

CALFED OPERATIONS MEETING NOTES
Wednesday, December 12 , 2012
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

SWRCB Update (P. Fernandez)

1) Phase 1: San Joaquin River Flow and South Delta Water Quality Objectives

The State Water Board is in the process of reviewing the San Joaquin River flow objectives for the protection of fish and wildlife beneficial uses, water quality objectives for the protection of southern delta agricultural beneficial uses, and the program of implementation for those objectives contained in the 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (2006 Bay-Delta Plan).

In order to inform the Bay-Delta Plan review, the State Water Board is preparing a Substitute Environmental Document (SED) and is anticipating issuing a draft in the fall of 2012. Following a period for receipt of written comments, there will be a public hearing on the adequacy of the draft. A final SED will be released after consideration of the comments and a Board hearing to consider adoption of the final SED and the revised Bay-Delta Plan is anticipated in the spring of 2013.

Additional information regarding this review can be found at:

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

Questions concerning this effort can be directed to Mark Gowdy at 916-341-5432 or mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov .

2) Phase 2: Comprehensive Review

Three workshops were held in 2012 related to the Comprehensive Review of the Bay-Delta Plan: September 5 and 6 on Ecosystem Changes and the Low Salinity Zone; October 1 and 2 on Bay-Delta Fishery Resources; and November 13 and 14 on Analytical Tools for Evaluating Water Supply, Hydrodynamics and Hydropower Effects. All speaker presentations and written information received for the workshops are posted on the State Water Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/comp_review.shtml.

The information generated through the workshops will augment information generated through earlier reviews and inform the State Water Board member and staff on what, if any, changes should be made to the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan. Additional information is available at:

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

Questions should be directed to Richard Satkowski at (916) 341-5439 or rsatkowski@waterboards.ca.gov.

3) Bay-Delta Compliance

The Delta Watermaster at the State Water Board is continuing to monitor DWR/USBR compliance with D-1641 and State Water Board Order 2010-0002. On July 18, 2012, a Notice of Violation was issued regarding spring pulse flow amounts in the San Joaquin River at Vernalis. The notice also addressed southern Delta salinity objectives, Delta Cross Channel Gate closures and Delta export limits.

4) Water Transfers

On October 24, 2012, the State Water Board issued an order for the temporary transfer of 10,000 acre-feet of water from the Merced Irrigation District to the Westlands Water District. The Central Valley Project will be added to the place of use to facilitate the transfer.

On September 28, 2012, the State Water Board issued a temporary urgency change notice and instream flow dedication to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation on the San Joaquin River for 3,000 cfs by direct diversion and 500,000 acre-feet per annum by storage. Comments were due by October 29. Two comment letters were received. For further information on Water Transfers, contact Katherine Mrowka at 916-341-5363 or kmrowka@waterboards.ca.gov.

Fisheries Update

Chinook Salmon, Steelhead and Green Sturgeon (B. Oppenheim) –

Winter-run – NTR

Spring-Run – NTR

Steelhead – NTR

Green sturgeon – NTR

Delta smelt (E. Gleason) – The SWG is monitoring Delta conditions and met last Friday. There was no call on Monday and no need for a recommendation yet. The turbidity thresholds in the Delta are set and are being watched in cooection with turbidity data.

DOSS – NTR

SOG – 1) Temperature: Appear to have been below 56 degree Fahrenheit (7 day running average of maximum daily) at Orange Blossom Bridger since first week in

November, since OBB gage wasn't functioning the first two weeks in November. 2)
Flow: The minimum flow required through February is 200 cfs. The current release at Goodwin is 275 cfs, which includes some b2 water to create additional spawning habitat for fall-run Chinook. Escapement: As of 12/10, more than 7,000 chinook passages have been recorded by FISHBIO at the Stanislaus River weir. DFG has seen a lot of 2-year size Chinook in the carcass surveys; this may be an indication of good returns next year, as well.

Water Project Operations

CVP – Keswick @ 4500 cfs; Nimbus @ 2000 cfs; Goodwin @ 275 cfs , Jones PP @ 4500 cfs and Fed share San Luis @ 596 TAF

SWP – Oroville @2075 cfs, Clifton Court @ 6680 cfs, and State share San Luis approx. @ 345 TAF