

CALFED OPERATIONS MEETING NOTES
Wednesday, February 25, 2009
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Resources Building
Director's Conference Room, 11th Floor

Announcements –

There was a discussion with the meeting participants about whether CALFED Ops meetings should continue to be monthly or somewhat less frequent – like semi-monthly or quarterly. The participants agreed to continue with the monthly meetings through this June or July and to revisit the need for monthly meetings in Fall 2009.

SWRCB Activities – (P. Fernandez)-.

The status of various proposed transfers was discussed. Notices have been sent out and orders are being prepared for the following:

1. Delta Wetlands to MWD – 17.9 thousand acre-feet, submitted temporary urgency change for 10.3 TAF and submitted urgency petition for remainder. SWRCB granted conditional approval through end of July for temporary urgency. Notice for full permit issued in February and comments are due by end of March.
2. Property Reserve to Contra Costa Water District – 12.5 thousand acre-feet, comments were due in February.
3. South Feather Water and Power to San Diego County Water Authority- 10 TAF, a “refill” agreement needs to be worked out with DWR.
4. Tulare Lake to Westlands - 8 TAF, public notice issued in February, comments due in March.

The SWRCB conducted a drought hearing regarding DWR/Reclamation's request for X2 relaxation in February. An order was issued denying the request because changes in hydrology (e.g. significant rain) occurred between the time of the request and the actual hearing which made the urgency change no longer necessary.

The Division of Water Rights sent notices to diverters on Union Island and Roberts Island asking them for proof and definition of their water rights.

A Scoping meeting on the environmental documentation needed for south delta salinity standards and San Joaquin River flows will be held March 30. Then there will be a public workshop held on April 22 covering the same issues.

Fisheries Status

(Chinook) Low winter-run salmon salvage at export facilities so far; to be expected since population estimates have also been very low; well-below level of concern. Ocean productivity has been very poor. A NMFS report due at the end of March will quantify this. Spring-run surrogates (using fall-run from Coleman) were released (two releases). The estimated loss rate is very low, which is good.

(Steelhead) 42 non-hatchery fish seen at both facilities combined so far, which is also very low.

(Green Sturgeon) No green sturgeon seen at project export facilities to date this year.

(Wanger Proceedings) A requested 90-day extension of the deadline for issuing a revised biological opinion for salmon, steelhead and green sturgeon was approved by the Court. The new due date for the BO is June 2. NMFS is incorporating the comments from the peer review and DWR and Reclamation.

(Delta smelt) Based on latest surveys, the distribution of majority of fish is in Cache Slough, Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel and Suisun Bay. February surveys didn't find many at all. No "triggers" (per smelt BO) affecting CVP/SWP operations for have been tripped yet. Water temperature is still below 12 degrees Celcius, turbidity has recently increased significantly, but still below threshold of 12 NTU. 8 Delta smelt (expanded calculation) salvaged at export facilities so far. New survey results for larval smelt will be posted on DFG web site today.

(Longfin Smelt) Fish and Game Commission rule expired. DWR and DFG signed the Incidental Take Permit (under Section 2081) earlier this week.

Work Group Updates

(VAMP) Nothing to report

(DAT) Nothing to report

(WOMT) Nothing to report

CVP/SWP Operations Updates

(CVP) – Keswick @ 3,250 cfs (Shasta storage is 1.82 MAF) , Folsom @ 800 cfs (370 TAF storage), Goodwin @ 250 cfs, Jones PP at approx. 2,800 cfs, Federal share of San Luis at 333 TAF.

(SWP) – Oroville at 950 cfs with storage of 1.25 MAF, Banks at 2800 cfs , State share of San Luis at 460 TAF.

(Delta Conditions) – Vernalis approx. 1,700 cfs, Freeport approx. 30,000 cfs, OMR approx. -4000 cfs (5 day average) and -3000 cfs (14 day average)