

**CALFED OPERATIONS COORDINATION GROUP
MARCH 22, 2000 MEETING NOTES AND ACTION ITEMS**

Review of February 23 meeting notes

The February 23 meeting notes listed the wrong address for the CALFED Ops website. The correct address is:

<http://wwwoco.water.ca.gov/calfedops/index.html>

Announcements

Work on the fishery standardized reporting form is still in progress.

The modified CALFED Ops website was discussed and a screen-print of the draft web page was handed out at the February Ops Group meeting for review and comments. To date, DWR has not received any comments and is proceeding with official DWR approval to post the website.

The CALFED Ops email reflector is still being worked on. An updated list of email addresses has been given to the Bureau for the reflector. An email reflector should be available by the April CALFED Ops meeting.

The following handouts were provided at the meeting:

1. Screen print of latest draft CALFED Ops website page, DWR, Curtis Creel
2. ORDER WR 2000-02, SWRCB, Nick Wilcox
3. Real Time Forecasting Using DSM2 for SWP Operations Decision Support, DWR, Chris Enright
4. Modeling of DCC Gate Operations, DWR, Mike Mierzwa
5. Emergency Operations Plan for the Spring Head of Old River Barrier, DWR, Mark Holderman
6. Winter Run Loss(October 1, 1999 – March 20, 2000) and Steelhead Salvage(January 1 through March 20, 2000) at Delta Fish Facilities , NMFS, Gary Stern
7. Combined State and Federal Delta Smelt Salvage(March 1-20, 2000), DFG, Jim White
8. WY 2000 b(2) Accounting(October 1, 1999 – March 15, 2000), DWR, John Leahigh
9. 1999 VAMP Fish Monitoring Summary, USFWS, Marty Kjelson
10. Summary and Observations of 1999 VAMP Operations, USBR, Dan Steiner
11. SWP Operations Package, DWR, Curtis Creel
12. Memo to CALFED Water Operations Management Team, dated February 29, 2000, CALFED Ops Group Decision Concerning Reductions in Pumping for Fish, CALFED Ops Group

SWRCB

The Governor announced on March 16, 2000, the appointment of Peter S. Silva to the SWRCB. Mr. Silva is currently working for the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. He has served as the deputy director of the Public Water Utility for the City of San Diego's Water Department and as assistant deputy director for the San Diego Clean Water Program. He is a licensed California civil engineer and a graduate of California Polytechnic University, Pomona. Mr. Silva will join the SWRCB in the latter part of April.

On March 15, 2000 the SWRCB adopted Order WR2000-02, <http://www.waterrights.ca.gov/orders/wro2000-02.htm>, denying petitions for reconsidering and amending Decision 1641. To avoid confusion, the SWRCB will issue a revised version of the Decision, as amended by the order. The revised D-1641 is now available on the Bay/Delta Hearing website www.waterrights.ca.gov/baydelta/). Among other things, Order WR 2000-02 denied the request of the DWR and the USBR for relief from Condition 2 of the Decision. Condition 2 assigns temporary responsibility to the projects for meeting the Delta outflow objectives in the 1995 Bay/Delta Water Quality Control Plan. Legal challenges to D-1641 are anticipated.

The SWRCB will hold a scoping workshop on March 27 for the purpose of identifying key issues for Phase 8 of the Bay/Delta Water Right Hearing. Phase 8 will address the responsibilities of water right holders to meet the water quality objectives in the 1995 WQCP. Among the key issues are: 1) the obligation of the projects with regard to the watershed protection statutes, 2) the Delta Protection Act, and 3) appropriate methods for calculating carriage water.

The SWRCB gave notice on March 9, 2000, of a petition by Oakdale and South San Joaquin Irrigation Districts to add Modesto Irrigation District as an authorized place of use under OID and SSJID's water rights for delivery of up 11,000 acre-feet per year. Approval of this petition is needed so the districts can carry out their share of the San Joaquin River Agreement and the VAMP. If the SWRCB receives protests to the petition that cannot be quickly resolved, a hearing date will be scheduled for mid-May.

