

valley water alliance



*Terra Bella Maricopa Exeter Ivanhoe Kingsburg Edison
Wasco Fresno Sanger Woodlake Clovis Arvin Madera
Earlimart Tulare Orosi Reedley Mendota Lindsay Pixley
Orange Cove McFarland Farmersville Bakersfield Kerman
Delano Chowchilla Fowler Shafter Visalia Parlier
Porterville Lamont Firebaugh Selma Tipton Dinuba Cutler*

our water, our future



Who is the Valley Water Alliance?

The Valley Water Alliance is a coalition of business leaders, local elected officials, labor interests and resource interests who have come together to insure a reliable water supply for the future of our region. United in their effort to educate and advocate about the impacts of the potential restoration of significant water flows on the San Joaquin River, the organization is taking their message far and wide - from our backyards to Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

Recognizing the significant impacts of any decision to shift the management of water supplies from Friant Dam will have on the region, it is incumbent upon each of us to participate in this fight. The economic impacts to our region would be far-reaching and ultimately devastating. It is the Alliance's goal to bring a unified voice to the region through a coalition of supporters who recognize the value of protecting Our Water and Our Future.



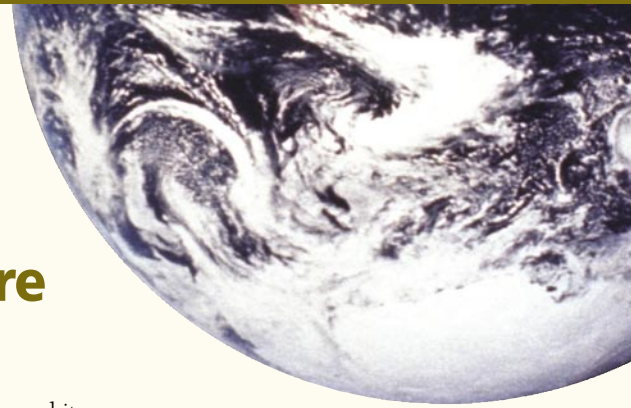
Valley Water Alliance... Our Water, Our Future

California's Central Valley was built around its agricultural industry and the development of irrigated agriculture. Today it is so much more, a land alive with a bustling array of commerce supporting a rapidly growing population made possible by adequate supplies of water.

Water has always been the key. More than 70 years ago, what we now know as the Central Valley Project and its Friant Division, were initiated by the State of California and later developed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to restore water reliability within a region where the agriculture base was declining as a result of diminishing groundwater supplies.

Construction of Friant Dam and the Friant-Kern and Madera canals ultimately transformed the central and southern San Joaquin Valley into not only an incredibly productive agriculture region but a thriving and diversified economy. The five county region supported by Friant water is now home to more than 1.25 million residents.

While agriculture and its many support industries and businesses are still important, a growing percentage of the economy is now made up of manufacturing, hospitality, transportation, financial and other services. Even in a county such as Fresno, where farm production values lead the nation, more than 85% of the work force now has non-farm related jobs. Thousands of businesses and industries are part of Valley life. The economic well being of every job and business, and each home and community depends directly



Board of Directors*

Alan Autry - Mayor, City of Fresno

Dale Brogan - Delano/Earlimart
Irrigation Dist.

Connie Conway - Tulare Co.
Board of Supervisors

Randy Ghan - Central Labor Council,
Fresno, CA

Richard Kuckenbecker -
Kuckenbecker Farm Equipment,
Fresno and Madera Counties

Phil Larson - Fresno Co.
Board of Supervisors

Victor Lopez - Mayor,
City of Orange Cove

Larry Mapes - Farm Credit West,
Visalia, CA

Vern Moss - Madera Co.
Board of Supervisors

Ed Murray - Mayor, City of Lindsay

Joel Nelsen - California Citrus Mutual

Jerry O'Banion - Merced Co.
Board of Supervisors

Tim Razzari - Razzari Ford, Visalia, CA

Fred Ruiz - Ruiz Foods, Dinuba, CA

Robert Silva - Bob Silva Ford,
Chowchilla, CA

Ray Watson - Kern Co.
Board of Supervisors

*Partial List





or indirectly on having adequate supplies of water.

Therefore, whether you work or are retired, are a student or business person, and irrespective of your political leanings, you have a stake in the future of the San Joaquin River and the safe, clean and reliable water supply it provides.

That is why you need to be concerned with what might happen in a federal court case being pursued by the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) and its environmental and commercial fishing coalition. NRDC wants the court to order the Bureau of Reclamation to restore San Joaquin River flows to support historic salmon runs, as they did a century ago. This can only happen by taking water away from those who have been beneficially using the same water within the Valley for more than a half century.

