

CALFED OPERATIONS COORDINATION GROUP
MEETING NOTES AND ACTION ITEMS
September 25, 2002

Announcements

Review of August 7 meeting notes:

Any comments are to be sent to Curtis Creel or Tracy Pettit.

Handouts:

- 1) 1996 USFWS Recovery Plan for the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta Native Fishes (Pages 29-30);
- 2) "State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Water Rights Board Meeting Agenda for October 17, 2002" dated September 20, 2002; Nick Wilcox,
- 3) CALFED OPS GROUP Operations Briefing, dated September 25, 2002; Curtis Creel, DWR

SWRCB Activities

Update on SWRCB activities

- A workshop on the progress of Phase 8 is scheduled for October 3, 2002. There is a chance that Phase 8 will be dismissed by October 26, 2002. If so, the CEQA baseline will be reset. Existing CEQA documents after October 26th cannot be relied upon.
- A draft order will be issued by September 27, 2002 for Imperial Irrigation District transfer to San Diego County Water Authority. A workshop scheduled around mid-October will be held to receive comments.
- The parties involved in the Fairfield, Vacaville, Benicia area hearing of origin water right wants to postpone the hearing. The SWRCB will hold a pre-hearing conference on October 28, 2002. The purpose is to inform Art Baggett of the justification.
- There will be a hearing on additional water for VAMP on December 4, 5 and 9, 2002. There are 110 TAF for SOD districts. A petition was filed by Merced Irrigation District, Turlock and Oakdale to add 47 TAF as a long-term change. The hearing for this petition was postponed because the attorneys are currently involved in the Delta litigation (i.e.: Water Right Decision 1641).
- There is a draft order for Oroville-Wyandotte Irrigation District. Information regarding the hearing is available on the SWRCB's web site. A fact sheet was distributed. OWID hold paper rights to 760 TAF, with a beneficial use of 26 TAF. OWID is petitioning to extend the dates of the four permits which expire in 2004.
- The USBR submitted a temporary request to the SWRCB to extend the deadline for the Water Level Response Plan for Stage 2 from September 30 to October 31, 2002. This extension would accommodate the additional Project water (up to 15 TAF) for the CVP users without increasing the flow rate (which will be at 500 cfs). The SWRCB encouraged DWR/USBR to file a short term JPOD extension which require letters of concurrence from the fishery agencies and Contra Costa Water District. The transfer of 60 TAF for JPOD is complete. The SWRCB rejected the Fish Protection Plan twice due to the Plan's lack of detail and specificity. The SWRCB had a meeting with DWR and USBR, and the fishery agencies to discuss the Fish Protection Plan.

- The governor signed AB 2267 which expands the cease and desist category. Unauthorized diversions and violations of orders result in an Administrative Civil Liability penalty of \$1,000/day. It applies to Term 91 violations.
- The Term 91 notices are to go out by September 27, 2002. The SWRCB will reimpose the Term 91 conditions from October 1 to mid-November due to dry hydrologic conditions. Newly affected are storage projects that bypass flow from storage and direct diverters (i.e. GCID has new rights to receive water in the winter for rice decomposition). There are Delta Term 91 diverters and on July 2, 2002, an ACL was applied ranging in price between \$3,700 and \$23,000. They have a choice to either pay or have a hearing.
- A Narrative Salmon Doubling Workshop is scheduled for November 6, 2002.

On-Going Activities Related to Ops Group

Mokelumne Salmon Study/Delta Cross Channel Experiment

J. Miyamoto and B. Herbold gave a presentation titled "Fall 2002 DCC Fishery Experiments and Flow Monitoring Plan" and "DCC Experiments and Water Quality". Two sets of fish exist for the experiment: (1) 500,000 CWT yearlings from the Mokelumne hatchery and (2) 1,000 radio telemetry fish. The purpose is to evaluate the effects of the DCC gate operations on the survival of Chinook through the central Delta. The second part of the experiment would have a water quality aspect. A. Hinojosa will write up the three water quality criteria. In Fall 2000, there were intensive fish studies concentrated on the Sacramento River. This experiment would require three days of closure and, at present, water quality is a concern. The water costs associated with the experiment could be approximately 30 TAF of water (with financial costs of \$1.5 million). Concerns about risks were expressed. A discussion followed about the whether the risks outweighed the benefits of the experiment. The EWA Management Agencies determined the risks were too high. The Science Program does not have any monies. The Ecosystem Restoration Program is underfunded; and since there aren't any upstream actions being conducted, they weren't going to allow for any downstream actions. The SWP cannot reduce releases and exports further since they are already low. The CVP cannot make up any reduction. Even though Water Rights Decision 1641 allows for the variation of the DCC gate operations, the SWRCB will not approve any if it affects agricultural or municipal and industrial standards.

Both the Projects and the ERP were willing to accept the risks associated with the 2001 DCC experiment. Modeling results suggested that a cost of 12 TAF would occur; however it ended up that no costs were incurred.

Refinement of (B)(2) Actions and Accounting

The work is still in progress. This year's accounting ends September 30th. The use of (B)(2) will be included in the 2003 Operations Plan.

Status of Water Level Response Plan

See discussion under the SWRCB Activities.

CALFED Science Program

R. Brown gave a presentation on the 2002 EWA Salmonid and Delta Smelt Workshops. The following items were discussed: Juvenile Production Estimate, upstream data on fish are underutilized (especially with respect to the JPE), Georgiana Slough, the DCC gate operations, and the Decision Trees. C. Hanson is writing a "white paper" regarding salmon and steelhead and will be available next year. A "white paper" is a statement of knowledge of salmon which includes modeling. The Tracy Fish Facility are growing and handling smelt (aquaculture) for two reasons: for people to use and to learn about the smelt's biology. B. Bennett will be writing a "white paper" on smelt. Major points of these workshops will be posted on the CALFED website (not the CALFED Ops website).

The 2002 EWA Science Review Workshop is scheduled for October 21 and 22 at the Sacramento Convention Center. S. Luoma discussed the workshop agenda. C. Bowling or C. Creel was requested to present the 2003 Operations Plan. The 2001 EWA Science Review Workshop report should be posted on the CALFED website.

2003 Operations Plan

A presentation was made to the Bay-Delta PAC which included the 2003 Operations timeline and the links between the future projects (such as the Sacramento Valley Settlement Contractors (Phase 8), the CVPIA (B)(2) Policy Update, the SDIP (8,500 capacity), Long term EWA Program, etc.).

Fishery Status

Status of Sacramento River Monitoring

Nothing to report in this section.

Steelhead, Winter-Run and Spring-Run Chinook Salmon

The NMFS biological opinion on Spring-run Chinook salmon and steelhead was issued on September 20, 2002. There are on-going long term scoping meetings. The biological assessment will be completed in November and will cover the next fifty years. It was a good year for the Spring-run Chinook salmon at Butte Creek. There were approximately 20,000 carcasses. The power generation bypass on the lower American River was discussed. Modeling indicates that the cold water pool will be gone by October 15, 2002. The EWA has given permission to do this action, and either energy credits or monies will be used. The timing of the bypass is scheduled in the middle or end of October. A snorkel survey was done at Deer Creek to estimate the Spring-run adults were performed a few years ago. It appeared

that the numbers were good at Deer and Butte Creeks . The carcass data for the Winter-run Chinook salmon has not been analyzed.

Splittail

Nothing to report in this section.

Delta Smelt

The Fall mid-water trawl survey was completed in September and the data are being worked on. By the end of October, the analysis will be completed and a presentation on the recovery will be given either at the next CALFED Ops meeting or the following meeting.

Work Group Updates

OFF Update

The minutes for the July 2, 2002 meeting were sent out. There was not unanimous agreement among the stakeholders. A compilation of all the minutes will be performed.

DAT Update

A DAT call is scheduled for October 1, 2002.

Operations Status

CVP/SWP Operations Status

The water quality in Rock Slough is not good. There should be more monitoring points from Rock Slough to Delta Road Bridge. Stations within the interior Delta indicate a freshening up (i.e.: Jersey Point).

Action Items

- A presentation on the 2003 Operations Plan at the EWA Science Review in October
- Revisit the 2003 Operations Plan at the next CALFED Ops meeting
- Water quality criteria for Delta Cross Channel Gate Experiments will be written.
- A presentation on Delta Smelt Recovery will be given at either the 10/23 meeting or at the 12/4 meeting depending upon the finalization of the Fall Mid-Water Trawl data