

**CALFED OPERATIONS MEETING NOTES**  
**Wednesday, March 28 , 2012**  
**1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

**SWRCB Update (P. Fernandez)**

1) San Joaquin River Flow and South Delta Salinity 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).

a) The Draft Scientific Basis for San Joaquin River Flow and Southern Delta Salinity Objectives (Scientific Report) provides the necessary information and analytical tools for the State Water Board to consider potential changes to these objectives and the program of implementation. State Water Board staff revised the October 2010 draft Scientific Report in response to oral and written comments received, and submitted it for independent scientific peer review. Peer review comments have been received and are being considered and addressed by State Water Board staff. More information on the peer review process and on the materials submitted for review and comments received can be found at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/peer\\_review/sanjoaquin\\_river\\_flow.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/peer_review/sanjoaquin_river_flow.shtml)

For additional information regarding the Scientific Report or the Peer Review Process, contact Kari Kyler at 916-445-5987 or [kk Tyler@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:kk Tyler@waterboards.ca.gov) or Mark Gowdy at 916-341-5432 or [mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov).

b) The State Water Board is preparing a Substitute Environmental Document (SED) for the subject review. A draft SED will be issued in late April of 2012, and will be followed by a Board workshop to receive public comments. Considering these comments, a final SED and a Board hearing to consider adoption is anticipated in October of 2012.

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/](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](mailto:mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov).

On February 24, 2012, the State Water Board released three draft technical appendices to the SED being prepared for the review of the San Joaquin River flow and southern Delta Water Quality Objectives and Program of Implementation of those objectives.

The draft technical appendices to the SED, relating to southern Delta salinity and San Joaquin River Flows, cover the following topics:

- Scientific Basis for San Joaquin River Flow and Southern Delta Water Quality Objectives
- Agricultural Economics
- Energy Modeling and Analysis

The State Water Board is releasing the draft Technical Appendices to give interested parties additional time to review these important technical aspects of our review, prior to the release of the entire draft SED. Information regarding the comment period for the SED and draft Technical Appendices will be provided at a later date. The draft Agricultural Economics Report will be submitted for independent peer review soon.

The Draft Technical Appendices can be downloaded from the following link:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/bay\\_delta/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/)

For questions regarding the draft Scientific Report, contact Kari Kyler at (916) 445-5987, or via email at [kk Tyler@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:kk Tyler@waterboards.ca.gov). For questions regarding the draft Agricultural Economics Report, contact Patricia Fernandez at (916) 319-9141, or via email at [pfernandez@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:pfernandez@waterboards.ca.gov).

c) The State Water Board held an Informational Item and Received Comments regarding a Schedule of Actions to Update the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan and the relationship of these actions to the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan at a meeting on February 21, 2012. Comments are posted on the State Water Board's webpage:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_info/agendas/2012/feb/comments/022112\\_5cmmnts.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/agendas/2012/feb/comments/022112_5cmmnts.shtml)  
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d) On January 24, 2012, the State Water Board issued a Supplemental Notice of Preparation and Notice of Scoping Meeting to update the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan: Comprehensive Review. The scoping meeting will be held on May 16, 2012. Written comments will be due by noon on Wednesday, April 25, 2012.

Additional information is available at the Division of Water Rights' website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/bay\\_delta/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/)

Questions concerning this effort can be directed to Karen Niiya at 916-341-5365 or [kniiya@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:kniiya@waterboards.ca.gov) or Diane Riddle at 916-341-5297 or [driddle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:driddle@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) 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.

c) DWR and Reclamation submitted reports to the State Water Board per Condition A.7 of the Order in April of 2011. The State Water Board responded to DWR's report, *Low Head Pump Salinity Control Study* in August of 2011. The State Water Board's response to Reclamation's report, *Special Study: Evaluation of Dilution Flow to Meet Interior South Delta Water Quality Objectives* is still under management review.

For further information on these efforts, contact Mark Gowdy at 916-341-5432 or [mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov) or Patricia Fernandez at 916-319-9141 or [pfernandez@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:pfernandez@waterboards.ca.gov).

### 3) Water Transfers

11/21/11, Order issued for long-term transfer of 10,000 acre-feet (af)/year from DWR to areas within Westlands Water District (Westlands). The long-term transfer would commence on April 1, 2012 and continue through April 30, 2027. The State Water Board received a petition for reconsideration of the order from Westlands on December 20, 2011. The State Water Board has prepared an Executive Order.

The order and related documents are available for viewing at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/applications/transfers\\_tu\\_orders/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/transfers_tu_orders/)

12/23/11, Notice issued for long-term transfer and instream flow dedication from Merced Irrigation District (Application 1224) to U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Comments were due by 1/23/12. Comments were received and are being addressed. An order is expected to be issued by April 1, 2012.

1/18/12, Notice issued for temporary transfer of 100,000 af of water from Arvin-Edison Water Storage District (a Central Valley Project contractor) to the Metropolitan Water District (a State Water Project contractor). Comments were due by 2/22/12. An order is being prepared.

2/10/12, Notice issued for U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Application 18115) temporary urgency change to extend the season of rediversion for 30 days from May 15, 2012 to June 15, 2012. Water is diverted to storage in Black Butte Reservoir and rediverted at the Stony Creek Siphon into the Tehama-Colusa Canal. Comments were due by 2/24/12. An order is being prepared.

Notices can be viewed at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/applications/transfers\\_tu\\_notices/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/transfers_tu_notices/)

For further information on Water Transfers, contact Katherine Mrowka at 916-341-5363 or [kmrowka@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:kmrowka@waterboards.ca.gov)

## **Fisheries Update**

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

*Winter-run* – The official adult estimate for 2011 was 824 spawners in the upper Sacramento River. This is the lowest estimate since 1994. Juvenile passage at Red Bluff Diversion Dam (RBDD) peaked in October at approx. 950,000. The NMFS winter-run Juvenile Production Estimate of winter-run entering the Delta for 2012 was 162,051, giving a 2% “take” limit (ITL) of 3,241. 192,734 juvenile winter-run were also released from Livingston-Stone National Fish Hatchery near Redding. The year to date (since October 1) cumulative loss at the SWP/CVP Delta export facilities is 1,571 juveniles, approx. 48% of the ITL for the year.

*Spring-Run* – Preliminary reports indicate that overall escapement for spring-run Chinook salmon is similar to last year, except for the Feather River Hatchery which increased. Salvage of spring-run at the Delta export pumps has started to increase this month. Incidental take is measured using surrogate late-fall Chinook releases uniquely marked from Coleman Hatchery. To date, the surrogate releases have not exceeded 0.5% (half of the take limit) of the release groups.

*Steelhead* – Low numbers of adult spawners and redds were counted on the American River this year, however, on the Stanislaus River, a significant increase in adults was counted past the weir. Official adult counts are still to be tabulated for the Central Valley streams. Some tributaries in the San Joaquin River basin have observed spawning through March. The year to date combined salvage of unclipped (wild) steelhead at the Delta pumps is 95 juveniles, well below the incidental take limit of 3,000 juveniles.

*Green sturgeon* – Early indications of spawning abundance are low. Very few adults have been observed upstream of RBDD. To date, no juvenile green sturgeon have been reported passing downstream of RBDD, but typical emigration doesn’t start until April. No green sturgeon have been reported at the Delta pumps since October 1, the start of the water year.

*Delta smelt* – The SWG met this Monday and reviewed all date, existing and projected, the habitat conditions are satisfactory and they had no further recommendations. They will meet again this Friday to discuss potential concerns about juveniles found in the lower San Joaquin River.

DOSS – Most of the recent discussions have been about implementing the stipulation in April and May, 2012. The OMR for the first week in April will be no more negative than -1800 cfs.

SOG (B. Byrne) The updated New Melones criteria is for a Below Normal water year w/ two flow pulses up to 1500 cfs, required in April and May.

### Water Project Operations

CVP – Keswick @ 3250 cfs; Nimbus @ 1100 cfs; Goodwin @ 300 cfs , Jones PP @ 1000 cfs and Fed share San Luis @ 764 TAF

SWP – Oroville @1750 cfs, Banks PP@ 2000 cfs and State share San Luis @ 990 TAF

Delta – Freeport approx. 17,000 cfs, Vernalis approx. 1700 cfs, Delta Outflow approx. 20,000 cfs, E/I ratio = 0.16, transitioning tfrom OMR at -5000 cfs levels to -1800 cfs levels in first week of April per the stipulation.