



SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN
IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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BY ASHIKA NARAYAN

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From:

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South San Joaquin Irrigation District
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County of Calaveras
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

County Clerk
County of Merced
2222 M. Street, Main Floor
Merced, CA 95340

County Clerk
County of San Joaquin
44 N. San Joaquin Street, Suite 260
Stockton, CA 95202

County Clerk
County of Tuolumne
#2 South Green Street
Sonora, CA 95370

County Clerk
County of Alameda
1106 Madison Street
Oakland, CA 94607

County Clerk
County of Contra Costa
555 Escobar Street
Martinez, CA 95443

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Title: 2020 Spring Pulse Flow Release

Project Location: From the Stanislaus River at Goodwin Dam to the Jones and Banks Pumping Plants, and ultimately to the San Luis Reservoir; located in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Alameda, Contra Costa, and Merced Counties.

Project Description:

Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) and South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) will provide up to 100,000 acre-feet of water to augment water releases made by the USBR to benefit migratory fish on the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers. The releases will occur at Goodwin Dam during April and May, and will be coordinated with the USBR's releases to assist and supplement Reclamation flows in meeting their legal obligations for the April-May pulse flow under D-1641. The USBR will be responsible for determining the flow rate and schedule of the release, upon concurrence with the NMFS. The San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) will pay OID and

Date removed from posting 04/19/2020

SSJID for every acre-foot in excess of the flow released by the USBR at Goodwin Dam for the Spring pulse flow, up to a maximum of 100,000 acre-feet. There will be no reservoir refill criteria.

Current Hydrology:

Projected hydrology for the Stanislaus River Basin is trending to Dry indicating an Appendix-2e flow requirement of 234,600 acre feet for water year March 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021. Reclamation's April-May flows under Appendix-2e range from 200-1,000 cfs in the Stanislaus River while the Vernalis requirement under D-1641 is just over 4,000 cfs, leading to a significant deficit even when considering the inflow from other upstream releases.

Projected hydrology for the Stanislaus River Basin has been modeled to indicate an End of Month Storage September in New Melones of 1.5 maf. The Districts have determined there will be no impact to carryover storage/cold water pool at New Melones due to the release.

Project Purpose:

The releases are for the purpose of improving flow on the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers to benefit migratory fish. Pursuant to the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) Decision 1641 (D-1641), the USBR is responsible for meeting the April-May flow objective flows at Vernalis. The NMFS 2009 Biological Opinion (BiOp) establishes the Spring "pulse flow" identified in the Stanislaus River Minimum Fish Flow Schedule for the purpose of protecting migratory fish in the lower San Joaquin River and Delta, particularly fall-run Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead. (BiOp, p. 641-645). The USBR's releases of the water provided by OID and SSJID will supplement flows in the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers to improve instream flow conditions for migratory fish during April and May 2020. The released water will be diverted by the DWR and SLDMWA pursuant to WIIN Act, Section 4001. This water will help those entities offset the severe allocation reductions they have received this year.

Project Proponents: Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District.

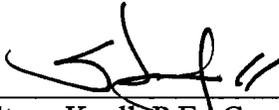
Project Beneficiaries: OID, SSJID, USBR, DWR, SLDMWA.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District.

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption (14 Cal. Code of Regulations, Sec. 15301 Class 1(i) Maintenance of Stream Flow to protect fish and wildlife resources).

