

CALFED OPERATIONS COORDINATION GROUP

MEETING NOTES AND ACTION ITEMS

August 7, 2002

Announcements

Review of June 26 meeting notes

Any comments are to be sent to Tracy Pettit.

Handouts:

1. Herum-Crabtree-Brown (HCB), Attorneys at Law. July 5, 2002. Letter regarding the Stockton East Water District/Stanislaus River Matters/ Bureau of Reclamation/Vernalis Flow Objective Compliance.
2. South Delta Temporary Barriers Project; Mark Holderman, DWR
3. Update on Winter-run Chinook Salmon and Spring-run Chinook Salmon, dated August 7, 2002; Bruce Oppenheim, NMFS.
4. CALFED OPS GROUP Operations Briefing, dated August 7, 2002; Curtis Creel, DWR.

SWRCB Activities

Update on SWRCB Activities

- A hearing regarding Phase 8 is scheduled for October 2, 2002.
- The Narrative Salmon Workshop is scheduled for November 6, 2002.
- Term 91 Administrative Civil Liabilities were sent. A hearing has been requested, however, a date has not been scheduled.
- The Fairfield, Vacaville, Benicia area hearing of origin water right has been scheduled for October 28 through 31, 2002. Documents must be submitted by September 20, 2002.
- A hearing is scheduled in early December regarding the San Joaquin River Agreement and its long-term plan to change the Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan.
- The SWRCB rejected the Fish Protection Plan which can affect the use of JPOD in the future. The EWA Management Agencies will send letters concurring with the Project Agencies' letter. The water level response plan is effective until September 30, 2002.

On-Going Activities Related to the Ops Group

Temporary Barrier Presentation

Mark Holderman gave a presentation on the South Delta Temporary Barriers Project and a handout was distributed. There are three agricultural barriers (Old River near Tracy, Middle River and Grant Line Canal) which benefit agricultural water users in the South Delta and one fish barrier (Head of Old River) which benefits migrating San Joaquin River Chinook salmon.

Fishery Status

Status of Sacramento River Monitoring

Nothing to report in this section.

Steelhead, Winter-Run and Spring-Run Chinook Salmon

A handout was distributed. The preliminary winter-run redd counts indicate an increase since 1981. There are about 7,000 to 9,000 adults. The results of the carcass survey will be available at the end of August. The results of the juvenile rotary screw trap will be compared to the results of the adult carcass surveys. There is an increase in Spring-run Chinook salmon in the upper tributaries of the Sacramento River.

Splittail

The Splittail is listed on the ESA (which is open for comments until October, 2002).

Delta Smelt

A total of 24 and 0 smelt were caught in July and August, respectively. The data from the summer townet are being worked on.

EWA Salmonid Workshop

The main topics of the Workshop were the Juvenile Production Estimate, the Biological Decision Tree (Fall/Winter Juvenile Salmon Decision Process) and the Direct and Indirect Effects of the Pumps. A suggestion was made to invite Sam Luoma to the next CALFED Ops meeting to summarize the EWA Salmonid Workshop and discuss the integration of the CALFED Science Program to Operations.

The EWA Science Review Panel is scheduled for October 21 and 22, 2002 at the Sacramento Convention Center.

The Delta Smelt Workshop is scheduled for September 4, 2002 at Putah Creek Lodge which is located on the campus of U.C. Davis.

The CALFED Science Workshop is scheduled for January 4, 2003.

Work Group Updates

OFF Update

A discussion regarding (B)(1) re-operations and (B)(2) banking occurred during an OFF call scheduled on July 2, 2002. It was suggested to submit ideas for the (B)(2) banking. Final minutes will be sent out.

DAT Update

The next DAT call is scheduled for either October 1 or 2, 2002.

Operations Status

CVP/SWP Operations Status

The CALFED Ops Group Briefing package was discussed. Carriage water will be determined at the end of the transfer period, with the transfer amounts adjusted accordingly. A discussion on the increments of carriage water followed. The weeds in Clifton Court Forebay and by Banks Pumping Plant were treated in June. A temperature gage may be installed along with the U.S.G.S. flow gage at Orange Blossom on the Stanislaus River. Reclamation is working on the (B)(2) accounting and expects to meet the October 31 deadline to complete the accounting. Accretions have increased. A discussion followed regarding depletions and forecasting. Reclamation wants to use JPOD in order to move 50 TAF of water. However, if JPOD is not used, then this water may stay in Folsom Reservoir and may help in next year's allocation. A suggestion was made for page 5 to extend the graphs by 12 months.

Delta Operations Criteria

Outflow is controlling. The Net Delta Outflow Index is decreasing to 3,500 cfs. The requirement for Jersey Point (which is one of the agricultural water quality standards) does not apply after August 15. Contra Costa Canal's water quality standard may apply in September. The maximum E/I ratio requirement of 65% is still applicable. A request to have additional information on the amount of water exported was made.

EWA Operations

The EWA will have approximately 65 TAF of water by the end of the year. The following describes opportunities to preserve these EWA assets: store in San Luis Reservoir; store in an upstream SWP/CVP reservoir; participate in a 1.5:1 Exchange Program, sell EWA water to the Level 4 Refuge Program; store in the groundwater basin of Santa Clara or Kern County Water Agency (KCWA); and participate in a 3-way exchange with Metropolitan Water District, KCWA and EWA. A discussion regarding each opportunity followed.

Action Items

- Status of the water level response plan – extension of JPOD
- Additional refinement of (B)(2) uses and accounting
- A presentation of the EWA Salmonid Workshop