

CALFED OPERATIONS MEETING NOTES
Wednesday, October 28, 2009
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Resources Building
Director's Conference Room, 11th Floor

Announcements

None made

SWRCB Activities (P. Fernandez)

1. The State Water Board Division of Water Rights is planning to issue a draft order for public comment on the request to modify Order 2006-0006 (interior southern Delta salinity CDO modification request) in the next couple of months. We plan to bring the order to the Board for consideration in January or February.
Contact person: Diane Riddle, (916) 341-5297 or driddle@waterboards.ca.gov
2. The Strategic Workplan update and the timeline for the southern Delta salinity and San Joaquin River flow objectives are both on the Division of Water Rights website as new announcements. See <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/> for more information. Contact person: Anne Snider, (916) 445-5997, asnider@waterboards.ca.gov
3. The SWRCB will hold a workshop on Nov. 4 on how Dr. Glenn Hoffman will address comments received on his draft report on South Delta agriculture and salinity needs to finalize the report.

Fisheries Status - (B. Byrne, NMFS)

Salmon – There has been no salvage of winter-run and/or spring-run salmon at the export pumps during October. NMFS' Biological Opinion calls for a mid-October pulse flow on the Stanislaus River in October, this year it will be occurring at the end of the month. Steelhead showed up at the beginning of October and at RBDD during mid-October due to the early October storm – there were over 300,000 estimated to pass the rotary screw traps. There were 4 steelhead and 586 chinook salmon counted on the Stanislaus River, which is comparable to last year, but lower than in 2004 and 2005. Water temperatures on the Sacramento, Stanislaus, American, Tuolumne and Merced Rivers have all been dropping the last several days. On October 21, the Knights Landing Catch Index was greater than 3 fish/day but less than 5 fish/day, triggering a closure of the Delta Cross Channel gates for four days.

Delta smelt – Nothing is happening right now, the Delta smelt working group will begin meeting in November.

Work Group Updates

DAT - . Has not started meeting yet, but will start in November.

DOSS - Nothing to report.

WOMT – There was a pulse flow on the Mokelumne River from October 5-17. DFG had requested that the Delta Cross Channel gates be closed during the pulse flow (to attract emigrating adult salmon), but USBR decided it could not close the gates due to possible water quality concerns. DFG Executive decided not to elevate the issue.

CVP/SWP Operations Updates

CVP - Trinity at 300 cfs, Keswick at 5,000 cfs, Nimbus at 1,800 cfs, Goodwin is ramping releases down following the pulse flow from 1,500 cfs two days ago to 750 cfs today., Jones PP at 4,200 cfs (5 units), San Luis Federal share at 313 TAF.

SWP - Oroville at 2,000 cfs, Freeport approx. 10,000 cfs, Vernalis approx. 2,400 cfs, Clifton Court at 3,500 cfs, Delta Outflow approx. 4,000 cfs, San Luis State share at 170 TAF.

Delta Standards - Water quality looks good, in south Delta also. December E/I standard is .65. Both Delta Outflow and Rio Vista minimums are 4,500 cfs monthly average and 3,500 cfs 7 day average. In Suisun Marsh, gates are open and water quality objectives are 15.5 EC in East and 16.5 in West.