



A Public Education Effort of South San Joaquin and Oakdale Irrigation Districts

## Economic Impacts of the BO

### The BO Requires Increased Flow

The Stanislaus River, lifeblood of our region, and its reservoirs are being threatened due to a recent federal decision, commonly called the OCAP-BO, or “Biological Opinion” (BO). More water from the New Melones Reservoir will be released to meet the requirements of the BO. The reservoir has rarely filled in past years and can currently barely meet its regulatory and contractual obligations without the increased burden from the BO.

### Increased Flows Will Negatively Impact the Regional Economy

Agriculture is the economic engine of both San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties. Agriculture creates a substantial part of the revenues and jobs in our region and without water, agriculture will suffer. Farms may go out of business or have to drastically cut back which could result in less overall revenue and fewer jobs for the counties. The water from the Stanislaus River is used to grow food and provides drinking water for 160,000 people.

Groundwater likely cannot solely meet this large a need our region has for water. Impacts to permanent agriculture crops such as almonds and grapes could devastate our local economy as it has over the last several years in the southern part of the Valley from reduced water allocations.

### How Will Recreation Be Impacted?

New Melones Reservoir currently has some of the best camping, fishing and water sports available in the state. With less water in the reservoir, recreational activities will be reduced. This will turn away fishers, campers, house-boaters and families who simply want to enjoy the lake. Experts, who have studied the affect of the BO on New Melones, say the required flows may actually cause the reservoir to go dry in certain years. Imagine the fourth largest man made lake in California without any water in it at all! Unthinkable.

### We Need Solutions Now

By educating our community about these issues, the Districts hope to gain public support to have NMFS reexamine the BO. The Districts will support legislation that directs the California Department of Fish and Game to eliminate the predatory fish in the Stanislaus River.



### CONTACT US

Visit [SavetheStan.com](http://SavetheStan.com)

### OR CALL

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### How You Can Support the Stan

You can support this effort many ways. You can log on to [www.SaveTheStan.com](http://www.SaveTheStan.com), email or write your local congressional representatives and senators letting them know your concern about the river and the effect the BO will have on it and our region. Attend community events, write a letter to the editor of your local paper and voice support for modifying the BO and most importantly become informed about the BO and its impacts on our region.