

1945: 56,000

1943: 35,000

1946: 30,000

1944: 5,000

1947: 6,000





NRDC Coalition sues USBR over operation of Friant Dam and renewal of contracts. Friant districts intervene in opposition.

Dist. Ct. rules Fish & Game Code §5937 applies to Friant Dam

Dist. Ct. invalidates Friant contract renewals

Contract rescission affirmed by 9th Cir. Ct.

Supreme Ct. Denies Review

NRDC wins summary judgment on §5937 and ESA Claims; trial date set for 2/14/06

1988

1993

1997

1998

1999-03

2004-05 2006

1st Settlement process

Court Approves Settlement Oct '06



- Settlement Agreement
 - Restoration Goal
 - Water Management Goal
 - Funding
 - Restoration Administrator
- MOU with the State
 - Full partner in restoration of the River
- “Third Party” MOU and Commitments
 - Support, coordination, communication, etc.
- Federal Legislation
 - Authority to implement Settlement
 - Third Party protections

CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT DOCUMENT

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17 NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL, et al., Plaintiffs, 18 v. 19 20 KIRK RODGERS, as Regional Director of the UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, et al., Defendants. 21 22 23 ORANGE COVE IRRIGATION DISTRICT, et al. Defendant Intervenor. 24 25	CIV NO. 5-88-1658 - LKK/GGH STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT 26 27 28
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Plaintiffs Natural Resources Defense Council, et al., defendants Kirk Rodgers,
 et al. and the defendants-intervenor Orange Cove Irrigation District, et al., in that
 certain litigation styled Natural Resources Defense Council, et al. v. Rodgers, et al.

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STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT

- Restore Flows
 - From Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River
 - Obligation to protect flows all the way to the Delta
- Reintroduce Salmon - 2012
 - Spring and fall run chinook salmon
 - Establish naturally reproducing and self-sustaining populations
- Channel Improvements
 - Channel Capacity
 - Flood Protection
 - Fish Habitat
- Water Supply Infrastructure
 - Mendota Dam Bypass, Replace Sack Dam, Arroyo Canal fish screen, etc.





San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP)

- Interim Flow releases
- Fisheries management plan
- Landowner outreach
- Project planning and design: Mendota Pool Bypass, Reach 2B channel expansion, Replacement of Sack Dam, Screening Arroyo Canal, Reach 4B channel expansion, seepage projects, etc.
- Installation of over 100 groundwater monitoring wells
- Water Management Plan
- Seepage Monitoring and Management Plan
- Releases of juvenile salmon into river
- Programmatic Environmental Document and ROD
- Translocation and release of adult salmon into the river



- Settlement
 - Resolved litigation /began restoration efforts
 - Enabled cooperative partnerships and support

- Benefits of a Living River
 - Quality of life in the San Joaquin River Valley
 - Recreation / Educational opportunities
 - Economic Development
 - 11,000 jobs related to river restoration
 - Tourism
 - Supports recovery of California's salmon fisheries
 - Downstream Water Quality
 - Water Supply Management
 - Flood Protection
 - Central Valley Flood Protection Plan





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