Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2005

I. **Program Title**. San Joaquin River Comprehensive Plan (Comprehensive Plan) – CVPIA § 3406(c)(1)

II. Responsible Entities.

Agency	Staff Name	Role
USBR	Michael Jackson	Program Manager

III. Program Objectives for FY 2005.

Program Management and Technical Support: Establish a state/federal San Joaquin River Comprehensive Planning Office in Fresno, California. Select technical staff to review existing the data and studies completed over the past 14 years to begin Comprehensive Plan alternatives formulation. Provide technical support, funding, and/or liaison coordination for any applicable Reclamation and State of California, Department of Water Resources (DWR) San Joaquin River restoration planning activities.

Resource Management: Plan and implement activities, studies, programs, and all associated environmental compliance activities that will be beneficial to long-term San Joaquin River Comprehensive Planning restoration effort.

IV. Status of the Program.

The San Joaquin River Comprehensive Plan was authorized in Section 3406(c)(1). Interior has funded numerous studies internal and external to Reclamation to gather sufficient information to develop a comprehensive plan, The last major multiple million dollar, multi-year project Interior funded to obtain San Joaquin River restoration information to meet Section 3406(c)(1) requirements was led by the Friant Water Users Authority (FWUA) and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). With the FWUA and NRDC settlement restoration planning and settlement discussions now terminated, Interior will again take the lead to complete the studies necessary to prepare the Comprehensive Plan. Interior (Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service) will partner with the State of California's Departments of Water Resources and Fish and Game, and NOAA-Fisheries to pool technical and financial resources to complete the Comprehensive Plan as defined in Section 3406(c)(1).

V. FY 2004 Accomplishments.

The following accomplishments will provide information to meet the Section 3406(c)(1) requirements and was funded through the San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat Restoration

Program (SJRRHRP). The results of these accomplishments, along with other San Joaquin River restoration work products Interior funded, will be used to carry out the FY05 proposed activities:

California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) initiated a 4-year Milburn-Hansen Restoration Planning Project. DFG, in coordination with California Department of Water Resources (DWR), will be conducting the planning, pre-design, biological surveys, engineering, re-vegetation planning, environmental analysis, and public outreach activities necessary to outline a restoration plan for the abandoned aggregate mining pit areas in the Milburn Unit and the state-owned lands adjacent to Hansen Farm property. The Riparian Program wanted to support this effort to explore better methods for isolating the identified abandoned gravel pits from the mainstem San Joaquin and creating a habitat for the species in the area. In 1997, floods breached a berm these had isolated the abandoned gravel pits and the involved agencies also wanted to pursue plans to restore the area for habitat and community purposes. This initial phase will serve, on a demonstration level, the potential restoration options available to put the abandoned gravel pit areas to beneficial use and isolate them from the mainstem San Joaquin River so the river hydraulics are not unduly affected.

DFG initiated a 20-month Fishery and Aquatic Resources Inventory. DFG will inventory and document the present-day status, distribution, and condition of aquatic fauna and flora between Friant Dam and the confluence of the Merced River for the defined period of time. The documentation will include water condition information pertinent to interpretation of the inventory results. This effort was initiated to obtain information that currently does not exist in the Riparian Program study area. This missing information will be used in determining the needs of the identified aquatic species when seeking to define restoration actions.

Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) continued their 3-year monitoring program that is a collection of baseline data. Annually from 2003 through 2006, PRBO will provide baseline information on riparian bird communities including presence-absence, habitat associations, density (birds per acre), and some demographic indices (fidelity, productivity, and survivorship) to measure population health along the main stem of the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River. This effort builds upon the bird monitoring activities PRBO conducted for the Riparian Program in 2002.

U.S. Department of Energy, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories (LBNL) designed and installed additional water quality monitoring systems at various points along the San Joaquin River in areas that had never been consistently monitored. LBNL will also make recommendations to Reclamation on a water quality monitoring and decision support system for the San Joaquin River between Friant Dam and the confluence of the Merced River. Based on recommendations received and the availability of Reclamation funding, a

decision support system will be designed and made operational. The water quality monitoring equipment installation is to be completed by December 2004.

California State University B Stanislaus Foundation, Endangered Species Recovery Program (ESRP) continued gathering the terrestrial biological surveys and related studies that were initiated in 2000. ESRP is conducting surveys for valley elderberry longhorn beetles (and their habitat), small mammals (especially kangaroo rats), canids (especially San Joaquin kit foxes), and other species upon request. The information obtained is baseline data. This data will be used to better understand the habitat in the study area so the identified species' needs can be considered when proposing restoration actions.

