

August 1, 2005
Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2006

I San Joaquin Basin Action Plan - CVPIA Section 3406(d)(5)

II Responsible Entities

	Agency	Staff Name	Role
Lead	USBR	Neal Niven	Project Manager, Fresno
Co-Lead	USFWS	Dale Garrison	Refuge Water Supply Coordinator

III. Program Objectives for FY 2006

The program objectives are enumerated below. The source documents for these objectives are noted and their relationship, if any, to the CALFED Program Ecosystem Restoration Program Implementation Plan. The program objectives have been cross-referenced against the actions the program will undertake in FY 2004 in Section VI below.

Continued work by Reclamation (USBR) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, (USFWS) to complete the design for the East Bear Creek Unit Phase II facilities, Island C Pumping Plant and San Joaquin River crossing. Phase I consisting of Bear Creek Pumping Plant and Pipeline was designed in fiscal 2005. Planning for this Unit has proceeded separately from other SJBAP lands due to its location on the east side of the San Joaquin River. This refuge is projected to be a 4,000 acres site that will have emergent and riparian wetlands and wetland associated upland areas. USFWS has obtained previous funding under the North American Wetlands (NAW) Conservation Act, this has funded their program to restore and enhance the East Bear Creek Unit to a more natural environment. Under the SJBAP and CVPIA, USBR is responsible for the planning, design, and construction of the water conveyance infrastructure. Work to be accomplished this fiscal year will consist of construction of Phase I, Bear Creek Pumping Plant and Pipeline, and field data collection, and final facilities design specifications of Phase II, construction of the Bear Creek pump station and pipeline.

Continued management oversight of activities under cooperative agreement with Central California Irrigation District these include enlarge the O'Banion Bypass to transfer CCID's Outside Canal water to the CCID's Main Canal. Proposed CCID funding and work for fiscal year 2005 will be the completion of O'Banion Bypass.

IV. Status of the Program

The Final EA/IS for the San Joaquin Basin Action Plan was completed in 1997. An Implementation Plan was completed in April 1998, and conveyance agreements were completed in summer 1998. USBR is currently administering the cooperative

agreements entered into with the San Luis Canal Company, Grassland Water District, and Central California Irrigation District for conveyance of refuge water supply, including construction and rehabilitation of needed facilities to meet the needs of the refuges within San Joaquin Basin Action Plan area. Reclamation is completing design and construction work for the remaining facilities identified in the implementation plan. Construction of these facilities will continue for FY 2005 through 2006 and beyond depending on the level of future funding.

V. FY 2005 Accomplishments.

- A. Continued progress on capacity and efficiency improvements to Central California Irrigation District facilities consisting of the completion of Ora Loma Weir on the Main Canal to increase flow capacity and the completion of design for the O'Banion Bypass.
- B. The completion of the Environmental Assessment for East Bear Creek Unit of the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge, Los Banos, California.
- C. Completion of design, specification, and bidding documents for Phase I of the East Bear Creek Unit conveyance facilities. Also the award of a construction contract to construct Phase I. of the East Bear Creek Unit of the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge, Los Banos, California

VI. Project Benefits

As the result of SJBAP projects, substantial improvements in both the reliability and timing of water delivery to wetland habitat have and will occur. A conveyance system that provides year-round water to meet the delivery schedule for wetland management in the Grassland Ecological Area will have the following benefits:

Earlier Fall Flood-up Schedule

Water made available to flood seasonal wetland habitat in the early fall during the months of August and early September. An earlier fall flood-up schedule for seasonal marsh will make habitat available for early migrant waterfowl and shorebirds. In addition, early water will provide habitat necessary for resident wildlife and their young during a critical time of the year when wetland habitat is particularly limiting.

Increased Acreage of Semi-permanent and Permanent Wetland Habitat

Additional acres of semi-permanent and permanent wetland habitat will be available to provide resident and wintering habitat for wildlife. Resident wildlife has benefited by having a reliable source of water for breeding and foraging. The

availability of summer water is particularly important and may directly benefit the recovery of special status species such as the giant garter snake, white-faced ibis, and tri-colored blackbirds. Wintering wildlife will benefit because this habitat type provides increased diversity in a landscape dominated by shallow seasonal wetland habitat.

Ability to Maintain Seasonal Wetlands for Longer Durations During the Spring

In the past, when water delivery was unreliable or unavailable, numerous wetland managers drained their wetlands immediately following waterfowl season. With a reliable, year-round water supply, seasonal wetlands can be maintained and de-watered to coincide with peak migration times of shorebirds and waterfowl, making invertebrates available for forage. Moreover, by holding water longer during the spring, wetland managers can specifically time draw-downs to germinate important moist-soil forage plants such as swamp timothy or watergrass.

