

CALFED OPERATIONS MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Room 1131, Resources Building

(1) SWRCB Update

1) San Joaquin River Flow and South Delta Salinity

a) The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) held a workshop regarding its Draft Technical Report on the Scientific Basis for Alternative San Joaquin River Flow and Southern Delta Salinity Objectives (draft Technical Report) on January 6-7, 2011. Information related to the workshop is available on our website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/bay_delta_plan/water_quality_control_planning/index.shtml.

Based on written comments received prior to the workshop and oral comments received at the workshop, the State Water Board is in the process of making any necessary changes to the draft Technical Report. Once those changes are made, the State Water Board will submit the final Technical Report for independent scientific peer review. The peer review comments and comments from the workshop and other information will inform the State Water Board's review and potential amendment of the San Joaquin River flow and southern Delta salinity objectives.

For further information on the Technical Report, contact Mark Gowdy at 916-341-5432 or mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov or Diane Riddle at 916-341-5297 or driddle@waterboards.ca.gov.

b) As a follow up to the notice for the workshop mentioned above, the State Water Board released an additional notice of opportunity to provide information that was not submitted related to the Draft Technical Report on the review of and potential modifications to the San Joaquin River flow and southern Delta salinity objectives and the program of implementation for those objectives included in the 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary. Per the notice, written comments and other information related to the review of and potential amendments must be submitted by 12 noon on Tuesday, February 8, 2011.

The notice, along with other information concerning the State Water Board's review of the San Joaquin River flow and southern Delta salinity objectives is posted on the State Water Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta_plan/water_quality_control_planning/

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Kari Kyler at 916-445-5987 or kk Tyler@waterboards.ca.gov.

c) On October 6, 2010, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) submitted the Delta-Mendota Canal Recirculation Feasibility Study - Plan Formulation Report (PFR), January 2010 (Updated September 2010). The State Water Board, as part of Revised Water Right Decision 1641 (D-1641), required Reclamation to evaluate the feasibility and impacts of recirculating water from the Delta-Mendota Canal into the lower San Joaquin River as a method for meeting and/or augmenting the Vernalis objectives and San Joaquin water quality objectives.

The State Water Board is reviewing the PFR and tentatively plans to have an informational item on the agenda at an upcoming Board meeting on March 15, 2011 to discuss Reclamation's findings and clarify compliance with D-1641.

For further information on the Board meeting, contact Patricia Fernandez at 916- 319-9141 or pfernandez@waterboards.ca.gov.

2) Modeling

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Reclamation are providing modeling assistance to the State Water Board in the following areas:

a) DWR has developed a plan to address our request for improvements to the salinity simulation performance of the DSM2 model in the southern Delta. The request was made as a follow-up to the recent CDO adopted by the Board in January (WR 2010-0002). We are evaluating the proposed plan and work has not started yet.

b) DWR is providing modeling runs to evaluate potential improvements to flows and salinity in the southern Delta associated with proposed changes to the temporary ag barriers down there (adding height and changing flap-gate operations). This is being done as part of the coordination effort between DWR and the South Delta Water Agency we requested as part of approving an emergency change petition back in the summer of 2008.

c) Reclamation is working on a scope of work to provide us with some CALSIM modeling that would evaluate possible alternative flow objectives for the San Joaquin River at Vernalis. Like item a) above this modeling support was requested as part of Order WR 2010-0002. The scope of work is still in development with Reclamation and work has not started.

d) DWR and Reclamation have received conditional approval from the State Water Board on their Feasibility Study Plan. The Feasibility Study Plan will evaluate the installation of low lift pumps at one or more of the temporary barriers and the feasibility of increasing flows in the San Joaquin River to ensure compliance with the interior southern Delta salinity objective. A report describing the study is due to the State Water Board by March 20, 2011.