HYDRODYNAMIC MODELING WORKSHOP

At the request of the No Name Group, the Bay-Delta Modeling Forum held a Hydrodynamic Modeling Workshop on February 4, 2000 in Sacramento to share modeling results of water quality conditions in Fall of 1999 to that of observed

conditions. Modelers from DWR, CCWD, and Stanford University used existing models (DSM2, Fisher, and 3D-TRIM), analyze how alternative operating scenarios during November and December could have avoided significant degradation in water quality. The purpose of the workshop was to determine whether hydrodynamic models could be used as predictive tools to assist the operators of CVP and SWP.

Five scenarios were modeled for the period of November 15 through December 31, 1999:

- 1) The Delta Cross Channel gates and exports were modeled as they actually were in November and December (Base case).
- 2) The DCC was left open throughout model period, but exports were maintained at their historical levels.
- 3) The DCC was left open throughout model period and the exports were increased.
- 4) The DCC was operated as in the historical case, but exports were rescheduled. The total volume of exports remained constant.
- 5) The DCC was operated based on stage criteria with historical exports.

DWR staff presented DSM2 modeling results of varying DCC gate operations for the period from November 26 through December 14, 1999. The DCC operation scenarios are as follow:

<u>Run Description</u>	<u>Percent Time DCC Open</u>
1) Historical DCC Oper.	0%
2) DCC Open on maximum Flow during Spring tide	25%
3) DCC Open on maximum Flow during Spring tide	50%
4) DCC Open entire simulation	100%

Conclusions of the model results indicate that:

- 1) Timing of DCC operation is critical to electrical conductivity levels in the Delta
- 2) Opening the DCC for 12 hours each tidal day results in nearly same EC as opening the DCC 100% of the time
- 3) High electrical conductivity levels are difficult to "flush" out

Another DWR staff also discussed "Real Time Forecasting Using DSM2 for SWP and CVP Operations Decision Support". The following topics were highlighted: (details of each topic can be found in the handout)

- ✓ DWR Real Time Technical Team
- ✓ Attributes of an Effective Real Time Forecasting System
- ✓ Incremental Milestones
- ✓ Technical Issues
- ✓ DWR Real Time Technical Team Framework

1999 VAMP

USBR staff gave a brief report concerning last year's VAMP operations. Analysis showed that approximately 147,500 acre-feet of water would be needed to meet the flow objective of 7,000 cfs. Of this amount, 110,000 AF are provided for through the San Joaquin River Agreement; the remaining 37,500 AF would have to be acquired.

The San Joaquin River Group presented an analysis of the effects of last year's flow augmentation. The analysis concluded that the majority of the water was provided from tributary reservoir storage. It appears that any lingering effects of the reduced reservoir storage on either the Projects or the San Joaquin River interests have been ameliorated with this year's wet hydrology.

1999 VAMP FISH MONITORING

The 1999 VAMP smolt survival experiment was conducted with no barrier at the head of Old River. Coded Wire Tagged smolts were released at Mossdale (75,000 fish), Dos Reis park (50,000) and Jersey Point (50,000). In addition, smolts were also held in net pens for physiological studies; these studies indicated that the fish were in good health overall. The estimated absolute survivals between Mossdale and Dos Reis to Jersey Point were 38% and 58% respectively again confirming the lower survival of fish exposed to upper Old River on their migration down the mainstem San Joaquin. These survivals may be slightly biased high due to missed sampling dates at Chipps Island to boat and weather problems, which may have lowered the Jersey Point release group survival indices. Absolute survivals in the Merced and Tuolumne Rivers themselves ranged from 24% to 36%, while survival from the upper Merced and Tuolumne Rivers to Jersey Point ranged from 1% to 12%. Smolt survival trends from sampling at Jersey Point were generally consistent with Chipps Island relative to comparisons of the survivals of the Mossdale and Dos Reis and the Merced and Tuolumne River release groups. The 1999 survival data were outliers in the existing flow survival relationships of fish released at Mossdale and Dos Reis possibly due to the bias noted earlier.

Estimated entrainment losses at the CVP/SWP export facilities of south delta and tributary released varied considerably with the greatest losses occurring in the Mossdale and tributary release groups. A handout of all preliminary 1999 VAMP data was provided. A final report will be provided later this spring.

