

CALFED OPERATIONS COORDINATION GROUP

MEETING NOTES AND ACTION ITEMS

1:00 PM – 2:45 PM

March 24, 2004

Handouts

- 1) CALFED OPS GROUP Operations Briefing Package, dated March 24, 2004; Guy Masier, DWR.
- 2) Letter from SWRCB to USBR CVO & SWP OCO dated March 19, 2004.
- 3) Letter from USBR CVO to National Marine Fisheries Service, dated March 15, 2004.

Announcements

Department of Interior has again been cut off from Internet access and any outside Internet communications. Not sure how long it will last.

SWRCB Activities

Yuba Short Term Transfer comment period ends April 2, 2004.

Tri Annual Review Scoping Meeting was held on January 9, 2004. The next step is a staff report hopefully some time in May 2004.

Recirculation – The Division received a response regarding its January 21 request for an update, on the recirculation feasibility study required by D-1641. The response will be posted on the Divisions web site in the next couple of days. The Division will likely schedule a meeting with USBR to discuss the matter further.

VAMP – the VAMP double-step workshop will be held March 30th. Comments are due by noon on Friday March 26th. The draft order and comments received to date are posted on the Division's web site.

EBMUD request to change flow requirements – EBMUD submitted a request on March 9 to change the flow requirements on the lower Mokelumne River pursuant to D-1641 during April of this year in order to allow Woodbridge Irrigation District to construct a fish bypass pipeline. Concurrence letters have also been received from DFG and USFWS. Staff is recommending that the revised flow schedule be approved.

USBR temporary urgency change petition – On February 25th the Division conditionally approved the Bureau's temporary urgency change petition to change the February through June fish and wildlife flow requirements on the San Joaquin River. The final order is posted on the Division's web site. Several comments were received regarding the petition and the Bureau has been asked to respond

to those comments opposed to the change. Upon receipt of the Bureau's response, the Division will determine what changes if any may need to be made to the Order approving the petition.

Water Quality Response Plan – The division sent a letter on March 19 to the Bureau, DWR and CCWD regarding the requirements of the Water Quality Response Plan required for operations of JPOD. The Division determined that there is not enough information currently available to accept the latest version of the water quality response plan. Consequently, the Division is requesting that DWR and USBR in consultation with CCWD conduct additional modeling to determine impacts to water quality when CCWD is diverting under its own water rights. The Division determined that the projects are not responsible for providing protection to CCWD above the water quality objectives when CCWD is diverting water under other water right holder's rights.

On-Going Activities Related to the Ops Group

Status of Response Plans

Water Quality Response Plan – DWR and BOR are working on additional modeling & studies to assess operational impacts.

Long Term Water Level Response Plan - DWR and BOR are working on final draft for protection for the South Delta. DWR and BOR will consult with South Delta Water Agency prior to submitting the plan to SWRCB.

Fish Protection Plan - Agencies are working on putting everything together.

OACAP Consultation

Sorting out issues that are critical to assessments and opinion at weekly meetings with Agencies. Additional changes to the Biological Assessments will probably be needed. The project description is complete and copies of the BA are available. Contact Ann Lubas-Williams. Most of the modeling has been completed.

Fishery Status

Chinook

Winter Run take has been declining. Hatchery Winter Run loss is 26% of release group. Total loss is at about 7,500.

Steelhead

Salvage levels are low. 1,432 season to date and the authorized take level is 4,500.

Delta Smelt

None salvaged at the pumps the last 5 days. Most of the adult delta smelt being caught in the Kodiak Trawl have spawned. In addition water temperatures in the Delta are rapidly rising, which means that spawning is likely to end soon.

Splittail

No issues to report.

Work Group Activities

OFF Update

No Update

DAT Update

Regular weekly DAT calls are being held.

WOMT Update

General operations are being discussed. The Project Agencies have prepared a draft EWA operation letter. The draft is being shared with the Management Agencies. The goal is to exchange letters regarding the operation of the EWA for 2004 by VAMP.

Operations Status

The CALFED Ops Group Operations Briefing package was discussed.

Currently Delta Outflow is 23,000 CFS and decreasing. Clifton Court is exporting 5,000 CFS. Feather River flood control release is around 10,000 CFS (lots of early season snow melt). The SWP share of San Luis Reservoir is about 1,035,000 acre-feet. Trinity releases are at 300 CFS and holding. Clear Creek is at 200 CFS. Spring Creek Debris Dam is at 15 CFS. Release from Keswick is at 4,500 CFS and holding per fishery agencies. Folsom is encroached into flood reservation and Nimbus is releasing 4,000 CFS. Goodwin release is at 175 CFS. Tracy pumping has been approximately 3,500 CFS and is increasing to approximately 4,300 CFS today. The CVP Share of San Luis Reservoir is about 965,000. San Luis is about 30,000 AF short of being full. San Luis is projected to be full by April 1st if there are no pumping cuts. DWR is making Article 21 water available. USBR is making 215 surplus water available.

Delta Operations Criteria

X2 at Port Chicago may be triggered in April. If the Port Chicago X2 requirement is triggered, then the projects will need to meet 18 days in April with a credit of 4 carryover days from March.

San Joaquin River Operations

The San Joaquin River flow requirement of 2,280 CFS on a monthly average will be met due to flood releases on the Tuolumne River. Starting 4/1 water quality at Vernalis is based on a 30 day running average. If Tuolumne backs off of releases then USBR may need to help out to maintain WQ. If flows are less than 2,280 CFS Reclamation must consult with agencies as to actions needed to protect fish as per SWRCB Order. Vernalis flow objective may be difficult to meet in June.

EWA Operations

The EWA tables attached to the CALFED Operations Briefing Package were discussed.

VAMP

April 1 Hydrology will be used to set objectives. If the San Joaquin Basin is classified as a dry year, the objective will be 3,200 CFS. Export restrictions will be at 1,500 CFS during VAMP period.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Semi Annual B2 Accounting Presentation
Recirculation
ERP Update (May or June)