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San Joaquin River research to be discussed at community meeting
San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority presenting information on dissolved oxygen

The San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority is inviting all interested parties to learn about research currently underway on the San Joaquin River on December 5, 2007 at the Stanislaus Ag Center in Modesto, California. The meeting will be informative to farmers, business people, recreational river users, community members and anyone who has an interest in the health and future condition of the San Joaquin River and its tributaries.

"This second in a series of community meetings is intended to discuss with the public the various scientific studies we have been conducting on the river over the past several years. At this meeting we will discuss the changes we have seen particularly over the last year", said Dr. Will Stringfellow of University of the Pacific, lead researcher on the project. "Previously our studies have been conducted in rather wet years and 2007 was an exceedingly dry one. We will discuss the contrasts we have discovered in the health of the San Joaquin River in these wet vs. dry years as well as overview of the total maximum daily load (TMDL) scientific effort and share with the public our findings concerning river water quality and discuss how sound science can support the development of an effective TMDL plan", added Stringfellow.

For many years, the Deep Water Ship Channel (DWSC) on the San Joaquin River has had sporadic low DO conditions. The low DO conditions are impacting critical fish habitat and a TMDL implementation plan is currently being developed. Several research and monitoring projects examining various DO demand in the river are being conducted. This project focuses on understanding the sources of oxygen-consuming materials in the river upstream of the DWSC and is directed at resolving outstanding scientific issues. It is an important step in the establishment and management of a comprehensive DO TMDL in the upstream San Joaquin River.

Anyone interested in attending this free event can register online by visiting www.californiawater.org or by calling (559) 298-6072 ext. 212. The meeting will be held from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Researchers from many institutions and organizations are collaborating in this effort including: University of the Pacific, Lawrence-Berkeley Labs, Turlock Irrigation District, Modesto Irrigation District, US Geological Survey and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. This project is funded by the California Department of Fish & Game (formerly under the auspices of the California Bay-Delta Authority) and is being administered by the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority.