

CALFED OPERATIONS COORDINATION GROUP
February 21, 2001 MEETING NOTES AND ACTION ITEMS

Review of January 17 meeting notes

No revisions were made to the January 17, 2001, CALFED Ops meeting notes.

Announcements

The following handouts were provided at the meeting:

1. Proposed Revisions to Draft Decision's Proposed Minimum Average Daily Streamflow / YCWA's Proposed Revisions to the Draft Decision's Proposed Minimum Average Daily Streamflow, SWRCB, Nick Wilcox
2. Projected EWA Water Availability in San Luis Through August 2001, January 30, 2001 draft, CALFED, Dave Fullerton
3. Summary of Delta Fish Actions in WY 2001, February 21, 2001 draft, DGF, Jim White
4. Fish Action Proposal letters to Management Agencies from Project Agencies, dated January 19 and 31, 2001, DFG, Jim White
5. RST Catch of Juvenile Chinook Salmon at Knights Landing, February 21, 2000, DFG, Jim White
6. Winter Run & Older Juvenile Chinook Loss at the Delta Fish Facilities (10/1/00 – 2/20/01; 10/1/99 – 5/31/00), DWR, Sheila Greene
7. CALFED Operations Briefing Package, February 21, 2001, DWR, John Leahigh
8. Preliminary CVPIA b(2) Accounting (10/1/00 – 1/31/01), February 21, 2001, USBR, Paul Fujitani
9. Winter-run Chinook Salmon, Steelhead, and Spring-run Chinook Update, February 21, 2001, NMFS, Bruce Oppenheim

SWRCB

The SWRCB received a draft Settlement Agreement between the Projects and certain other parties that would temporarily assign responsibility to meet the water quality objectives contained in the Water Quality Control Plan to the CVP and the SWP. During the term of the Agreement, Phase 8 of the Bay/Delta Water Rights Hearing would be stayed, and perhaps dismissed, while the parties worked on both short-term and long-term strategies to augment water supply. The SWRCB will consider a draft order staying Phase 8 at the March 7 Board meeting.

The SWRCB adopted Decision 1643 on February 15. This decision approves the Delta Wetlands Project subject to numerous terms and conditions. A copy of the decision may be downloaded at <http://www.waterrights.ca.gov/Decisions/>.

SWRCB staff has reviewed the Plan of Action for the Recirculation Study. The Plan was prepared to Decision 1641, Condition 2 (page 153). The purpose of the Plan is to evaluate the feasibility and impacts of recirculating water from the Delta Mendota Canal through the Newman Wasteway for the purpose of meeting the Vernalis objectives during the April-May pulse flow.

A revised version of the November 7, 2000, draft Yuba River decision was recently released. As a result of extensive public comment, the Board made some substantive changes to the November draft. The flows recommended by the Yuba County Water Agency were adopted for an interim five-year period due to the current energy situation. After that period, a revised set of SWRCB imposed flows will take effect. The revised draft also includes a deficiency clause. If in any given year YCWA projects surface water delivery deficiencies of 20 percent or greater, they may petition the Division of Water Rights for relief from the flow standards. The revised draft decision is scheduled for adoption at a special Board meeting on March 1.

The SWRCB is processing the YCWA transfer of 50,000 acre-feet of water to the EWA. An objection to the transfer was received from the South delta water Agency. If the draft Yuba decision is adopted, the transfer will be conditioned with the flows required in the decision.

Temporary Barriers

Currently on schedule six weeks before start of installation. In consultation with the NMFS and FWS. Discussing with DOE, a barrier 1-foot higher than last year with the same footprint and same culverts for the 7,000 cfs or lower target flow.

Environmental Water Account Implementation

A graph showing the EWA water availability in San Luis Reservoir through August 2001 was distributed and discussed.

OFF and DAT Update

A variance to the 150 mg/l Cl M&I water quality standard at Rock Slough was discussed allowing a fair accounting of the situation for DWR and Contra Costa. Although the SWRCB's executive director has not enforced the standard, it is still a violation. There must be proof before moving the standard to another location.

Graphs of the rotary screw trap catch of juvenile Chinook salmon at Knights Landing and winter run and older juvenile Chinook salmon loss at the Delta fish facilities were distributed and discussed.

A summary listing Delta fish actions in water year 2001 and copies of the fish action proposal letters were distributed and discussed.

An updated EWA matrix will be distributed by next Tuesday, February 27.

Winter run Chinook salmon DNA results through December have been completed. The normal turn around time for DNA analysis is 2 weeks; however, expedite times could be as short as 2 days.

OPERATIONS

CVP/SWP Operations Status:

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

Delta Operations Criteria:

Bay-Delta Standards for the month of March were discussed.

Operations Plan:

A chart of the preliminary CVPIA b(2) accounting was presented and discussed.

Fishery Status

Salmon: NMFS distributed and discussed its update of winter-run, steelhead, and spring-run Chinook status.

Splittail: Nothing to report.

Delta Smelt: Nothing to report.

Agenda items for Next Meeting . . . March 28, 2000

Genetics Update