Vital For Life!

Friant Dam and the San Joaquin River provide vital water supplies, both directly and indirectly, to communities large and small alike from Chowchilla to Bakersfield and beyond. The water comes from runoff resulting from Sierra Nevada rain and melting snow. It is stored in a series of reservoirs, including Millerton Lake behind Friant Dam. Water for cities, wildlife habitat and farms is transported through the Friant-Kern Canal and Madera Canal. These supplies replenish underground water supplies, benefit the region's environment and existing ecosystem, and support more

than 15,000 farm families while sustaining numerous cities and communities.

Water from the San Joaquin River supports the agricultural production of more than 350 different crops on one million acres of prime farmland. Irrigated agriculture makes use of the most advanced and efficient water management tools available and remains the foundation for the Valley's economic and social life. It is a key to preserving open space and wildlife habitat in the face of the region's rapidly growing population.

Even under normal circumstances, managing Valley water resources is challenging. San Joaquin River water supplies are extremely variable

and in many years add up to less water than is needed. In the past six years ending in 2004, below-average Sierra snow pack conditions have created significant supply shortfalls, which in turn require increased reliance upon groundwater. While the Friant project was always intended to be a "conjunctive use" project, using both surface water and groundwater to meet its needs,

continued on page 4

The Friant Division's annual impact on the Valley economy adds up to more than \$4.5 billion each year.



Concerned Communities *Population Estimates**

Fresno County	862,600	Lamont	**	Orosi	**
Clovis	80,900	McFarland	11,150	Pixley	**
Fowler	4,600	Shafter	13,700	Porterville	43,150
Fresno	456,100	Wasco	22,850	Strathmore	**
Kerman	10,650	Madera County	135,300	Terra Bella	**
Kingsburg	11,150	Chowchilla	15,450	Tipton	**
Orange Cove	9,250	Madera	48,350	Tulare	47,700
Parlier	12,250	Tulare County	396,800	Visalia	102,700
Reedley	21,750	Cutler	**	Woodlake	7,000
Sanger	20,500	Dinuba	18,600	Woodville	**
Selma	21,800	Earlimart	**		
Kern County	724,900	Exeter	9,900		
Arvin	14,500	Farmersville	9,775		
Bakersfield	279,700	Ivanhoe	**		
Delano	43,200	Lindsay	10,700		
Edison	**				

*Source: California Department of Finance

**Denotes unincorporated city – population not available.



Our Water, Our Future *from page 3*

Valley life cannot be sustained if we are forced to overly rely on groundwater resources. If surface water ceases to be available and groundwater becomes the region's primary source, over-use of the aquifer will eventually exhaust groundwater supplies. As a result, municipal, industrial, and agricultural water users must treat any water shortage, from whatever cause, as a serious matter. Any reduction in supply is a threat to our very survival.

Economic Impacts

Use of San Joaquin River water, managed in combination with the east side's groundwater supply, has resulted in the nation's leading farm production region. More than \$2.1 billion in crop value is produced annually in the region served with Friant water. These crops range from vast permanent plantings of table grapes, tree fruit, nut crops and citrus to alfalfa hay and field crops. The Friant Division's annual impact on the Valley economy adds up to more than \$4.5 billion each year. Any reduction in water deliveries to the 15,000 family farmers served by the water supply will inevitably have serious impacts on the entire San Joaquin Valley economy.

A 1997 economic study shows an annual supply reduction of 500,000 acre-feet would ultimately reduce the region's employment by more than 17,000 jobs while slicing regional income by \$584 million and placing up to 372,000 acres of farmland out of production. The study clearly shows sharp reductions in water supplies would have serious impacts on the region.

Thus, just as Friant Dam shaped Valley life, any shift in the use and availability of San Joaquin River water would significantly and