For further information on Modeling, contact Mark Gowdy at 916-341-5432 or mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov

3) Water Transfer Petitions

TRANSFER NOTICE

9/28/10, Notice issued for long-term transfer of 10,000 acre-feet of water from DWR to areas within the Westlands Water District. The petitioner requests the changes be effective from May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2027.

DWR has petitioned for temporary transfers (up to one year) similar to this long-term transfer on an annual basis since 2000. The protest period for this petition ended on October 28, 2010. One protest was received (collectively) from California Water Impact Network, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, and AquAlliance. State Water Board staff are drafting the long-term transfer order.

The notice and protest are available for viewing online at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/transfers_tu_notices/

TRANSFER ORDER

11/5/10, Order issued for the Consolidated Place of Use petitions submitted by DWR and Reclamation to temporarily add the Central Valley Project (CVP) place of use downstream of the Jones Pumping Plant to the State Water Project (SWP) permit and to temporarily add the SWP place of use downstream of the Banks Pumping Plant to the permits and license of the CVP. These changes are intended to facilitate three specific transfers/exchanges involving a total of up to 220,000 acre-feet of water. The petitions request the changes be effective through September 30, 2011.

The order is available for viewing online at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/transfers_tu_orders/

FINAL REPORTS

During December and January, we received several final reports required as conditions of the storage and groundwater substitution transfers that occurred last summer. The

reports indicate how much water was diverted, pre-, during, and post-transfer groundwater elevations, dates of pre-transfer groundwater level recovery, and locations of monitoring wells.

For further information on Water Transfers, contact Patricia Fernandez at 916-319-9141 or pfernandez@waterboards.ca.gov.

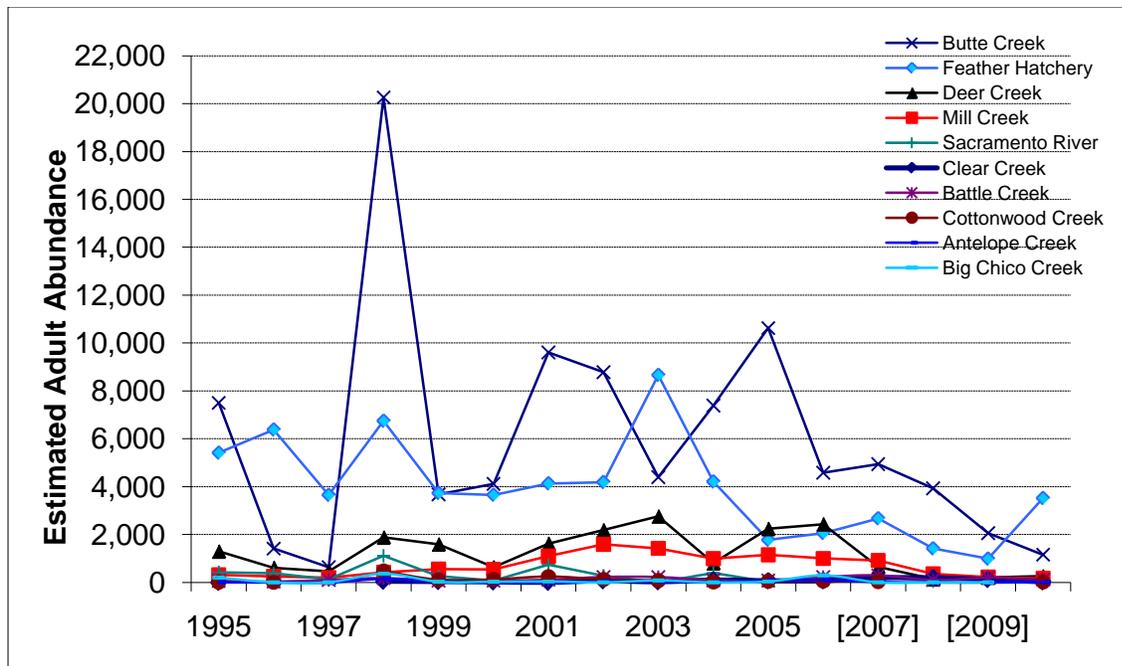
(2) Fishery Status

Winter-run Chinook salmon:

The official adult escapement estimate from DFG is **1,596** spawners in 2010. This includes 63 collected for hatchery broodstock at Keswick Dam. From this estimate NMFS calculates the juvenile production entering the Delta, otherwise known as the JPE. The JPE based on the number spawned in 2010 is **332,012** juveniles. This is the lowest estimate in the last 10 years. The incidental take level for the CVP/SWP export pumps in the Delta is **6,640** juveniles (2% of the JPE). Winter-run have been salvaged at the Delta pumps since December 4th, but the bulk of them are expected to go out in March. The cumulative loss this year at the CVP/SWP export pumps is **835** juveniles (as of 1/23/11).

Spring-run Chinook salmon:

Preliminary reports for non-Feather River Hatchery runs based on snorkel counts indicate that escapement is down from previous years despite a closed ocean fishery and improved ocean conditions.



Adult Snorkel Counts and Hatchery ladder counts (preliminary data)

	2010 to date	2009
Antelope Cr	17	0
Mill Cr	170	220
Clear Cr	21	120
Deer Cr	262	213
Butte Cr	1160	2,059
Feather R. Hatchery	3,520	989

Two surrogate spring-run Chinook releases were made this year to estimate incidental take at the Delta pumps. These fish are uniquely marked late-fall Chinook salmon from Coleman National Fish Hatchery released upstream of Battle Creek. These hatchery fish are released at the time and at the same size as the wild spring-run Chinook coming out of the tributaries. The first release was 12/21/10 and the second was 1/14/11. The marked late-fall Chinook salmon from the 12/21/10 release are showing up at the fish salvage facilities.

Central Valley Steelhead:

The cumulative salvage (not loss) this year at the CVP/SWP export pumps is 14 non-clipped, or wild fish since October 1st, 2010. The incidental take for the both projects combined is 3,000 non-clipped steelhead. The peak of steelhead salvage typically occurs in February.

Green Sturgeon:

There have been no green sturgeon salvaged since October 1st, 2010 at the CVP/SWP fish facilities and no green sturgeon were salvaged last year. The incidental take level is 74 and 110 juveniles salvaged and loss, respectively, annually based on a 10 year average.

Delta Smelt – The final 2010 mid-water trawl is 29, which is up a little from last year. The recovery index is till 11.

(3) Work Groups

DOSS - Has been meeting every week for the last two months. Last week, the density trigger for a -3500 OMR flow (or greater) was hit at the salvage facilities. A change in exports started Sunday, the five-day action expires tomorrow, if the density trigger is not “re-tripped”, exports can go back up to -5000 OMR flow.

SOG – The highest number of fall-run salmon in 4 years was measured at the Stanislaus Weir. The temperature requirement on the Stanislaus River at Honolulu Bar and Lover’s Leap have been met so far, below the lowest criteria of 52 degrees Fahrenheit. The pulse flow requirements in January were also met.

SWG – Have been meeting since December. So far, no recommendations have been made as the distribution and salvage of Delta smelt appear favorable.

VAMP – A one year extension was signed for 2011. There is a high probability of a “double step” for flow occurring this year. The six-year acoustic tag study required by NMFS will be simultaneous with this year’s VAMP. The VAMP Hydrology Group will be meeting about once a month.

(4) Water Project Operations

CVP - Keswick at 4600 cfs, Folsom at 2500 cfs, Jones PP at 4100 cfs, Goodwin at 200 cfs, Federal share San Luis is 890 TAF.

SWP – Oroville at 1750 cfs, Clifton Court at 4000 cfs, State share San Luis is 970 TAF, Freeport at approx. 23,000 cfs and Vernalis approx. 8600 cfs