

CALFED OPERATIONS MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, April 23, 2014

Phone Call Only

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

SWRCB Activities

Water Rights Update (R. Satkowski)

- Phase I – A revised Substitute Environmental Document (SED) will be re-issued for public review and comment sometime late this summer
- Phase II – Last week, the Delta Science Program and SWRCB held a two-day workshop on Interior Delta Flows and Other Related Stressors. A report by the expert panel on their findings will be prepared in 30-60 days.
- Phase III – Nothing to report
- Phase IV – Nothing to report
- The SWRCB is proposing curtailments for non-project water users in the Central Valley for 6-7 watersheds due to drought conditions.. The information is online at the SWRCB website. Expected curtailments and supply vs. demand projections are shown. Some of the proposed curtailments would be effective May 15, others would begin June 1.

Delta Water Master Update (C. Wilson)

- SWRCB conditionally approved two petitions submitted by DWR and Reclamation modifying provisions of D-1641; 1) modified San Joaquin Pulse flow requirements in April and May for 2014, 2) allowed project exports up to 1:1 (Ratio of Vernalis flow with Combined Project Exports) when Delta Outflow requirements for April and May are modified.
- The SWRCB has tentatively scheduled a Drought Update workshop for May 6.
- Term 91 export restrictions are expected to be implemented in May.

Fisheries Update

Chinook Salmon, Steelhead and Green Sturgeon (B. Byrne)

There is some evidence of passage by salmon at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam, dominated by fall-run and spring-run; there was an April 4th release of salmon from the Coleman Hatchery in Battle Creek; higher than normal water temperatures are being measured along the Sacramento River due primarily to the drought and accompanying low flows; there will be a 3 day pulse flow of 1500 cfs from Nimbus Dam to “flush out” remaining “holdover” salmon in the American River; there was an uptick in catch in the most recent Mossdale Trawl; the Stanislaus River pulse flow will end in mid-May sometime; 7 steelhead have been tagged so far at Mossdale.

Delta smelt (E. Gleason) - The most recent 20 mm survey showed that most smelt larvae are still smaller than 20 mm; the last survey (Survey #5) will take place the week of May 5th; delta smelt are mainly distributed in Cache Slough and the Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel; SWG has been meeting regularly and concluded that no change in operations is needed due to the drought and low salvage.

Workgroup Updates

DOSS – The Drought Operations Plan has been discussed by the group; cross-channel gates remain closed to protect migrating salmon; OMR limits remain at no more negative than -5000 cfs; DOSS has concluded that no further change in operations are needed to protect CV listed species.

SOG – The count at the Stanislaus River weir was 5,360 salmon which represents the 2nd highest count since weir began sampling in 2003; the Stanislaus River weir was pulled on April 11th because of the start of the pulse flow; SOG is holding a phone call tomorrow to discuss re-shaping the tail end of the Vernalis pulse flow.

CURRENT WATER PROJECT OPERATIONS

CVP - Keswick @ 4,150 cfs; Nimbus @ 1500 cfs – going to 800 cfs tomorrow; Goodwin @ 2500 cfs; Jones PP@ 2400 cfs; Federal Share of San Luis @ 558 TAF

SWP – Oroville@ 800 cfs; Clifton Court @ 400 cfs, State share of San Luis@ 393 TAF

Freeport approx. 7000 cfs ; Vernalis approx. 2800 cfs; Delta Outflow approx. 5300 cfs ; X2 is upstream of Collinsville