Spring 2002

A Joint Project of

Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation

The Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation (Investigation) will consider a range of approaches to increase water supplies through the enlargement of Millerton Lake at Friant Dam or a functionally equivalent storage program. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) are conducting this investigation pursuant to the CALFED Record of Decision (ROD), signed August 28, 2000. As recommended in the ROD, additional storage in the upper San Joaquin River watershed would "contribute to restoration of and improve water quality for the San Joaquin River and facilitate conjunctive water management and water exchanges that improve the quality of water deliveries to urban communities."

The Investigation will examine alternatives to increase surface water supplies in the upper San Joaquin watershed consistent with the water supply goals of CALFED. To conduct the Investigation, Reclamation and DWR are using a stakeholder-centered process that begins by investigating the potential for a feasible project and examining whether detailed development of alternatives is warranted.

Describe the Context and Affected Environment → **Explore** Boundaries and Opportunities → **Identify** Potential Alternatives → **Decide** Whether to Move Ahead with Further Planning

THE STAKEHOLDERS' ROLE

Reclamation and DWR are seeking to develop understanding and support from stakeholders throughout the investigation. Through a series of interactive workshops, the technical team will work with the stakeholders to develop a description of the affected environment, and perform an appraisal level evaluation of a 700 TAF Millerton Lake expansion and functionally equivalent alternatives for providing surface storage in the upper San Joaquin River Basin. The technical team will, with input from the stakeholders, refine the objectives and methods of the Investigation and develop and apply criteria for determining whether further, detailed planning is warranted after this initial phase. If yes, the process will continue with alternative development and screening, detailed evaluation of the alternatives, and selection of a preferred alternative, along with environmental documentation.

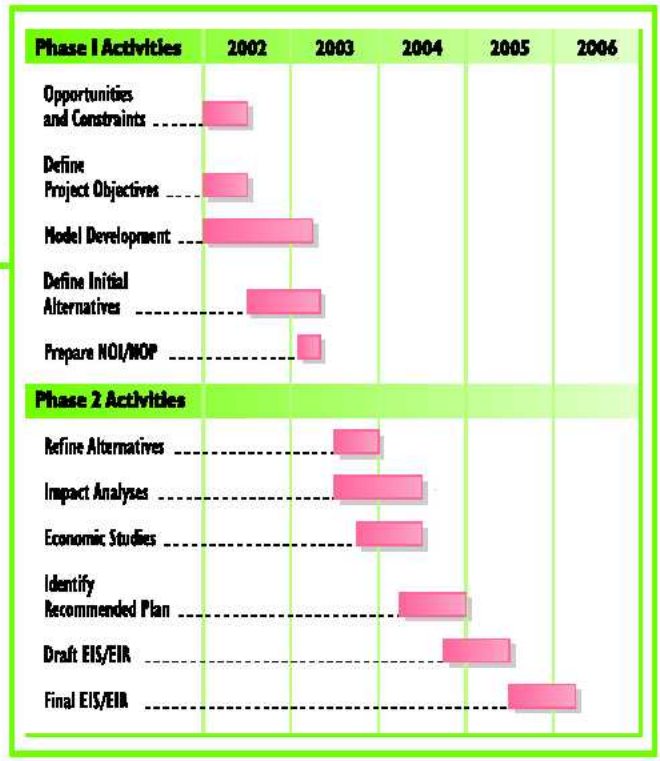
PLANNING PROCESS

The CALFED solution principles and objectives for water supply form the fundamental objectives for this investigation. Detailed planning objectives and criteria will be developed early in the investigation. Over the next several years of the Investigation, the following broad questions will be answered:

- Should we proceed with a detailed planning study?
- If so, what alternatives should be considered and how should they be evaluated?
- What are the economic and environmental impacts of the alternatives?
- Which is the preferred alternative?

INVESTIGATION APPROACH AND SCHEDULE

The Study will be developed in a two phases. Phase 1, which will last approximately one and a half years, will focus on identification of water resource opportunities, environmental needs and concerns, potential constraints, and stakeholder issues. Work elements will be structured to determine if a potentially viable plan appears likely, in which case, a Notice of Intent and Notice of Preparation will be filed to formally initiate NEPA and CEQA compliance. A set of preliminary alternatives will be formulated and evaluated at an appraisal level of detail to determine which alternatives will be retained for more detailed analysis. Data collection, model development, and field activities will be designed to provide information and results at a level of detail consistent with this preliminary evaluation.



Phase 2, estimated to take approximately three years, will focus on completion of the study and associated EIS/EIR. The final study and EIS/EIR will describe recommended project elements, their costs and benefits, and calculated cost sharing responsibilities. It is anticipated that any modification to existing facilities or construction of new facilities would require specific congressional authorization.

Phase I Topic Schedule

Spring 2002

- Context and Issues
- Authorities and Boundaries
- Investigation Objectives

Summer 2002

- Affected Environment
- Opportunities and Constraints
- Range of Alternatives

Fall 2002

- Preliminary Alternatives
- Continuation Criteria

Winter 2002-03

- Decision Regarding Continuation
- Issuance of NOI/NOP if Needed
- Publish Reports

RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

The investigation has not progressed sufficiently to identify specific alternatives; however, a range of measures that will be considered during Phase I has been developed, as described below.