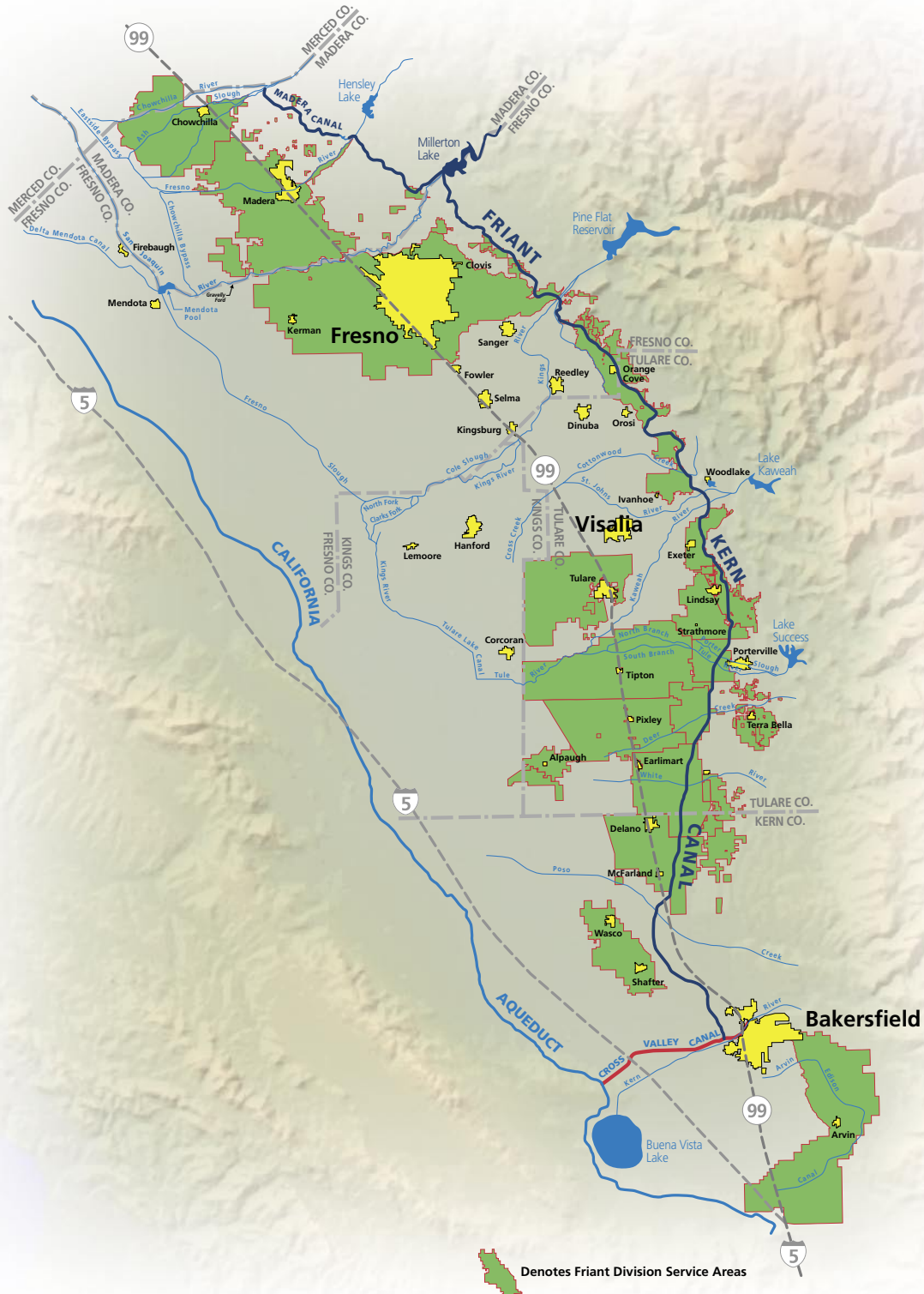
continued on page 6

Friant Water Users

Long Term Ag Water Supply Contracts	Class 1 Firm (ac. ft.)	Class 2 (ac. ft.)
Arvin-Edison Water Storage District	40,000	311,675
Chowchilla Water District	55,000	160,000
Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District	108,800	74,500
Exeter Irrigation District	11,500	19,000
Fresno Irrigation District	0	75,000
Ivanhoe Irrigation District	7,700	7,900
Lindmore Irrigation District	33,000	22,000
Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District	27,500	0
Lower Tule River Irrigation District	61,200	238,000
Madera Irrigation District	85,000	186,000
Orange Cove Irrigation District	39,200	0
Porterville Irrigation District	16,000	30,000
Saucelito Irrigation District	21,200	32,800
Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District	50,000	39,600
Southern SJ Municipal Utility District	97,000	50,000
Stone Corral Irrigation District	10,000	0
Tea Pot Dome Water District	7,500	0
Terra Bella Irrigation District	29,000	0
Tulare Irrigation District	30,000	141,000
Other Agricultural Contractors		
Garfield Water District	3,500	0
Gravelly Ford Water District	0	14,000
International Water District	1,200	0
Lewis Creek Water District	1,450	0
Total Long Term Ag Water Supply Contracts	735,750	1,401,475
Long Term Municipal and Industrial Water Supply Contractors		
City of Fresno	60,000	0
City of Lindsay	2,500	0
City of Orange Cove	1,400	0
Fresno Co. Waterworks Dist. 18 (Friant)	150	0
Madera County	200	0
Total M&I Water Supply Contracts	64,250	0
TOTAL	800,000	1,401,475

friant water system

Finding a long-term solution to the Central Valley's water dilemma will require a comprehensive regional program which takes into account the needs of urban, agriculture and environmental interests. We can not ignore prior decisions, otherwise we will find ourselves implementing biased and unreasonable government solutions.



