

Mid-Pacific Region
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San Joaquin River Restoration Program to Work with Central California Irrigation District on Seepage Projects

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - The Bureau of Reclamation intends to issue a cooperative agreement to the Central California Irrigation District for an estimated amount of \$6,258,150. The full announcement for Funding Opportunity R14AN20022 may be viewed at www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html.

This cooperative agreement will provide for CCID to construct, operate, and maintain seepage projects, including interceptor lines, drainage ditches, seepage berms, or land re-leveling, in support of seepage management under the San Joaquin River Restoration Program. Resolving seepage challenges through this agreement is needed to reestablish and reconnect flows in the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam to the Merced River confluence.

There will also be broad public benefits from a reconnected river, which include providing for and maintaining salmon and other fish populations in good condition below Friant Dam and the related commercial, ecosystem, and recreational benefits from these actions.

The SJRRP seeks to increase releases from Friant Dam to support a self-sustaining population of Chinook salmon and other fish. The Record of Decision supporting the release of Restoration Program flows from Friant Dam limits the release of flows to levels that will not cause material adverse impacts to adjacent lands due to groundwater seepage. The current channel cannot support the required releases. Seepage projects address the groundwater seepage impacts and allow for the conveyance of the flows necessary to achieve the Restoration Goal of the SJRRP.

CCID operates and maintains water supply infrastructure on and around the lands adjacent to the SJRRP and has successfully installed and operated interceptor drains for several reaches of their canals, installed drainage ditches, and done earthwork. Construction and operation of the seepage projects will require close cooperation with the adjacent landowners and will require compatibility with existing facilities and management practices beyond the expertise of the federal government. As the largest irrigation district in the area, a leader among the landowners, and the owner of infrastructure required for construction, CCID is uniquely qualified with the local knowledge, experience, and property rights to integrate the seepage projects into the existing infrastructure.

This financial assistance agreement will be entered into under the authority of the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act, signed into law as Title X, Subtitle A, of the Omnibus Public Lands Bill (P.L. 111-11). For information on the SJRRP, please visit www.restoresjr.net.

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