

CALFED OPERATIONS MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, September 28 , 2011

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Resources Building

Room 1131

State Water Board Update

1) San Joaquin River Flow and South Delta Salinity Objectives

a) The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has revised its Technical Report on the Scientific Basis for Alternative San Joaquin River Flow and Southern Delta Salinity Objectives (Technical Report) in response to written comments received prior to and oral comments received at a public workshop held on January 6-7, 2011. The State Water Board is currently in the process of submitting the Technical Report for independent scientific review. The peer review comments in combination with comments and other information obtained from interested parties over the course of several workshops held during the water quality control planning process will inform the State Water Board's review and potential amendment of the San Joaquin River flow and southern Delta salinity objectives.

For additional information regarding the Technical Report, contact Mark Gowdy at 916-341-5432 or mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov.

b) The State Water Board is preparing a Substitute Environmental Document (SED) in support of its current review of the Bay-Delta Plan, which focuses on San Joaquin River flow and southern Delta salinity objectives, the program of implementation for those objectives, and potential changes to the monitoring and special studies program. The State Water Board anticipates releasing the Draft SED for public review in December 2011, followed by a workshop to receive public comments in late-February 2012, release of the Final SED in May 2012, and a Board hearing to consider adoption of draft changes to the Bay-Delta Plan in June 2012. Additional information regarding the current review of the Bay-Delta Plan can be found on-line at:

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

Questions concerning this matter may be directed to Chris Carr at (916) 341-5305 or ccarr@waterboards.ca.gov or Mark Gowdy at (916) 341-5432 or mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov .

2) Modeling

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

a) DWR has developed a plan to address our requirements for improvements to the salinity simulation performance of the DSM2 model in the southern Delta as included in Condition A.3 of the Cease and Desist Order WR 2010-0002 (Order) adopted by the Board in January 2010. We are evaluating the proposed plan and work has not started yet.

b) DWR has provided modeling runs needed to evaluate potential improvements to flows and salinity in the southern Delta associated with proposed changes to the temporary ag barriers (adding height and changing flap-gate operations). This was done as part of the coordination effort between DWR and the South Delta Water Agency we required as part of approving an emergency change petition back in the summer of 2008. No modeling for these efforts is currently in progress.

c) Reclamation is working on a scope of work to provide modeling that will assist with implementing flow objectives for the San Joaquin River at Vernalis once adopted by the State Water Board. Like item a) above this modeling support was required as part of Condition A.3 of the Order. The scope of work is still in development with Reclamation and work has not started.

d) DWR and Reclamation received conditional approval from the State Water Board on their Feasibility Study Plan in September 2010. This study is intended to 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. The State Water Board met with DWR and John Herrick representing the South Delta Water Agency, on July 23, 2011 to discuss the modeling performed for the *Low Head Pump Salinity Control Study* report. The State Water Board sent a letter dated August 5, 2011 to DWR indicating that their report satisfied the specific requirement for evaluation of low head pumping in Condition A.7 of the Order. But additional modeling may be requested after the State Water Board completes the re-evaluation of the southern Delta water quality objectives and developing a plan for their implementation. The State Water Board will send a response to the USBR *Special Study: Evaluation of Dilution Flow to Meet Interior South Delta Water Quality Objectives* report, shortly.

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

3) Water Transfers

Temporary transfer orders

6/29/11, Order issued for temporary transfer/exchange of 800 acre-feet (af) of water from DWR to areas within Musco Olive Products Company, who contracts with Byron Bethany Irrigation District, a CVP contractor. Under the proposed exchange, DWR would provide SWP water pumped at the Banks Pumping Plant directly to Musco in

exchange for an equivalent amount of CVP water pumped at the Jones Pumping Plant and delivered to the SWP at O'Neill Forebay.

7/5/11, Order issued for temporary transfer of 1,000 af of water from Reclamation District No. 2068 to Solano County Water Agency by groundwater substitution. The petitioner requests the transfer occur through October 31, 2011.

The orders for temporary transfers are available for viewing online at:

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

Long-term transfer order

The order for long-term transfer of 10,000 af/yr from DWR to areas within Westlands Water District from 2011 to 2027 is being prepared and should be complete soon. The long-term transfer period would commence on April 1, 2012.