Funds were provided to obtain a variety of clean up materials and to cover the trash and tire disposal fees for a San Joaquin River cleanup efforts led by the City of Firebaugh in recognition of the April 2004 "Keep California Beautiful" campaign and a clean up led by RiverTree Volunteers in recognition of the May 2004 "National River Clean Up Week" and the September 2004 "California Coastal Commission's Clean Up Day" and federal "National Public Lands Day".

National Park Service, in cooperation with the National Film Arts Foundation, completed an oral history film documentary "Jewel of the San Joaquin – Andrew Firebaugh Historical Park, Firebaugh, California". It portrays the City of Firebaugh's role and significance to the San Joaquin River.

In FY04, the review and completion of the Biological Assessment and Section 7 consultation of the Endangered Species Act with the Fish and Wildlife Service on the Jensen River Ranch restoration planning effort was completed. The Service concurred that the proposed action (hand removal of abandoned structures and renovation of the area for community and habitat purposes) is not likely to adversely affect the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle and it will not adversely modify or destroy critical habitat.

In FY04, the U.S.D.A. Agricultural Research Service was asked to provide information that identified what would be required, on a demonstration level, to reduce the amount of aquatic invasive weeds (e.g. Parrot's Feather *(Myriophyllum aquaticum)*) in the San Joaquin River downstream of Friant Dam Parrot's Feather may compete with native aquatic plants, eliminating them or reducing their numbers in infested sites. It forms dense mats that can entirely cover the surface of the water in shallow lakes and other waterways. These mats clog waterways, making them unusable for navigation or recreation and causing flooding out of the channel. It can block irrigation pumps and water intakes, and it provides optimal habitat for mosquitoes (Orr and Resh 1989, Systma and Anderson 1990; Parsons 1992). In California this species is becoming an increasing problem in irrigation and drainage canals. A 1985 survey of irrigation, mosquito abatement, flood control, and reclamation agencies in California indicated that Parrot's Feather infested nearly 600 miles of waterways and over 500 surface acres (Washington Water Quality

Program 1998). Due to the nature in which it spreads, the Riparian Program was interested in using innovative techniques on a demonstration basis to determine which methods could potentially be used on a broader scale.

In FY04, an initial inventory and compilation of all Riparian Program-funded documents prepared by contractors and Reclamation staff between 1997 and 2004 was completed. This inventory will be used by Reclamation to retrieve information developed more easily upon request. Additional efforts to computerize the inventory will be initiated in FY05.

VI. Tasks, Costs, Schedules and Deliverables.

A. Narrative Explanation of Tasks.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT - $ 203,781

Project Management:

Provide technical support and/or project administration staffing to lead the San Joaquin River restoration-related programs and activities conducted by Reclamation and DWR.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - $796,219

San Joaquin River Restoration Planning:

Obtain contractor services to complete the FWUA and NRDC draft San Joaquin River Restoration Strategies Report. Obtain technical services and expertise needed to provide support to the Reclamation and DWR San Joaquin River restoration planning efforts.

NOTE: Based upon the results of the recommendations documented in the Restoration Strategies Report for future studies and other San Joaquin River restoration related study recommendations reviewed, Reclamation, DWR, and its partner agencies will prepare and implement a study plan to prepare the Comprehensive Plan required under Section 3406(c)(1). This FY05 Work Plan will be revised at a later date to reflect the projects and activities to be accomplished.

B. Schedule and Deliverables.

#	Task	Dates		Deliverable
		Start	Complete	
1	Program Management and Technical Support	10/01/04	09/30/05	Administer program, data gathering, contract administration and restoration program activities
2	Resource Management	10/01/04	09/30/05	Initiate studies, programs, and required environmental compliance actions in support of the Reclamation and DWR restoration planning efforts; partnerships with others in the identified San Joaquin River study area to assist in defining restoration opportunities and constraints

C. Summary of Program Costs and Funding Sources.

#	Task	Total Cost	RF
1	Program Management and Technical Support	$203,781	$203,781
2	Resource Management	$796,219	$796,219
Total Program Budge		**$1, 000,000**	**$1, 000,000**

D. CVPIA Program Budget

#	Task	FTE	Direct Salary and Benefits Costs	Contracts Costs	Miscellaneous Costs	Administrative Costs	Total Costs
1	Program Management and Technical Support	.50	$203,781	$0	$0	$0	**$203,781**
2	Resource Management	.50	$0	$782,460	$0	$13,759	**$796,219**
	Total by Category	**1**	**$203,781**	**$782,460**	**$0**	**$13,759**	**$1,000,000**

VII. Future Years Commitments/Actions.

Future year commitments and actions under this program will be based upon the restoration planning tools developed, study and scientific investigation efforts identified, and environmental compliance actions required of Interior in meeting all applicable Federal laws, statues, Executive Orders, and policies.