



**NORTHEASTERN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY GROUNDWATER BANKING AUTHORITY
PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN INTEGRATED
CONJUNCTIVE USE PROGRAM DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

(Pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 21092 and 21092.3 and California Code of Regulations Title 14, Sections 15072, 15073)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Northeastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Banking Authority (GBA) is circulating the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Eastern San Joaquin Integrated Conjunctive Use Program (ICU Program).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The GBA has developed an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) to define and integrate key water management strategies that will establish protocols and a course of action to implement the ICU Program. The ICU Program, in turn, will implement a comprehensive, prioritized set of projects and actions that will meet adopted Basin Management Objectives (BMOs) and provide regional benefits to area stakeholders. The primary objectives of the ICU Program are to meet GBA member water demands, secure a reliable and sustainable water supply, replenish Eastern San Joaquin County's overdrafted groundwater basin, and provide opportunities for conjunctive water management in order to benefit not only San Joaquin County, but also other regional and State-wide water interests. The GBA has decided to conduct an environmental review of the ICU Program in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and prepare a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR).

SIGNIFICANT AND POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

The ICU Program would result in implementation of one of four Alternatives (A-D). The following impacts have been identified as being significant or potentially significant under at least one of the four Alternatives, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15087 (c)(4):

Aesthetics

- Construction of the ICU Program facilities would result in temporary or short-term reduction in visual resource values.
- Operation of the ICU Program would have an adverse effect on scenic vistas, damage scenic resources, or degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings.

Air Quality

- ICU Program implementation would violate air quality standards, contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation, or expose sensitive receptors to pollutant concentrations resulting in an adverse health effect.

Biological Resources

- The ICU Program could conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.
- Diversion or alteration of flows from the Mokelumne River, Calaveras River, Stanislaus River, Sacramento River, Delta, and other waterways could result in degradation of fisheries resources.

Flooding and Drainage

- Increases in erosion or siltation.
- Increases in flooding on- or off-site.

Land Use and Planning

- ICU Program implementation could result in permanent conversion of designated farmlands to other uses.
- ICU Program implementation would conflict with Williamson Act/Farm Security Zone contracts.

Surface Water Resources

- Surface water diversions proposed under the ICU Program could substantially alter downstream hydrology, resulting in potential impacts to Delta flows, reservoir operations, water supply, and other hydrologic impacts.

Growth Inducing Effects

- Implementation of projects and management actions under the ICU Program would accommodate planned growth in the Study Area and in the service areas of groundwater banking partners that provide urban supply. Planned growth would result in secondary environmental effects. The effects of planned growth have been identified and addressed in the EIRs prepared for General Plans for municipalities within the Study Area. Local land use jurisdictions have identified several significant and unavoidable impacts associated with planned growth including impacts to aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, noise, and transportation and traffic.

Cumulative Effects:

- Flooding and Drainage, Biological Resources, Surface Water Hydrology of the Delta and Delta Tributaries, Delta Water Quality, Land Use and Agriculture, Aesthetics, Air Quality

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD:

A copy of this environmental document may be reviewed at the following addresses:

- * San Joaquin County Public Works, 1810 East Hazelton Avenue, Stockton
- * Cesar Chavez Central Library, 605 North El Dorado Street, Stockton
- * Lodi Public Library, 201 West Locust Street, Lodi
- * Linden Branch Library, 19059 East Main (Highway 26), Linden
- *County Recorders Office, 6 South El Dorado Street, Stockton

An electronic copy of the document may be downloaded at www.GBAwater.org. A CD copy may also be obtained free of charge by contacting the Northeastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Banking Authority at (209) 468-3089. For further information please contact **Brandon Nakagawa**, (209) 468-3089, or via email bnakagawa@sjgov.org.

Two Public Meetings will be held on **October 19, 2009 at 3:30 p.m and again at 6:00 p.m** at the Public Health/Planning Commission Room located at 1601 East Hazelton Avenue, Stockton, CA 95205, at which time oral comments will be accepted.

Written comments may be submitted during the public review period which begins on **September 8, 2009** and must be received no later than **October 29, 2009, 5:00 p.m.** Please address all written comments to

Mel Lytle, Ph.D.
Water Resources Coordinator
San Joaquin County Public Works Department
PO BOX 1810
STOCKTON, CA 95201