

**CALFED OPERATIONS COORDINATION GROUP
APRIL 26, 2000 MEETING NOTES AND ACTION ITEMS**

Review of March 22 meeting notes

No revisions were made to the March 22, 2000 CALFED Ops meeting notes.

Announcements

An outline for the standardized fishery information reporting was distributed at the meeting.

DWR is continuing to post the agendas, meeting notes, and handouts at the CALFED Ops website: <http://wwwoco.water.ca.gov/calfedops/index.html>

Work on the CALFED Ops email reflector is continuing. Although an updated list of email addresses has been given to the Bureau for verification, participants need to “subscribe” in order to be properly added to the email reflector. Likewise, participants must “unsubscribe” to be deleted from the reflector. Both of these actions can be accomplished by The email reflector should be available by the next CALFED Ops meeting. A description of the subscribe/unsubscribe process is explained in the enclosed document, [CALFED Operations Discussion List \(Reflector\) Group](#).

The allocations for the State Water Project were reduced from 100% to 90% due to dry March conditions, less inflows to the Delta, and the need to meet more X2 days than originally expected.

The following handouts were provided at the meeting:

1. Standardized Fishery Information Reporting Outline, April 26,2000, DFG, Jim White.
2. Delta Smelt surveys (1,2,&3), April 2000, DFG, Jim White.
3. Winter Run Loss at Delta Fish Facility, October 1, 1999 through April 25, 2000, ESO, Sheila Greene.
4. Water Right Order: WR 81-15, Order approving Method of Calculating When Supplemental Project Water Exists, SWRCB, Nick Wilcox.
(www.waterrights.ca.gov/Decisions/wro81-15.htm)
5. Notice of Resumption of Public Hearing for Phase 8 of the Bay-Delta Water Right Hearing, April 19, 2000, SWRCB, Nick Wilcox.
(www.waterrights.ca.gov/baydelta/Notices/19apr00ntc.htm/)
6. Revised Water Right Decision 1641, revised March 15, 2000, SWRCB, Nick Wilcox (The revised D-1641 is now available on the Bay/Delta Hearing.
(www.waterrights.ca.gov/baydelta/d1641.htm/)

7. SWP Operations Package, April 26, 2000, DWR, Curtis Creel.
8. Roles of the No-Name Group and Data Assessment Team in CVP/SWP Operations Decisions Making Process, April 26, 2000, DWR, Curtis Creel.
9. 2000 Operations Plan Update for the CALFED Ops Group, April 25, 2000, DWR, Curtis Creel.
10. Letter to National Marine Fisheries Service, Exceedence of Redlight of Incidental Take of Winter-Run Chinook Salmon at CVP and SWP Facilities, April 13, 2000, USBR, Lowell Ploss.
11. Letter to U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, Discussion of Red Light Incidental Take of Winter-Run Chinook Salmon at CVP and SWP Facilities, April 24, 2000, NMFS, Rodney McInnis.

SWRCB

The Hearing Notice for Phase 8 of the Bay-Delta Water Rights Hearing was mailed to interested parties on April 19, 2000. The Hearing will begin August 8, 2000, with twenty-five additional hearing days scheduled during the months of August, September and October. New or amended Notices of Intent to Appear are due May 15; exhibits and testimony are due June 30. The Hearing will begin with a presentation by Tom Howard of the SWRCB, who will explain the methods used for calculating the responsibilities of water right holders under Alternatives 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Bay-Delta Final EIR. Following this, the SWRCB will call upon the DWR and the USBR to present their cases in chief. After the Projects, the SWRCB will call upon parties who will present joint cases in chief, and finally will call upon the individual parties. The full text of the notice may be viewed at:

www.waterrights.ca.gov/baydelta/Notices

On April 11 and 12, the SWRCB held a special session of Phase 8 to consider an agreement among DWR, South Sutter Water District and Camp far West Irrigation District. The SWRCB will probably issue an order addressing this matter prior to the commencement of the general Phase 8 proceeding in August.

The Yuba River Hearing is now in the rebuttal phase. Four additional days are scheduled in May to complete this hearing. A decision on this matter will not be made prior to the date exhibits are due for Phase 8.

The Bay-Delta Modeling Forum held a workshop on April 26, 2000, to begin addressing the subject of Carriage Water. Carriage Water is loosely defined as the additional outflow needed to maintain water quality at the export pumps. The SWRCB is interested in this issue as it relates to water transfer requests and implementation of Term 91. The method for calculating Carriage Water was established by the SWRCB in 1981 (www.waterrights.ca.gov/Decisions/wro81-15.htm). The method needs to be updated in light of new knowledge and modeling capability, and is listed as a key issue for Phase 8.

Fishery Status

Winter-run Chinook Salmon:

A very rough estimate of this year's SWP/CVP winter run take was made based on genetic characterization. Using genetic results up to March 24, 2000 and extrapolating to SWP/CVP loss through April 11, 2000, the winter run take based on genetic characterization was 1700. The winter run take based on length criterion through April 11 was 5,810. Therefore, genetic winter run take was about 30% of the number based on the length criterion.

Central Valley Steelhead:

The biological opinion for this year (March 2000 – April 2001) will be issued later this year. This opinion will be an extension of the last opinion.

Splittail: FWS continues to work on an incidental take statement and has been meeting with DWR and USBR to discuss issues related to determine take.

Delta Smelt: An update on the zone of influence will be presented at the next meeting.

NNG and DAT Update

DWR provided a handout on the roles of the NNG and DAT. Comments may be provided to Curtis Creel. Both the NNG and DAT expressed concern with the process for providing stakeholder input to the Water Operation Management Team and requested that the Ops Group discuss how the WOMT process integrates with the Ops Group decision making process. The DAT added that the WOMT should be receiving recommendations from the DAT as a whole, rather than just one or two members. The concern is that WOMT is not reviewing the results of the weekly DAT conference calls.

OPERATIONS

CVP/SWP Operations Status:

The current State and Federal reservoir levels and export rates were presented as per the SWP Operations Package handout.

2000 Operations Plan:

The latest update to the 2000 Operations Plan was presented. DWR and USBR provide updates each week to the Water Operations Management Team. These updates are a snapshot of the operations forecast; they can change very quickly. For the update presented to the Ops Group, it was noted that the San Luis Reservoir low point was still a concern, but was solvable. DWR also noted that the current plan for SWP operations after the pulse flow period is to increase to its share of pumping under the E/I ratio.

Another change in the plan includes moving the 70 TAF of payback to the SWP for '99 impacts into the summer months. This action would be implemented during drier conditions. It was pointed out that if this quantity of water is considered as a b(2) cost, the total for the year would exceed 800 TAF.

Temporary Barriers:

STATUS AS OF: April 25, 2000

HORB Culverts:

Two of the six culverts remain open today, with fyke nets installed. A third culvert will be opened on Thursday and a fourth by Friday. DWR plans to remove the barrier on May 16.

Agricultural Barriers:

Both the Old River at DMC and Middle River barriers are operating normally (culvert flap gates open on the flood tide and close on the ebb tide). The Grantline Canal barrier is expected to be installed the first of June.

Water Level Forecasts:

Plots of modeling forecasts show the hydrodynamic model is tracking well with actual conditions. The model over estimates the low-low water levels at the Old River and Middle River sites. DWR is evaluating model adjustments to better predict the low-low tide levels at these two sites.

Agenda items for Next Meeting . . . May 24, 2000