



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

AUG 11 2016

Katrina Harrison
Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way, MP-170
Sacramento, CA 95825

Subject: Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B
Improvements Project, Fresno and Madera Counties, California (CEQ #20160160)

Dear Ms. Harrison:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA continues to support the San Joaquin Restoration Program and its goal of restoring flows and a self-sustaining Chinook salmon fishery in the San Joaquin River. EPA reviewed the Draft EIS for this project and provided comments to Reclamation on August 13, 2015. We rated the proposed action as "*Environmental Concerns- Insufficient Information*" (EC-2) due to lack of details regarding project design, air quality impacts, and Clean Water Act section 404 permitting. We thank Reclamation for the substantive and thorough responses to EPA's comments on the Draft EIS. Particularly, we appreciate the inclusion of mitigation measures for construction impacts, design details for floodplain and setback levees, and additional information regarding climate change impacts in the project area.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this critical restoration project and we look forward to continuing to work with you on subsequent EIS's in the restoration area. If you have any questions, please contact me at 415-972-3521, or contact Stephanie Gordon, the lead reviewer for this project, at 415-972-3098.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Martyn Goforth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kathleen Martyn Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Section