

CALFED OPERATIONS COORDINATION GROUP  
August 22, 2001 MEETING NOTES AND ACTION ITEMS

**Review of July 25 meeting notes**

No revisions were made to the July 25, 2001, CALFED Ops meeting notes.

**Announcements**

Greg Gartrell resigned as chairman of the Operations and Fisheries Forum. He was replaced by Richard Denton.

Gartrell distributed a letter to the CALFED Ops co-chairs discussing the improvement of (1) the determination of protective measures based on monitoring triggers, and (2) the function of the Water Operations Management Team. He requested his letter be forwarded to WOMT. No decision was made in response to Gartrell's and others' request for public participation in the Water Operations Management Team meetings. Alternatives responses that included having joint meetings of the WOMT and CALFED Ops Group, and reverting more decision making to the CALFED Ops Group were discussed. **Any comments to the letter will be reported at the next CALFED Ops Group meeting.**

The following handouts were provided at the meeting:

1. CALFED Operations Briefing Package; August 22, 2001; John Leahigh; DWR
2. Chair of the CALFED Operations and Fish Forum letter; August 22, 2001 ; Greg Gartrell; CCWD
3. Sacramento Splittail and Delta Smelt Summary; August 22, 2001; Dan Buford; FWS
4. Re-opening of Comment Period on the Sacramento Splittail Final Rule; August 17, 2001; Dan Buford; FWS

**SWRCB**

The SWRCB will hold a workshop on September 20 in which parties to the Sacramento Valley Water Management Agreement will describe to the Board the progress that has been made toward the short term and long term workplan that are required by the Agreement. Phase 8 of the Bay-Delta Water Rights Hearing has been stayed for a period of up to eighteen months while parties to the Agreement work on the details of the workplans.

On August 16, the SWRCB adopted an order modifying Decision 1635. This decision addresses El Dorado Irrigation District's petition for assignment of a state filed water right application. The SWRCB granted a water right permit to EID that contains Standard Term 91.

On August 28, the SWRCB granted a variance to the DWR and the USBR for meeting the salinity objectives in the Suisun Marsh. The variance will facilitate the continuation of the Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gate Modification Study. The variance is effective through May 2004.

The SWRCB received a letter from The Bay Institute and Save the Bay requesting that a Board workshop be held regarding implementation of the narrative objective for salmon protection contained in the 1995 Bay-Delta water Quality Control Plan. The SWRCB will notify all parties on its decision on whether to hold such a workshop.

Harry Schueller, Chief of the Division of Water Rights will assume new duties as Chief Deputy Executive Director of the SWRCB. Ed Anton will return to the Division as Chief until his retirement in December.

### **Environmental Water Account Implementation**

The EWA matrix at the back of the Operations Package was discussed. Tina Swanson of The Bay Institute raised an issue about the initial assets for the EWA, specifically asking what happened to the 200 TAF groundwater storage south of the Delta which was specified as an initial asset. DWR & USBR did not have a response.

Tina also raised an issue about the status of efforts to fund and initiate a Tier III effort for when the EWA is inadequate for fisheries response.

One item that came up during discussions was the lack of EWA assets this year. Recall that early in the year, the PAs sent a letter requesting concurrence on determining that the EWA was operational; the MAs concurred with an understanding that certain acquisitions would occur. Not as much water was acquired as originally hoped. The MAs and PAs just need to work on acquiring additional assets this year.

### **Delta Cross Channel Gate Experiment**

The Delta Cross Channel experiments have started. In August, the gates will be closed every other night during flood tide, reducing Sacramento River flows to the interior Delta by about 25 percent. In September, the gates would be closed every night during the flood tide, reducing Sacramento flows to the interior Delta by about half. In October, the gates would be closed every night during flood

tides, and half the days during flood tides, reducing Sacramento River flows to the interior Delta by about three-quarters. There will be extensive coded wire tagged fish releases of smolts, along with radio tagging of smolts. The radio tagging will also include monitoring for wild smolts captured upstream. There will also be radio tagging of upstream migrating adults captured at Suisun Marsh and other sites. Primarily due to the upstream migrant monitoring, there is an interest in having a significant difference in the amount of Sacramento River water in the Interior Delta between September and October. Modifying the experiment in October (if water costs become significant) and switching to an every other night flood tide operation at the Cross Channel was discussed. This would result in an approximately 25 percent reduction in Sacramento River flows to the interior Delta during October, as opposed to the 75 percent reduction proposed in the original plan. In either case, there would be a significant difference from September, when Sacramento River flows to the interior Delta would be about 50 percent.

### **OFF and DAT Update**

Nothing to report for OFF and DAT updates until actions recur in the fall.

Jim White was asked for a DAT list of desired monitoring as part of the salmon protection plan (this is related to Greg Gartrell's letter).

### **Fishery Status**

Salmon: Attached is the summary of fisheries surveys. In addition, NMFS reported that the final survey of winter run redds had a count of 1,387, which is significantly higher than last year. Spawning was concentrated above Jelly's Ferry, but also included spawning as far downstream as below the Red Bluff Diversion Dam.

Splittail: Handouts were distributed and discussed concerning Sacramento splittail and the re-open period for the Final Rule listing them as threatened.

Delta Smelt: A handout was distributed and discussed noting the Projects have not detected any delta smelt at the pumps in August. Also discussed were the distribution and population abundance of delta smelt.

## **OPERATIONS**

### CVP/SWP Operations Status:

Update the Ops package to include information on the basin hydrologic indices (8RI/SRI/SJRI).

### Delta Operations Criteria:

Alex asked that Reclamation report on analyses of frequency of failure to meet standards in the South Delta/Stanislaus due to increased fishery releases from New Melones.

**Agenda items for Next Meeting . . . September 26, 2001**

### ***Reminder:***

*When participants bring food into Room 1131, the room must be cleaned up and any leftovers must be removed at the conclusion of the meeting.*