

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Planning for the Future at New Melones Lake Area

The Bureau of Reclamation is preparing an integrated Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) for the New Melones Lake Area. New Melones Lake is managed by the Central California Area Office, part of Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region. The RMP/EIS will reflect contemporary resources and recreation needs for the New Melones Lake Area, while ensuring the Eastside Division of the Central Valley Project continues to meet its authorized purposes of flood control, water supply, power, recreation, water quality, and fish and wildlife enhancement.

### What is a RMP/EIS?

An RMP is a plan that describes broad multiple-use guidance for managing project land and water resources administered by Reclamation. The Reclamation Recreation Management Act of 1992 (Public Law [P.L.] 102-575, Title 28 [2805(c)(1)(A)]) directs Reclamation to, "provide for the development, use, conservation, protection, enhancement, and management of resources on Reclamation lands." Decisions in land use plans guide future land management actions and subsequent site-specific implementation decisions. The New Melones RMP/EIS will adhere to Reclamation's Mission Statement to accomplish the following:

- Establish goals and objectives for resource management and the measures needed to achieve those goals and objectives;
- Provide comprehensive management direction that will protect and enhance natural, cultural, and recreational resources;
- Be consistent with Reclamation's fiscal goals and objectives.

The RMP/EIS process is designed to evaluate current resource management actions and to propose updated or new management actions that reflect current and future conditions of a management area. The RMP/EIS shall serve as the basis for future resource management decision-making that, when implemented, may result in the desired future condition for the management area.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a combination of management actions is formulated into an alternative. The RMP/EIS will analyze the impact of each alternative on the human environment. Reclamation will evaluate each alternative, and then select a combination of management actions that will become the new management guidance for the New Melones Lake Area.

Public Participation Milestones	
	Notice of Intent published in the Federal Register December 18, 2006
←	Public Scoping Period December 18, 2006 to February 16, 2007
	Public Scoping Meetings January 29, 30 and 31, 2007
←	Scoping Summary Report available March 2007
	First RMP work group meeting Spring 2007
←	Draft Alternatives available for public review September to October 2007
	Revise alternatives and prepare draft EIS November 2007 to August 2008
←	Draft EIS with plan alternatives available for 60-day public review and comment
	Prepare Final RMP/EIS Fall to Winter 2008
←	30-day public review and protest period for final RMP/EIS Winter to Spring 2009
	Record of Decision and approved RMP/EIS Spring/Summer 2009

*Shading indicates steps completed. Subsequent project updates will be distributed throughout this planning process.*

### Reclamation's Mission Statement

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

## The New Melones RMP/EIS is not intended to:

- Provide an individual or group of individuals an “exclusive use” of public lands;
- Change current water and power operations, or existing water service contracts;
- Be a site specific development plan. The RMP/EIS will be programmatic in nature.

## Ways to Get Involved

The official public scoping period began on December 18, 2006, with the publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register, and will continue until February 16, 2007. The public is formally invited and encouraged to participate in the planning process for the RMP/EIS. Here are some ways you can participate:

- Attend one or more of the scoping meetings to learn about the project, planning process, and to meet Reclamation representatives;
- Request to be added to the mailing list to receive future mailings and information;
- Submit comments for consideration in the RMP/EIS.

To get scoping meeting details, be added to the mailing list, submit comments on our project, or just to review the progress of the RMP/EIS.

### Contact the RMP/EIS Project Manager, Elizabeth Vasquez via:

- *E-mail to [evasquez@mp.usbr.gov](mailto:evasquez@mp.usbr.gov)*
- *Fax to Elizabeth Vasquez/ New Melones RMP/EIS at 916-989-7208*
- Send letters to:  
*U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Attn: Elizabeth Vasquez  
Central California Area Office  
7794 Folsom Dam Road  
Folsom, CA 95630-6610*

## Comments Submitted from the Public

All public comments, including names and mailing addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Central California Area Office and may be published as part of the RMP/EIS process. If you wish to withhold your name or street address, as permitted by the Freedom of Information Act, please state this prominently at the beginning of your written correspondence. Reclamation will honor such requests to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations, businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available.

## Mark Your Calendars!

### Public Scoping Meetings

#### Sonora

Monday, January 29, 2007  
Sonora High School Cafeteria  
251 South Berretta Street

#### Angels Camp

Tuesday, January 30, 2007  
Brett Harte High School Library  
323 South Main Street

#### Manteca

Wednesday, January 31, 2007  
Manteca High School Cafeteria  
450 E. Yosemite Avenue

All Public Meetings will be held from 6:30 to 8:30pm



Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, with operations and facilities in the 17 Western States. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits.

Visit the project website at: [http://www.usbr.gov/mp/ccaof/field\\_offices/new\\_melones/index.html](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/ccaof/field_offices/new_melones/index.html)



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Mid-Pacific Region