Our Water, Our Future *from page 4*

negatively impact the communities and residents it was created to support.

Recent Court Decision

In 1988, a coalition of environmental groups, led by the San Francisco based Natural Resource Defense Council, sued the federal government. They asserted, among other charges the Friant Dam was being illegally operated to the detriment of historic salmon and steelhead fisheries. Their stated goal is to have San Joaquin River flows restored so the historic fisheries would be re-established and sustained in perpetuity.

After many years of debate and good faith attempts by the federal government and water interests to find a reasonable alternative in collaboration with the environmental plaintiffs, the litigation resumed before Judge Lawrence Karlton in federal court. In a recent decision the judge ruled the federal government liable for operating Friant Dam in violation of the state Fish and Game code which he interpreted to mean an historic fishery. His ruling came in spite of evidence illustrating 117,000 acre feet of water is released annually to support 14 species of fish in good condition 38 miles below the dam. A dam operated by the Federal Government in conformance with a state issued permit, which already takes into consideration the impacts upon the salmon fishery.

Although subject to appeal and possible reversal, the decision and possible additional rulings creates enormous challenges for local cities and towns, business and labor, urban and rural dwellers and government agencies at all levels.

It is the first step in what may be the ultimate decision to order restoration of an historic salmon fishery on the San Joaquin River in a manner, which would decimate the economies of our Valley communities.

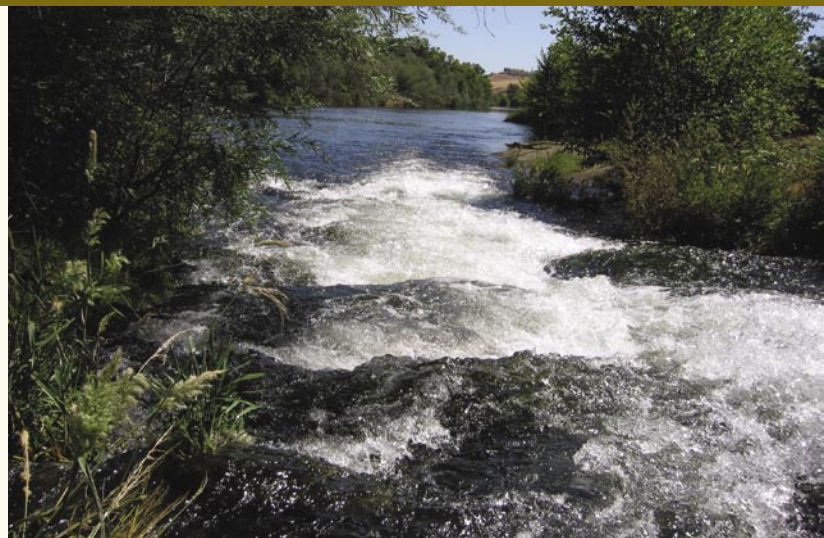
The Risk

What is at risk? A tremendous amount of water and the future economic and social well-being of our communities.

Re-establishing the San Joaquin River's historic salmon fishery could require annual releases ranging between 400,000 and

1.2 million acre-feet. This is in addition to the 117,000 acre-feet already being released to the river, flows supporting an existing trout fishery as well as other species of fish.

Depending on the type of water year, east



side water users would face water supply reductions ranging up to 100% of the entire Friant supply. Recent studies have clearly shown that it would take more than water. Hundreds of millions of dollars in channel improvements and structural modifications would also be required.

Valley communities cannot be asked to trade their existence for the benefit of fish and the San Francisco-based environmental groups trying to dictate how we should live.

Valley Water Alliance

While there is a spirit of cooperation within the community, it is tempered with concern. It is out of this concern for survival the Valley Water Alliance has been formed.

The Valley Water Alliance believes we must proceed cautiously to avoid the possibility of harming communities, the environment and the economy on the Valley's east side. Finding solutions based on reason and reality is our commitment. We believe the local community is the key. Working cooperatively with other stakeholders and using our collective best efforts to develop viable solutions will produce the best possible outcome.

Working Collaboratively

We must consider the historical benefits Friant Dam has had in shaping the Central Valley – it was the right decision. We have created a reliance on San Joaquin River water, which must be taken into account when seeking solutions. More importantly, we must all work together to find common ground and equally beneficial solutions with a foundation in common sense.