The public hearing that was scheduled on August 22, 2011 for the long-term transfer petition was canceled due to lack of available resources by the protestants.

Correspondence related to the long-term transfer is available for viewing online at:

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

Correspondence related to the (canceled) public hearing is posted online at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/hearings/dwr/index.shtml

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

FISHERY UPDATE (B. Oppenheim)

Winter-run Chinook salmon:

Preliminary carcass surveys indicate that the run this year will likely be less than 1000 adults based on 429 carcasses observed to date. This is less than half of the number of carcasses observed last year and the lowest since 1996. Once DFG estimates the adult return (sometime in December), NMFS will calculate a juvenile production estimate (JPE) for purposes of quantifying the incidental take limit at the Delta pumping facilities.

WINTER-RUN ADULT ABUNDANCE 1996-2009

1996	820
1997	2,053
1998	5,501
1999	2,262
2000	6,647
2001	8,224
2002	7,441

2003 8,218
 2004 7,869
 2005 15,839
 2006 17,205
 2007 2,488
 2008 2,850
 2009 4,537
 2010 1,596
 2011 800-1,000 (unofficial estimate)

Passage of juvenile winter-run past the Red Bluff Diversion Dam (RBDD) usually peaks in October. However, this year passage has been delayed approximately 1 month due to environmental conditions (note: peak of spawning was late this year). Year-to-date passage as of 9/23/11 was 157,813. This is less than last year at this time.

Salvage: In 2010-2011, the combined expanded loss of winter-run length Chinook was 1,461, which was less than last year (1,660). Most of the loss occurring from mid-January through March. Since June 2011 no winter-run Chinook salmon have yet been salvaged at either the state or Federal export pumps.

Spring-run Chinook salmon:

Preliminary reports indicate that overall escapement for spring-run Chinook salmon is similar to last year, except for the Feather River Hatchery which increased. Creeks with n/a have not been surveyed yet, since these use carcass surveys later in October.

Year	2011	2010
Mill Cr	n/a	482
Deer Cr	271	282
Butte Cr	2130	1160
Battle Cr	100	172
Clear Cr	8	21
Cottonwood	n/a	15
Antelope	6	17
Big Chico	n/a	2
FRH	6,000	1661
Sac R	n/a	0

Salvage: Last year the spring-run surrogate releases never hit the incidental take levels at the CVP/SWP exports. For this fish salvage season, surrogate releases are expected to occur in November, December and January.

Central Valley Steelhead:

Salvage: In 2010-2011, the combined expanded salvage of unclipped, in-river steelhead was 676 (153 at the SWP and 523 at the CVP), compared with 1,029 in 2009-2010. The combined expanded salvage of clipped, hatchery steelhead was 826 (577 at the SWP and 249 at the CVP), compared with 3,585 in 2009-2010. No Central Valley steelhead have yet been salvaged at either Delta Fish Facility since July 2010.

Green Sturgeon:

Salvage: SWP and CVP Fish Facilities salvaged 50 green sturgeon in 2010-2011. No sturgeon have been reported to date in the fish salvage season.

Delta/Longfin Smelt: Nothing to report, very little activity beyond a couple of routine surveys

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

DOSS – Preparing for presentations at Annual OCAP Review w/ Delta Science Panel on November 8-9 in Sacramento.

SOG – Temperature gauge at Orange Blossom (Stanislaus River) is about 10 degrees too low right now and the gauge will be corrected soon. Fall San Joaquin River restoration flows have now dropped off significantly; maintenance activities at the Lancaster Road/Weir are commencing.

WOMT – Gave preliminary approval for proposed Delta Cross Channel Gate closure in October to facilitate Mokelumne River salmon experiment.

PROJECT OPERATIONS

CVP – Shasta at 8,800 cfs, Folsom cycling at 4000-2000 cfs for gravel restoration, Goodwin 2,250 cfs and Jones PP at 4,200 cfs

SWP – Oroville at 7,500 cfs, Clifton Court at 7,180 cfs, State Share San Luis approx. 870 TAF

Miscellaneous – Delta Outflow approx. 13,000 cfs, both daily and monthly average X2 at about 74 KM, Freeport flow approx. 21,000 cfs and Vernalis flow approx. 4,000 cfs