



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southwest Region  
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200  
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

DEC 05 2012

Dear Interested Party:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), will be making available for public review and comment the *Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Nonessential Experimental Population Designation and 4(d) Take Provisions for Reintroduction of Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon to the San Joaquin River Below Friant Dam*. A Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EA is expected to be published in the *Federal Register* by January 15, 2013.

As part of efforts by NMFS to reach out to potentially interested parties prior to the NOA being published, we would like to give you the opportunity to request copies of the EA so that you may begin your review as soon as possible after publication of the NOA. Once the NOA is published, the documents will also be accessible electronically through the NMFS Southwest Region websites: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/sjrrestorationprogram/salmonreintroduction.htm> or <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/nepa.htm>

Upon publication of the NOA, the EA will be available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office: the Protected Resources Division, NMFS, 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100, Sacramento, CA 9581.

This EA is for the designation of an Endangered Species Act section 10(j) nonessential experimental population and reintroduction of spring-run Chinook. It includes information on the geographic location and the associated take provisions associated with the nonessential population designation, and the effects associated with the release of spring-run Chinook in the San Joaquin River.

If you would like to express your interest, have any questions or need further information, please contact Ms. Elif Fehm-Sullivan, National Marine Fisheries Service at (916) 930-3723 or [elif.fehm-sullivan@noaa.gov](mailto:elif.fehm-sullivan@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

for Rodney R. McInnis  
Regional Administrator

