



SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN  
IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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Steve J. Bestolarides  
San Joaquin County Clerk

By Deputy: rosaa



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**From:**

South San Joaquin Irrigation District  
11011 E. Highway 120  
Manteca, CA 95336

**Project Applicant and Lead Agency Contact Person:**

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County of Calaveras  
891 Mountain Ranch Road  
San Andreas, CA 95249

County Clerk  
County of Merced  
2222 M. Street, Main Floor  
Merced, CA 95340

County Clerk  
County of San Joaquin  
44 N. San Joaquin St., STE 260  
Stockton, CA 95202

County Clerk  
County of Tuolumne  
South Green Street  
Sonora, CA 95370

County Clerk  
County of Alameda  
1106 Madison Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

County Clerk  
County of Contra Costa  
555 Escobar Street  
Martinez, CA 95443

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**Title:** 2025 Spring Pulse Flow Release

**Project Location:** Various locations in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Alameda, Contra Costa, and Merced Counties from the Stanislaus River at Goodwin Dam to the Jones and Banks Pumping Plants, and ultimately to the San Luis Reservoir.

**Project Description:**

Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) and South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID), collectively referred to as "Districts", will provide up to 100,000 acre-feet of water to augment water releases made by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to benefit migratory fish on the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers. The

Districts jointly hold pre- and post-1914 appropriate water rights on the Stanislaus River. The water proposed to be released is surplus to the anticipated irrigation demand of each district. The releases will occur at Goodwin Dam during April and May 2025, and will be coordinated with the USBR's releases to assist Reclamation in meeting its obligations for the April-May pulse flow and Vernalis flow objectives under D-1641. The USBR will be responsible for determining the flow rate and schedule of the release, upon concurrence with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The released water will be diverted by the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project Contractors (SWP) at the Jones and Banks pumping stations at a 1:1 ratio.

**Current Hydrology:**

The San Joaquin Valley Water Year Type Index 60-20-20 (SJR Index) published in the March 1 DWR Bulletin 120 at a 90% exceedance level for the Stanislaus River Basin is Critical and Dry at the 75% exceedance level. The Districts have determined there will be no impact to the cold water pool at New Melones Reservoir due to the Project having a minimal impact to Reservoir levels which are projected to remain above 1.5 Million acre-feet at the end of September 2025.

**Project Purpose:**

The releases are for the purpose of improving flow on the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers to benefit migratory fish. Additionally, the Project will provide water for municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses in areas south of the Delta. Pursuant to the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) Decision 1641 (D-1641), the USBR is responsible for meeting the April-May flow objective at Vernalis. The NMFS 2024 Biological Opinion (Bi-Op) establishes the Spring "pulse flow" identified in the Stanislaus River Minimum Fish Flow Schedule for the purpose of protecting migratory fish in the lower San Joaquin River and Delta, particularly fall-run Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead. The USBR's releases of the water provided by OID and SSJID will supplement flows in the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers to improve instream flow conditions for migratory fish during April and May 2025. The released water will be diverted by USBR and/or DWR, to be put to beneficial use by CVP and SWP contractors, consistent with prior Congressional direction (i.e. WIIN Act, Section 4001). This water will help those entities offset allocation reductions they are projected to receive this water year. Additionally, OID and SSJID will be paid for the water released at Goodwin Dam, which will in turn be used for capital improvements and ongoing operations and maintenance of each district.

