



NEWS RELEASE

For Release: Oct. 7, 2021

Contacts: Mary Lee Knecht, 916-978-5100, mknecht@usbr.gov
Johnny Amaral, 559-799-6192, jamaral@friantwater.org

Reclamation awards construction contract for first phase of Friant-Kern Canal repairs

Construction to restore critical water supply infrastructure for San Joaquin Valley to begin by year's end



Sacramento, Calif. – Today, the Bureau of Reclamation and Friant Water Authority announces the selection of a construction contractor to begin work on the Friant-Kern Canal Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project.

Brosamer & Wall/Tutor Perini Joint Venture, based in Walnut Creek, was awarded a \$177 million contract to perform the construction aspects of the first phase of work to repair the Friant-Kern

Canal along a portion of the 33-mile stretch. This portion of the canal has lost more than half of its capacity due to subsidence—a sinking of the earth from groundwater extraction.

The total project is estimated to cost around \$500 million and will eventually restore water delivery to over one million acres of farmland and 250,000 residents in California's eastern San Joaquin Valley.

"Repairing this portion of the Friant-Kern Canal provides significant improvement for the canal's conveyance capacity and is a key priority for Reclamation and the Central Valley Project," said **Reclamation Regional Director Ernest Conant**. "We are looking forward to working with FWA and Brosamer & Wall/Tutor Perini Joint Venture to have shovels in the ground by the end of the year—a significant step to providing reliable water supplies to farms and communities throughout the eastern San Joaquin Valley."

Brosamer & Wall/Tutor Perini Joint Venture was selected through a best-value competitive bid process overseen and managed by Reclamation throughout the summer. Reclamation anticipates a Notice To Proceed for the contractor in November with resulting construction activity beginning by year's end. Although the contract will be managed by Reclamation, FWA and Reclamation will work jointly with Brosamer & Wall/Tutor Perini Joint Venture to implement construction of the Friant-Kern Canal Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project. The work under this contract includes 10 miles of new canal with eight concrete inverted siphons below various structures and creeks along with various concrete turnout structures, and other miscellaneous work.

"After more than four years of work to assess the canal's problems, develop designs to fix it, and assemble an initial funding and financing package, we are thrilled to take this enormous step toward restoring critical water deliveries that support the San Joaquin Valley's businesses, communities, and farms," said **Friant Water Authority Chief Executive Officer, Jason Phillips**. "FWA looks forward to launching this phase of work with our partners at Reclamation and Brosamer & Wall/Tutor Perini Joint Venture."

Background:

The Friant-Kern Canal delivers water to more than one million acres of highly productive farmland and 250,000 residents. The canal, part of the Central Valley Project's Friant Division, is owned by the federal government but FWA and its predecessor agency have operated, maintained, and repaired it under contract with Reclamation since 1986. The canal's diminished capacity has resulted in up to 300,000 acre-feet of reduced water deliveries in certain water years with effects most prominent in the middle reach of the canal (milepost 88 to milepost 121). The Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project would restore capacity from the current estimated 1,600 cubic-feet-per-second to the original 4,000 cubic-feet-per-second in the most critical area near the Deer Creek check structure (milepost 103). Reclamation signed the Record of Decision for the project in November 2020.

#

The Bureau of Reclamation is a federal agency under the U.S. Department of the Interior and is the nation's largest wholesale water supplier and second largest producer of hydroelectric power. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation opportunities, and environmental benefits. Visit www.usbr.gov and follow [@USBR](#) & [@ReclamationCVP](#) on Twitter; Facebook [@bureau.of.reclamation](#); LinkedIn [@Bureau of Reclamation](#); Instagram [@bureau_of_reclamation](#); and YouTube [@reclamation](#).

[Friant Water Authority](#) is a public agency formed by its members under California law to operate and maintain the Friant-Kern Canal and to represent our members in federal or state policy, political, and operational decisions that could affect the water supply of the Central Valley Project's Friant Division. The goal of FWA is to provide dependable, sustainable water from Millerton Reservoir to Friant Contractors.