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The project utilizes existing public facilities for the maintenance of flows to protect fish and wildlife resources. There will be no change in operation or expansion of existing diversion and pumping facilities, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

Dated: 3/10/20

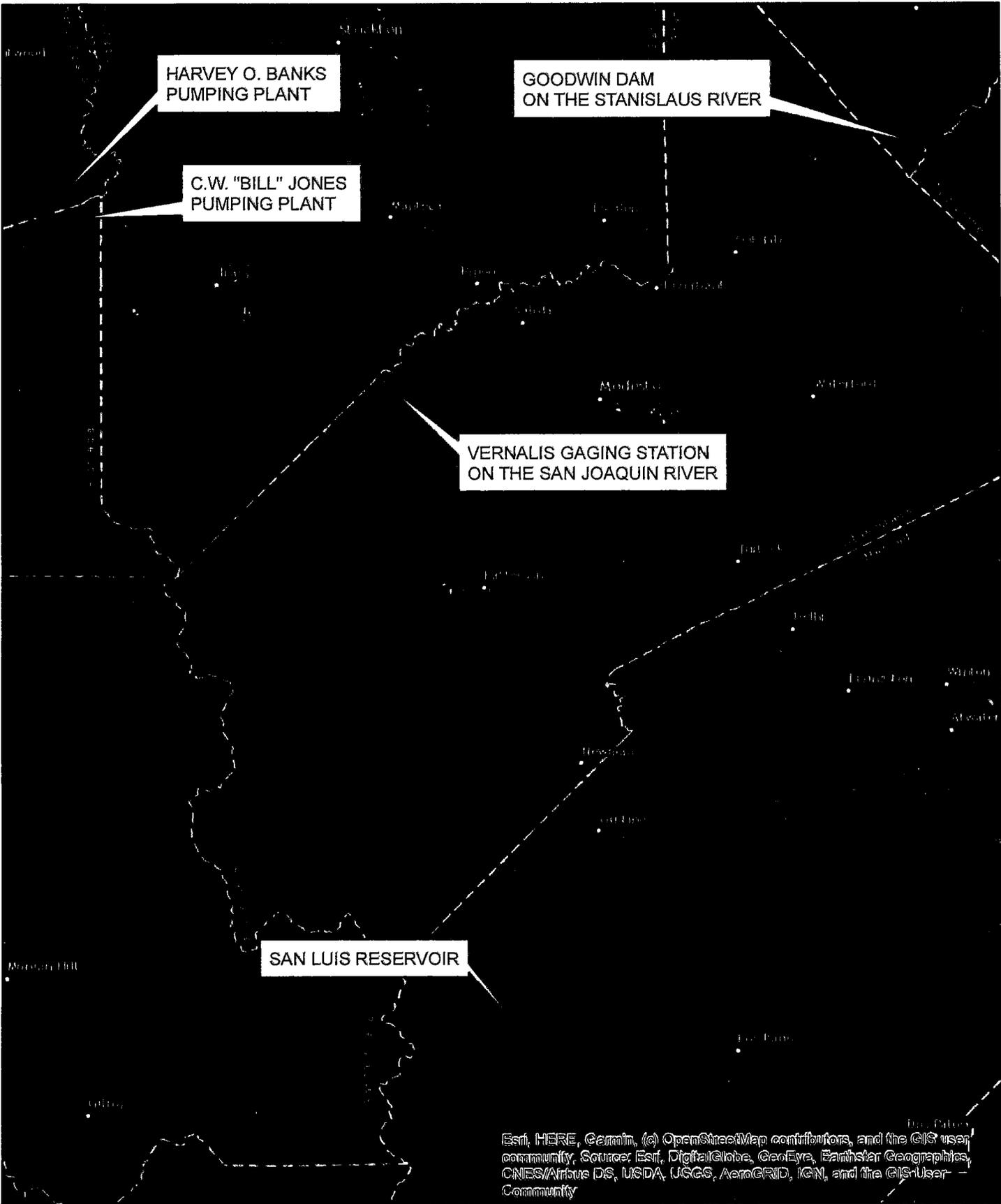


Steve Knell, P.E., General Manager
OAKDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Dated: 3/10/2020



Peter M. Rietkerk, P.E., General Manager
SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT



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DRAWN BY: ECS
 CHECKED BY: SRK
 DATE: 2/5/20
 SHEET: 1 OF 1

PROJECT SITE MAP
OID & SSJID
2020 SPRING PULSE FLOW RELEASE