FISHERY STATUS

Winter-run Chinook Salmon:

Last month, exports were decreased to reduce the take of winter-run sized chinook. The goal was to avoid exceeding the red-light level until after the middle of March.

Central Valley Steelhead:

Steelhead salvage has mirrored that of chinook.

Delta Smelt:

A summary of delta smelt salvage at both fish facilities from March 1 through 20, 2000 indicates a total combined salvage of 2,242, which was only 1/3 of the March red light concern level. The 14-day running average as of March 20, 2000 was 83, which is well below the 400 limit. Also, combined smelt density was less than 0.01. Current data and on-going field surveys from DFG indicate early presence of smelt throughout the northern and southern Delta and Suisun Bays in February and March 2000. Biologists anticipate a potential delta smelt problem this year since conditions are attractive for spawning.

Splittail: No report was made.

NNG and DAT Update

The DAT met earlier today and discussed the following topics:

- Salmon
- Steelhead
- Delta smelt
- Splittail

➤ Operations

For further details of the DAT meeting, please refer to the attached DAT notes at the end of the Ops notes.

OPERATIONS

Temporary Barriers:

Summary of the Temporary Barriers Project:

- Army Corps Section 404/10 permit for the Head of Old River barrier (HORB) in final form for signature by Mike Finan of the Corps. DWR expects a permit in hand by early week of March 27.
- DFG's Streambed Alteration Agreement (Section 1601) permit for HORB was received by DWR week of March 20.
- DWR is finalizing Temporary Entry Permits with local landowners and reclamation districts adjacent to the HORB, and for the Middle River and Grant Line agricultural barriers.
- HORB emergency removal plan final draft passed out at meeting. DWR sent the plan to the SJRA Hydro Group, South Delta Water Agency, and fishery agency staff for last minute comments. This plan details how DWR would work with the USBR and San Joaquin River tributary operators through the SJRA Hydrology Group to identify when the barrier should be removed.

Status of JPOD for Feb-Apr 2000:

USBR staff reported that about 85 TAF of JPOD was used, and that USBR would no longer need JPOD since they project to fill San Luis soon.

CVP/SWP Operations Status:

Keswick releases is about 8,500 cfs. JPOD to assist in filling San Luis will cease soon since USBR anticipate filling San Luis via Tracy pumps. Upstream reservoir is slightly encroached, but manageable.

The state share of San Luis was filled on February 22, 2000. Demands south of the Delta are down to about 3,700 cfs. Water quality is not a problem throughout the Delta and Suisun Bays. The modified stoplogs at Montezuma Salinity Control Gates are scheduled to be removed next Tuesday.

Delta Operations Criteria:

The Port Chicago EC and the expected April X2 standards for Roe Island are being monitor and review daily. Water quality has been very fresh and the Roe Island X2 standard is expected to be triggered for April.

VAMP will also begin in mid-April.

San Joaquin River Operations Update:

Currently, San Joaquin flow is about 11,000 cfs and is dropping off quickly due to continued dry conditions. It is believed the flows will drop off below 5,000 cfs to allow for the installation of the head of Old River barriers. The barrier is expected to be completed by April 15, 2000, and the Vernalis flow is expected to be increased to the VAMP target flow of 7,000 cfs. Exports are expected to be reduced to 1,500 cfs. VAMP will continue through mid-May; FWS is requesting that combined exports remain at 1,500 cfs through May 31, 2000. The additional export curtailment would be covered under b(2).

2000 Operations Plan:

The 2000 Operations plan covers the following items: (See handout for further details.)

- SWP can participate in VAMP without impact to its water supply; DWR will continue to evaluate the potential risks and the level of participation will be decided at the policy level.
- DWR and DOI have settled the 1999 SWP Make-up. The plan shows 70 TAF being released in the fall and pumped by the SWP.
- The plan utilizes an additional 500 cfs of pumping capability in July – September to recover for reduced SWP pumping in April and May.

Agenda items for Next Meeting . . . APRIL 26, 2000