

CALFED OPERATIONS MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, March 26, 2008

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Resources Building

Room 1131, 11th Floor

Announcements – None to report

SWRCB Activities – Two recent noteworthy items of action to report. 1) The petitions to approve the Yuba Accord were approved by the SWRCB on March 18, 2008, ending a lengthy process to get SWRCB approval. 2) On March 19, 2008, a workshop was held to gather scoping input on the development of a SWRCB Strategic Workplan with input from both the BDCP and Delta Vision processes. Staff is now working on developing a draft workplan for the Board to consider.

Fisheries Status

(Chinook) Nothing new to report for Chinook salmon that hasn't already been reported. There have been poor returns of fall-run, migration of smolts has been slow, catches of adults has been low and salvage at water project facilities has been less than normal. Haven't seen any adult data from Sac. River tributaries, but anecdotal information is that there have been good numbers of salmon on Butte Creek.

(Green Sturgeon) Nothing to report for green sturgeon.

(Delta smelt) For Delta smelt, a 20 mm survey was conducted last week, there were none caught, which is not unusual for the first survey because many fish are too small to show up. Another survey will be conducted next week. The distribution of Delta smelt is on the Sacramento River along the Deep Water Ship Channel. Salvage of Delta smelt at the pumps has been low the last two weeks, maybe because OMR reverse flows have been at low levels.

(Longfin Smelt) For longfin smelt, there were a fair number (801) collected, mostly in the Suisun Bay area, YOY longfin were collected

Work Group Updates

(DAT) DAT has been meeting on a regular weekly basis, otherwise, nothing to report.

(WOMT) – Mostly discussing Wanger targets since a spent female Delta smelt was salvaged several weeks ago, which triggered OMR flow between -5000 cfs and -750 cfs. Last week, the OMR 7 day average was no more negative than -2000 cfs. This week, the provisional target is the 7 day average no more negative than -2500 cfs with

separate triggers for both adult and juvenile salvage set for reducing exports even further.

(VAMP) – 2008 is now classified as “Dry” from the previously classified “Critically Dry” on the San Joaquin Basin. The target flow at Vernalis for VAMP will be either 3200 cfs or 4450 cfs. Target exports (joint combined) will be 1500 cfs. The study plan calls for 2 salmon releases from Durham Ferry and 2 releases at the Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel. The 2008 VAMP is a precursor to the larger North Delta test planned for this summer. March 22 is the tentative start date for this years’ VAMP.

Water Accounting

CVP has used 350 TAF of (b)(2) water through February