



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898  
FEB 13 2013

IN REPLY REFER TO:

MP-740  
ENV-8.00

Ms. Pamela Creedon  
Executive Officer  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Central Valley Region  
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Subject: Transmittal of the Technical Memoranda for the Water Budget and the Salt and Nitrate Budget for the Westside Salt Assessment, Lower San Joaquin River, California

Dear Ms. Creedon:

Thank you for meeting with Mr. Pablo Arroyave, Deputy Regional Director, and our Division of Planning on January 3, 2013, to discuss the status of the Bureau of Reclamation actions identified in our Salinity Management Plan and the 2008 Management Agency Agreement (MAA) between our agencies. Reclamation completed the subject technical memoranda (TM) to identify salt sources and understand the fate and transport within the Westside region of the San Joaquin River Valley.

On December 19, 2012, Division of Planning staff met with Ms. Jeanne Chilcott and Mr. Jim Martin, of your staff, for a monthly MAA status meeting. At this meeting, Ms. Chilcott was informed the TMs were submitted for management review and that we intended to transmit the TMs in March 2013.

I am pleased to provide a Digital Video Disc (Enclosure) with the TMs in advance of the March deliverable date. The documents will also be posted and available on our Program to Meet Standards website at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/ptms>.

The purpose of the Water Budget TM was to improve the scientific understanding of the surface and groundwater supplies, considering all sources of inflow and outflow available over extended periods. The purpose of the Salt and Nitrate Budget TM was to identify general sources and sinks of salt and nitrate, the timing for discharging salt loads to the San Joaquin River, data availability, data quality and completeness, and relevance and completeness of salt and nitrogen transformation processes in the environment. The Water Budget, and the Salt and Nitrate Budget TMs complement each other and should be reviewed together.

Reclamation agreed in the MAA to initiate stakeholder efforts in development of a Real Time Management Program. Reclamation will use the information from Water Budget, and Salt and Nitrate Budget TMs to continue to initiate interest in the Real Time Management Program by developing decision support modeling tools. These tools will be used to forecast Lower San Joaquin River assimilative capacity and demonstrate optimal salinity discharge opportunities for Westside water users discharging to the river.

As discussed at your meeting with Mr. Arroyave, Reclamation is committed to preparing the reports pursuant to the 2008 MAA. We look forward to working with the Board's staff to improve the water quality in the Lower San Joaquin River within our existing authorization and appropriations. We look forward to continued collaboration in the future.

If you have any questions regarding these TMs, please contact Ms. Roberta Tassej at 916-978-5078 or rtassej@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,



David G. Murillo  
Regional Director

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Enclosure