

The San Joaquin River was the focus of one of the most contentious legal battles in California water history related to providing instream flows for fish. A 2006 settlement between the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Friant Water Users Authority led to creation of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program.

This two-day, one-night tour explains the background, goals, timeline and activities of the settlement and restoration. Explore the length of the river while diverse stakeholders, water managers and key governmental representatives discuss their challenges and controversies. The tour is cosponsored by the Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region, CH2M, ESA and HDR.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Central Valley Project operations
- ➤ 2016 updates to flows, releases and river conditions
- ➤ Flood management planning and seepage issues
- ➤ Construction of fish screens and fish ladders
- ➤ Agricultural diversions and bypass control structures
- ➤ Interim flows and impacts to agricultural lands
- Various agency roles in restoration
- How water allocations have been affected by the drought

Tentative stops include:

- ➤ Friant Dam ➤ San Joaquin Trout Hatchery
- ➤ Chowchilla Bifurcation and Canal
- ➤ Mendota Pool ➤ Sack Dam
- ➤ Sand Slough Control Structure
- ➤ Merced National Wildlife Refuge
- ➤ Hills Ferry Barrier on the Merced River

This fast-paced tour will begin and end at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites Fresno (River Park) Hwy 41 at 7115 N Howard St. **beginning at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 2.** After traveling from Fresno downstream to areas of the river that are part of the settlement activities, tour participants will stay overnight in Los Banos. The second day the tour will continue down the San Joaquin River to the confluence of the Merced River before returning to the Holiday Inn at approximately **6 p.m. on Thursday, November 3**.

Registration - \$555 or early bird price of \$525 for purchases by October 11. Registration fee includes all tour meals, hotel accommodations in Los Banos on November 2, tour transportation, bus refreshments and materials. Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from Fresno.

All reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis. Deadline to cancel and receive a full refund is 5 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 18 due to hotel, meal and transportation bookings. Substitutions are allowed through Oct. 31.