Increased Water for Canal Habitat

As seasonal wetland habitat dries during the spring and wetland habitat becomes scarcer during the summer, canals provide important linkages to remaining semi-permanent and permanent wetlands. During the summer, the canals themselves also provide habitat for wetland dependent mammals, breeding wildlife, and special status species such as the giant garter snake.

Increased Frequency of Spring Irrigation to Improve Moist-soil Plant Production

Moist-soil plants are an important forage item for wintering and migrating waterfowl. These plants provide a high-energy food source through both their seeds and associated invertebrate communities. Spring and summer irrigation increases the plant biomass and results in greater quantities of seed being produced.

Ability to Manage for Disease Outbreaks

Often a managers best strategy to battle disease outbreaks, such as avian botulism and cholera, is to apply additional water and create a “flow through” system of water delivery and drainage. A flow through system decreases the potential of disease outbreaks in wildlife species commonly affected by disease.

Ability to Manage Wetlands for Optimum Foraging Depths

Shorebirds and waterfowl require depths of less than 12 inches to optimize foraging efficiency. Increased availability of maintenance water and improvements in delivery timing allow wetland managers to lower water depths to make seeds and invertebrates available without the fear of having wetlands completely evaporate.

Ability to Improve Soil Quality and Manage for Salinity

High salinity is often a problem found in wetlands in the Grassland Ecological Area. Wetlands with high concentrations of salts are often lower in productivity and diversity. CVPIA water allows wetland managers to “flush” salts from the wetland basin and improve soil quality. Maintenance of acceptable surface salt balances is necessary to produce an optimum diversity of both emergent and submergent aquatic plants

Development of Additional Wetland Habitat and Riparian Habitat

Water is the most important component to enhancing and restoring wetland habitat in the Grassland Ecological Area. Having a reliable, high quality source of water will and has made possible the restoration of historic wetland habitat throughout the area, including hundreds of acres of wetland and riparian restoration on the North Grasslands Wildlife Area and the San Luis NWR Complex.

VII. Tasks, Costs, Schedules and Deliverables

A. Narrative, Explanation of Tasks

- 1. East Bear Creek Unit.**
 - 1.1 Project Management
 - 1.2 Project Design & Construction

- 2 USFWS**
 - 2.1 Project Coordination

B. Schedule and Deliverables

#	Task	Dates		Deliverable
		Start	Complete	
1.1	Program Management	10/01/04	09/30/05	
1.2	East Bear Creek Unit, San Luis Nat. Wildlife Refuge	10/01/03	09/30/04	Design\specifications Phase II, permits for conveyance facilities, contract award Phase II and construction of Phase I.
2.1	USFWS Budget	10/01/03	09/30/04	Coordination

C. Summary of Program Costs and Funding Sources

#	Task	Total Cost	Funding Sources		
			RF	W&RR	Prop 204
1.1	Program Management	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000	\$0
1.2	East Bear Creek Unit, San Luis Nat. Wildlife Refuge	\$7,553,000	\$7,553,000	\$0	\$0
2.1	USFWS Budget	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$0
Total Program Budget		\$7,883,000	\$7,583,000	\$300,000	\$0

D. CVPIA Program Budget

#	Task	FTE	Direct Salary and Benefits Costs	Contracts Costs**	Miscellaneous Costs*	Administrative Costs	Total Costs
1.1	Program Management	1.5	\$127,000	\$62,000	\$5,000	\$106,000	\$300,000
1.2	East Bear Creek Unit, San Luis Nat. Wildlife Refuge	8.9	\$347,680	\$7,044,843	\$91,876	\$68,601	\$7,553,000
2.1	USFWS Budget***	0	\$25,424	\$0	\$0	\$4,576	\$30,000
Total by Category		10.4	\$500,104	\$7,106,843	\$96,876	\$179,177	\$7,883,000

*Explanatory Notes: Miscellaneous Costs may include travel, tuition, or supplies.

**Costs includes USBR Denver Design Costs.

*** Funds for USFWS Budget to be used by staff of the San Luis NWR Complex (located in Los Banos), for SJBAP-related construction projects.

Table E. DRAFT CVPIA 5-Year Budget Plan FY 2007 – 2010
(\$ Thousands)

Program Description and Section		FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	Total (\$)
	W&RR	\$300,000	312,000	327,000	343,000	360,000	1,642,000
	RF	7,583,000	7,166,000	11,000,000	0	0	25,749,000
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total:		7,883,000	7,478,000	11,327,000	343,000	360,000	27,391,000

Major Activities:

FY 2007

East Bear Creek Phase II	\$7,136,000
Fish & Wildlife Projects	30,000
Program Administration	<u>312,000</u>
	\$7,478,000

FY 2008

Orleans Canal	\$10,970,000
Fish & Wildlife Projects	30,000
Program Administration	<u>327,000</u>
	\$11,327,000

FY 2009

Program Administration	<u>343,000</u>
	\$ 343,000

FY 2010

Program Administration	<u>360,000</u>
	\$ 360,000