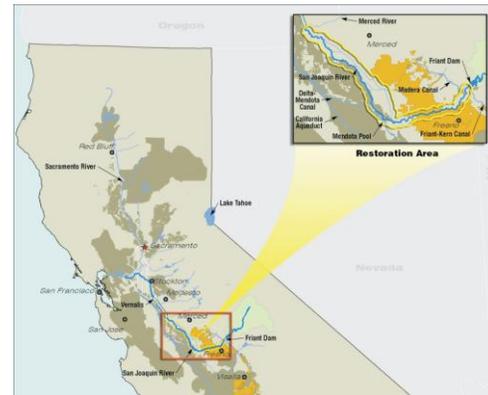


## San Joaquin River Restoration Program

**Project Summary:** The San Joaquin River Restoration Program is a comprehensive, long-term effort to restore flows to the San Joaquin River, from Friant Dam to the confluence with the Merced River, a distance of 153 miles. The program aims to restore a self-sustaining Chinook salmon fishery in the river while reducing or avoiding adverse water supply impacts from restoration flows. The program implements the Stipulation of Settlement in *NRDC, et al., v. Rodgers, et al.*, and resolves more than 18 years of litigation related to Reclamation's operation of Friant Dam. Interim flow releases from Friant Dam started in October 2009 and the San Joaquin River was reconnected to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in March 2010, a stretch of about 330 miles -- a circumstance that has not occurred in more than 60 years, with the exception of flood flow releases. This program is consistent with the America's Great Outdoors Initiative in many respects, including expansive ecological restoration.



Map of San Joaquin River Restoration

**Strategic Value:** The program seeks to achieve two primary goals: Restoration and water management. The restoration goal is to restore and maintain fish populations in good condition in the main stem of the San Joaquin River below Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River, including naturally reproducing and self-sustaining populations of salmon and other fish. The water management goal is to reduce or avoid adverse water supply impacts to all of the Friant Division long-term contractors that may result from interim and restoration flows provided for in the Settlement. The San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act, part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Interior to implement the Settlement.

**Benefits:** The program is focused on restoring flows and fish, including Chinook salmon to the San Joaquin River, while maintaining water deliveries to the Friant Division of the Central Valley Project consistent with the water supply contracts between the Friant Division water users and Reclamation. The Friant Division provides agricultural, municipal and industrial water supply to 28 long-term contractors which serve over a million acres of land in Fresno, Kern, Madera, and Tulare counties. The program will have wide reaching benefits, including restoring riparian habitat to more than 30 miles of the San Joaquin River, restoring ecosystem function and aquatic, riparian, and upland species habitats along the river, improving river channel capacities and flood control operations, and reconnecting the upper San Joaquin River to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Beyond the scope of the Settlement, a restored river will enhance recreational access and opportunities for many communities along the river. Many local organizations are engaging in activities with local schools to participate in learning opportunities for a restoration undertaking of this magnitude. Several non-profit conservation organizations working on the program formed a collaborative partnership to maximize the environmental, social, and economic benefits this restoration program brings to the people of California.



The San Joaquin River before restoration began, and after.

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