Non-Structural Measures: These include operations of Friant Dam and other existing water storage facilities on the San Joaquin River and in the Friant Service Area. Non-structural measures would not include significant construction to enlarge or add new facilities. Rather, they could include modifications to existing structures to enable modified operations, such as enlarged outlet works or spillway gates on existing dams, or enlargements to conveyance facilities.

Surface Storage Increases in the San Joaquin River Watershed: These measures include the enlargement of existing or construction of new surface water storage facilities in the San Joaquin River watershed. They include enlargement of Friant Dam, construction of Temperance Flat Reservoir, construction of Fine Gold Creek Reservoir, enlargement of Mammoth Pool, and/or other equivalent storage programs.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ONGOING STUDIES AND PROGRAMS

The Investigation is being undertaken as part of CALFED's Stage 1 storage project evaluations. Many of the assumptions needed for this work also will apply to other CALFED projects. The Investigation will be integrated with other ongoing CALFED storage and conjunctive use studies to assure consistency.

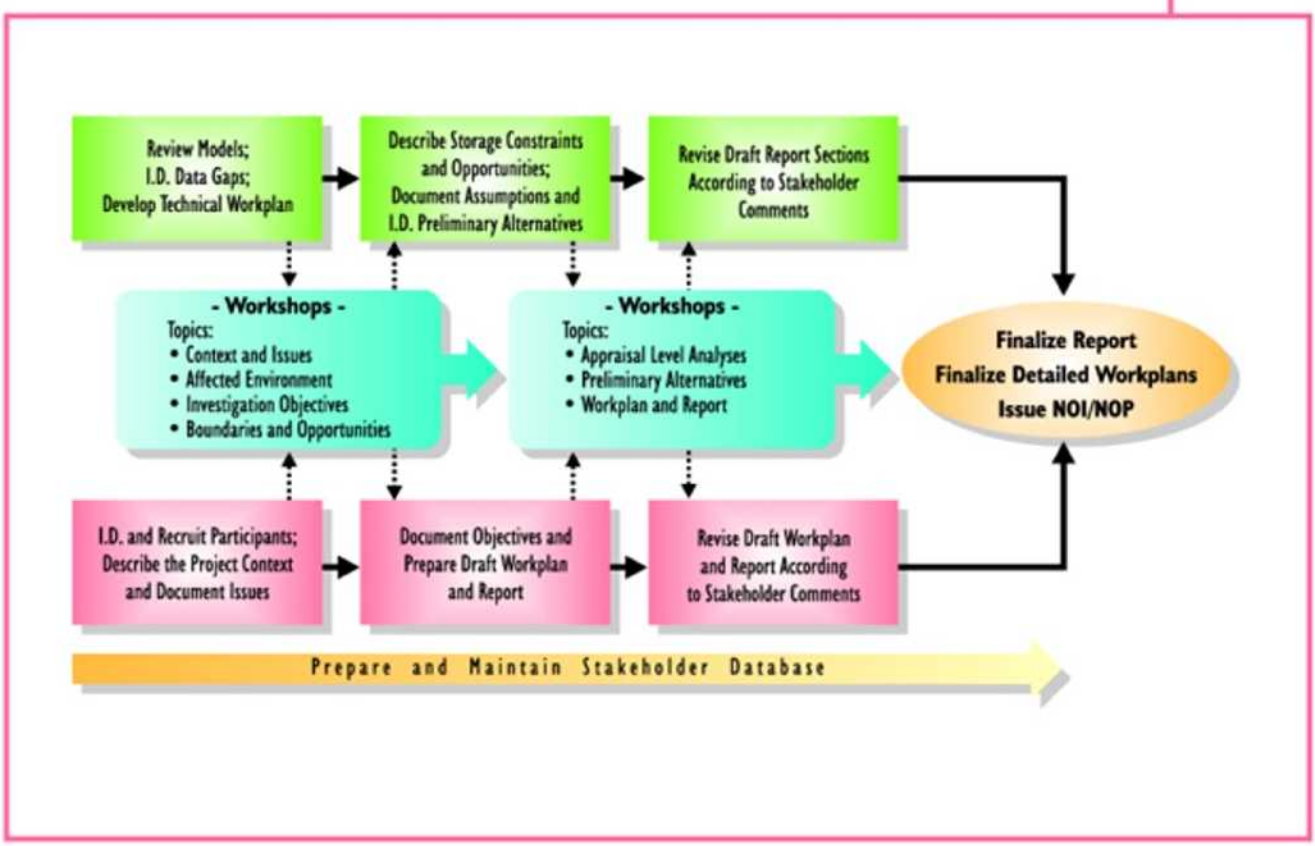
During the past several years, the Friant Water Users Authority and the Natural Resources Defense Counsel have been working on a restoration plan for the upper San Joaquin River and have been considering water supply options to offset restoration needs. Some of the work completed by that effort is directly relevant to this study and will be incorporated to the maximum extent possible.

PHASE I PROCESS

Stakeholder workshops form the core of the planning process. Reclamation and DWR, along with their consultants, will work with stakeholders to establish working relationships, coordinate with ongoing related activities, and share technical findings as work products are completed. In addition to several technical memoranda that describe the analyses, two documents will be prepared to support stakeholder involvement in Phase I.

Stakeholder Integration Workplan: This document will describe the public outreach and integration activities that will be included through the completion of the investigation.

Phase I Summary Report: This document will summarize the Phase I planning process; describe the study area; document planning objectives; describe storage opportunities and challenges; present technical findings; and lay out the next steps in the planning process.



For additional information, contact
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Project Web Site
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