**Project Proponents:** Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District.

**Project Beneficiaries:** Central Valley Project and State Water Project Contractors.

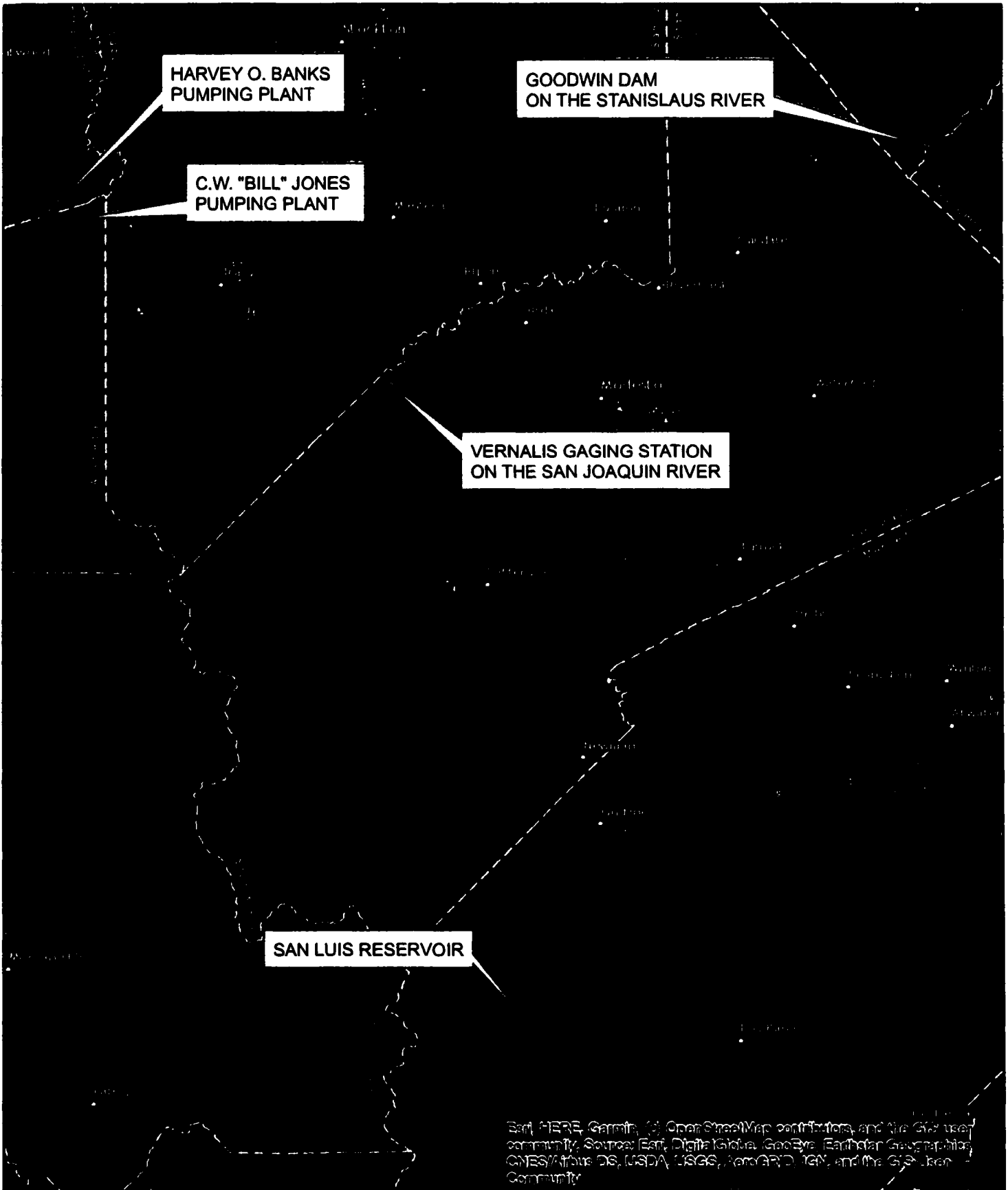
**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District.

**Exempt Status:** x Categorical Exemption (14 Cal. Code of Regulations, Sec. 15301 Class 1(i) Maintenance of Stream Flow to protect fish and wildlife resources).

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** The project utilizes existing public facilities for the maintenance of flows to protect fish and wildlife resources. There will be no change in operation or expansion of existing diversion and pumping facilities, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

Date: 3/19/2025

  
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Peter M. Rietkerk, P.E., General Manager  
SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT



HARVEY O. BANKS  
PUMPING PLANT

GOODWIN DAM  
ON THE STANISLAUS RIVER

C.W. "BILL" JONES  
PUMPING PLANT

VERNALIS GAGING STATION  
ON THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER

SAN LUIS RESERVOIR

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DRAWN BY: ECS  
 CHECKED BY: ECT  
 DATE: 2/26/25  
 SHEET: 1 OF 1

**PROJECT SITE MAP**  
**OID & SSJID**  
**2025 SPRING PULSE FLOW RELEASE**

