RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation

Facts

- 1942 - The Bureau of Reclamation completed construction of Friant Dam, creating the 520,000 acre-foot reservoir (Millerton Lake) managed for flood control and water supply
- 2003 - Reclamation partners with local agencies to investigate increased water storage in the basin
- 2009 – Congress passed the San Joaquin River Restoration Program Settlement Act dedicating up to 556,000 acre-feet of yield to provide restoration flows to the confluence with the Merced River, as well as numerous restoration projects to restore anadromous fish and their habitat

The ongoing Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation (Investigation) is a feasibility study authorized by Congress in 2003. The Investigation was included in the Surface Storage Program described in the 2000 CALFED Bay-Delta Program Record of Decision. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program includes a series of interrelated programs to provide comprehensive solutions to the problems of ecosystem quality, water supply reliability, water quality, and Delta levee and channel integrity.

Millerton Lake is the largest reservoir in the San Joaquin River basin, but inflow to the lake far exceeds the lake capacity. Reclamation, in cooperation with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and local agencies, is evaluating the technical, environmental, economic, and financial feasibility of adding new storage capacity upstream of Friant Dam as a part of the Investigation. Increasing storage capacity in the basin could improve water supply reliability, reduce flood damage, and improve water temperatures in the San Joaquin River below Friant Dam for anadromous fish restoration and survival.

The Investigation is also focusing on the benefits new storage upstream of Friant Dam could provide with regard to long-term and emergency water supply benefits for much of the state.

Objectives

Primary objectives include:

- Increase water supply reliability for agricultural, municipal and industrial use
- Enhance temperature and flow conditions in support of San Joaquin River anadromous fish restoration efforts

Secondary objectives include:

- Reduce flood damage along the San Joaquin River
- Maintain and increase recreation opportunities
- Improve water quality for M&I supplies through exchanges

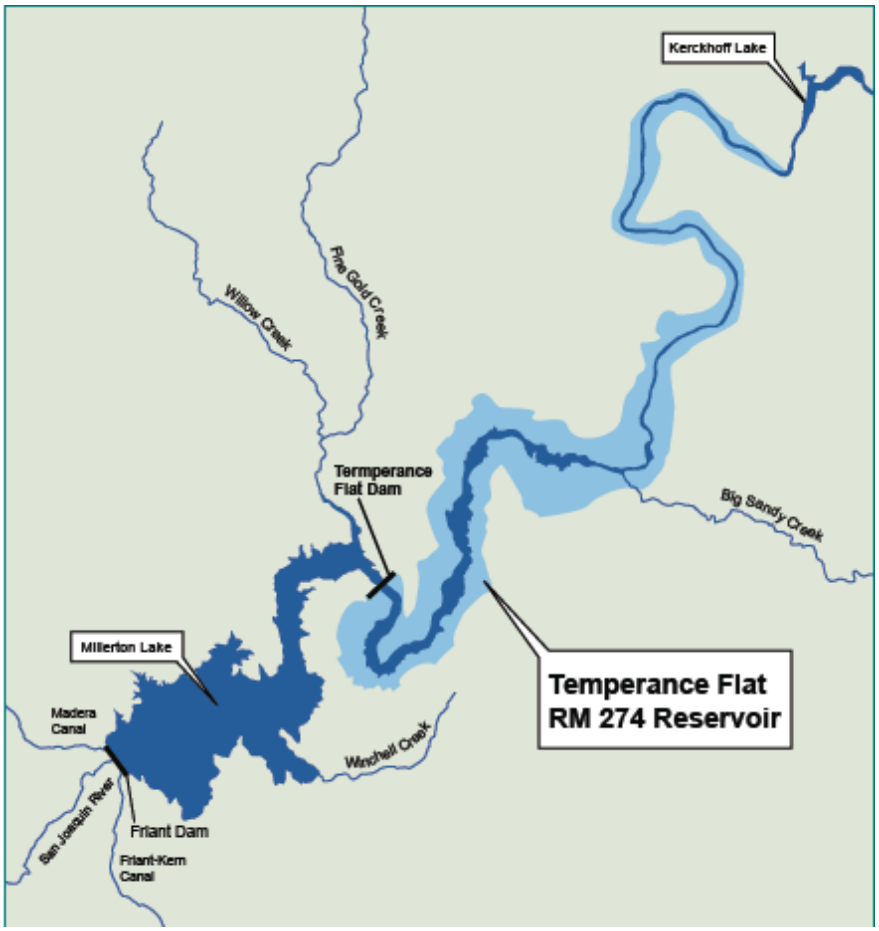
Alternatives Considered

- Temperance Flat Reservoir, up to 1,260,000 acre-feet of new storage to capture more of the average annual 1.8 million acre-feet inflows.
- Alternative reservoir operations and dam, conveyance and hydropower design refinements are being developed.

Potential Benefits

(Source: Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation, Plan Formulation Report, Reclamation, 2008):

- Increased water supply reliability ranging from 103,000 to 254,400 acre-feet per year in dry periods
- Increased water storage capacity of approximately 1,260,000 acre-feet providing greater system flexibility
- Increased cold water and flow available to support improved fisheries
- Increased recreation valued from $4.0 to $7.3 million per year
- Reduced flood damage



Status

2013 - Complete alternative design and operations analyses; Prepare Draft Feasibility Report

2014 - Complete Draft Feasibility Report, Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report (EIS/R); Public Hearings

2015 - Complete Final Feasibility Report and EIS/R

2016 - Complete ROD

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Potential Project Location

Temperance Flat Reservoir would be located on the San Joaquin River upstream of Friant Dam, 25 miles northeast of Fresno, CA on the San Joaquin River.