

CALFED OPERATIONS MEETING NOTES
Wednesday, April 21, 2010
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Joint Operations Center
3310 El Camino Avenue

Announcements

None

SWRCB Activities (P. Fernandez)

Water Transfer Petitions

- a) Delta Wetlands to MWDSC – PETITION WITHDRAWN
- b) South Feather WPA to San Diego County – PETITION WITHDRAWN
- c) Reclamation District 1004 to SLDMWA – 5.5 TAF – Petition likely to be withdrawn
- d) Tulare Lake BWSI and Empire West Side Irrigation District to Westlands – 10 TAF – Active
- e) South Sutter WD to SWC – 10 TAF – Ground Water Pumping – Active
- f) Goose Club Farms to SWC – 653 af – Crops Idling/Shifting – Active
- g) Garden Highway Water to SWC – 5.8 TAF – Groundwater Substitution – Active
- h) Tule Basin Farms to SWC – 3.5 TAF – Groundwater Pumping – Active

Delta Outflow Criteria

SWRCB Delta Outflow Criteria (as defined in Senate Bill 1) hearings were held March 22-24, 2010. Closing comments were submitted by various parties and are posted on the SWRCB website. A draft report is scheduled to be released for public comment in July for a potential August/September approval and transmittal to the Delta Stewardship Council.

Modeling Scope of Work

In January 2010, WR Order 2010-0002 was adopted. The order modified WR Order 2006-0006 which is a cease and desist order issued to DWR and USBR regarding threatened violations of south Delta water quality objectives by the SWP and CVP. Item 3 in the revised order states that “DWR and USBR shall comply without delay with any reasonable requests for technical assistance, including modeling, necessary to assist the State Water Board in its current efforts to review and implement the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan expeditiously”. Pursuant to Item 3 of the order, SWRCB staff have drafted a scope of work regarding obtaining technical assistance from DWR and

USBR. Staff are working out the details of the scope of work with USBR to evaluate different flow scenarios of the unimpaired flow from the San Joaquin River and its tributaries to determine flows at Vernalis. These flow scenarios are being studied as potential replacements for the current spring flow requirements at Vernalis.

Miscellaneous

A draft 2009 VAMP report should be printed and available shortly. Also, the Delta Science Program led VAMP review report should be completed in a couple of weeks.

Fisheries Status

(B. Oppenheim, NMFS)

Salmon, Steelhead and Sturgeon – The number of fish “taken” and salvaged at the project export facilities has been dropping off quite sharply. Low project export rates in March and April should have helped significantly. There have been a total of 1653 juvenile winter-run salmon and 821 steelhead taken for the year, both are well below the incidental take limit. DOSS met yesterday, fall –run salmon are starting to enter the Delta now, there have been no green sturgeon taken this year.

DOSS has discussed the proposed cross-channel experiment for EBMOD (on Mokelumne River) that would require the gates be open during the experiment and is “leaning” against it until the end of May (Memorial Day weekend) to keep “VAMP-like” conditions as consistent as possible. DOSS has also discussed the planned outage at Banks Pumping Plant during May for maintenance/construction as will probably recommend 1400 cfs total exports prior to the outage and 1600 cfs during the outage to meet the target value in the NOAA Biological Opinion of 1500 cfs during May.

(Victoria Poage, USFWS)

Delta smelt – The Smelt Working Group has been on hiatus during the VAMP experiment. No Delta smelt larvae so far at the export facilities.

Longfin smelt – A couple of longfin smelt larvae have been salvaged at the export facilities, but no significant take has been occurring.

Work Group Updates

DAT – Nothing to report.

DOSS - Nothing to report..

WOMT – The second set of triggers in the NOAA Biological Opinion for OMR restrictions need to be modified. WOMT concurred with NMFS findings. WOMT has also been discussing VAMP and the possibility of updating OMR/exports forecasting methodology.

VAMP (D. Westcot) – The target Vernalis flow for VAMP in 2010 will be 4450 cfs with a base flow of 4100 cfs. VAMP will start tomorrow, the first fish release will be on April 25. The target flow will be difficult to achieve this year due to snowpack/snowmelt conditions and the flow at Vernalis will likely be higher than the target flow

CVP/SWP Operations Updates

CVP - Clear Creek at 200 cfs, Keswick is at 4500 cfs today and will go up to 5500 cfs tomorrow. Folsom is at 1750 cfs, Goodwin is at 1000 cfs, Jones Pumping Plant is at 800 cfs and the Federal share of San Luis is 868 TAF.

SWP - Oroville at 1.8 MAF storage and 800 cfs, Clifton Court is at 700 cfs and the State share of San Luis is 816 TAF.

Other – OMR daily flows are about +750 cfs and the 14 day running average OMR is approx. +500 cfs. Water quality (X2 at Chipps) and in the south Delta is very good.

B2 water useage for 2009 was presented to the group by Nick Hindman and Thuy Washburn. The presentation will be posted on Reclamation's website.