Our vision is for a comprehensive, balanced, long-term water policy, which benefits our urban, environmental and agricultural interests. We must have a safe, clean and reliable water supply, for now and in the future.

Our water, our future.



The Friant Division is a centerpiece of the original Central Valley Project plan. It irrigates more than a million acres along the valley's east side between Arvin and Chowchilla through the Friant-Kern and Madera canals with San Joaquin River water diverted at Friant Dam.

Friant Dam & Millerton Lake

Friant Dam and Millerton Lake, 16 miles northeast of downtown Fresno, provide the water that supplies the Friant-Kern and Madera canals. The 319-foot-high straight concrete gravity-type dam was completed in 1944. The lake is fairly small. Reservoir capacity is 520,500 acre-feet (although 135,000 acre-feet of that amount is "dead storage," below the canals' intakes and not available for irrigation use). The region served from Friant Dam and Millerton Lake originally had limited surface water supplies or none at all.

Friant-Kern & Madera Canals

The Friant-Kern Canal flows 152 miles between Friant Dam and the Kern River in Bakersfield. The canal serves a highly productive farming region and communities along the valley's east side as far as Arvin in Kern County. The canal's initial capacity is 5,300 cubic feet per second and gradually diminishes.

The Madera Canal stretches northwesterly 36 miles, from Friant to Ash Slough near Chowchilla. Its initial capacity is 1,275 cubic feet per second.

How The System Works

The Friant system is made possible by a unique water exchange that was a centerpiece of the Central Valley Project's original plan.

Under normal conditions, 840,000 acre-feet of Northern California water is delivered to Mendota Pool through the Delta-Mendota Canal for use by four west side agencies with historic San Joaquin River water rights.

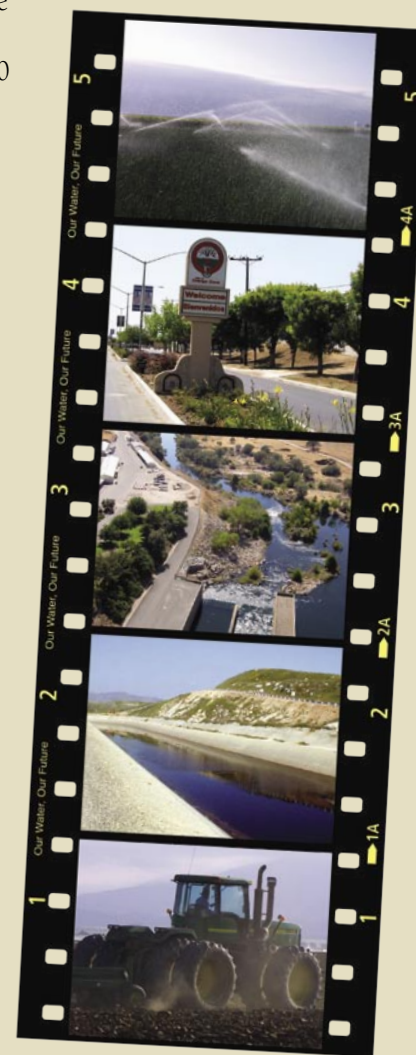
As a result, a maximum of 800,000 acre-feet of water may be diverted for the firm Friant supply known as Class 1 water. Class 2 water develops after Class 1 demands have been met. While the Class 2 contract limits are 1,400,000 acre-feet, the range varies from zero to the full 1,400,000 and averages approximately 600,000 acre-feet annually.

Water Service Contractors

There are 28 long-term Friant Division water service contractors. They include 23 agricultural water providers and five municipal and industrial contractors. Another eight agencies have Cross Valley Canal water exchange contracts capable of importing more than 128,000 acre-feet of additional water annually into the Friant service area from Northern California.

Groundwater Recharge

Groundwater recharge is of great importance to the Friant Division and was one of the project's original objectives. Friant's two-class system of water deliveries is based upon the conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater. In wet years, up to 1,400,000 acre-feet of Class 2 San Joaquin River water is delivered to many Friant districts. A great deal of Class 2 water is used to irrigate in lieu of pumping. Several Friant districts use percolation basins and channels to recharge the groundwater reservoir by "banking" surface water. In dry years when little or no Class 2 water is available, the "banked" groundwater can be pumped for irrigation.





VWA

VALLEY WATER ALLIANCE

512 North Kaweah Avenue
Exeter, California 93221
559.592.3790 Phone
559.592.3798 Fax
www.valleywateralliance.org