

## **Planning for the Future at New Melones Lake Area**

The Bureau of Reclamation will prepare a combined Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) for Reclamation-managed lands located at New Melones Lake Area. New Melones Lake is managed by the Central California Area Office; part of the Bureau of Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region. This two year process will include consultation with local governments and interests, public hearings and scoping, visitor surveys, and development of a document with a proposed action and alternatives.

The RMP/EIS will guide Reclamation in the administration and management of New Melones Lake Area. The RMP will evaluate environmental, social, and economic effects of different management alternatives. All proposed management actions will be incorporated into the combined document that will guide the management of the natural, social, and recreational resources. The RMP/EIS will assess the potential effects of current management actions as well as those proposed under the action alternatives.

### **Need Statement**

Changes in resource management and recreation interest, changes in the types of uses, and changes in the level of use, have occurred over the last several decades. 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." These changes and requirements under the 1992 act have created a need for Reclamation to evaluate the contemporary resource and recreation management for the New Melones Lake Area.

A Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) will be developed that reflects contemporary resource and recreation management needs for the New Melones Lake Area while, ensuring that its authorized purposes continue to be met. These authorized purposes include flood control, water supply, power, recreation, water quality, and fish and wildlife enhancement as part of the Eastside Division of the Central Valley Project.

### **Purpose Statement**

The development of the RMP/EIS will meet the following purposes:

Provide a framework to ensure Reclamation plans and activities are in compliance with all appropriate Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, and policies.

Provide for the protection and management of natural and cultural resources.

Provide for the protection and management of public health and safety.

Provide for recreation management and development and other uses consistent with contemporary and professional resource management and protection theories, concepts and practices.

Be consistent with Reclamation fiscal goals and objectives.



## **Public Involvement Process Goals**

By encouraging communication between Reclamation and the public, it is hoped that Reclamation can identify the public's interests and concerns in the management of New Melones Lake Area and appropriately address those issues leading to broad support of its RMP/EIS. This goal will be accomplished by:

Identifying and involving a broad base of individuals and groups early in the RMP/EIS development process;

Providing public contact that encourages and fosters positive relationships and opportunities for mutual education;

Providing the public with the information to better understand potential issues related to the RMP/EIS and thereby the opportunity to provide more meaningful information exchange;

Obtaining and using information to identify stakeholder ideas and concerns; then, through communication and consideration of this information, to develop solutions and policies considered in the RMP/EIS.

For additional information, please contact Ms. Vasquez at 916-988-1707.

