

CALFED OPERATIONS MEETING NOTES
Wednesday, March 25, 2015
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

SWRCB Activities (R. Satkowski)

Schedule for Water Rights:

Phase 1 – Draft SED Issuance in Spring 2015

Phase 2 – Release Scientific Basis for Standards Report in late 2015

On March 17th, in light of the current 2015 Drought, the SWRCB adopted emergency regulations for diversions in the Bay-Delta watershed.

Also, the SWRCB adopted a modified order, which increases allowable project exports between 5500 cfs and 7099 cfs Delta Outflow for Health and Safety purposes, in addition to the exports already authorized.

Also, under the Order, water conserved in upstream reservoirs due to SWRCB standard modification is to be released in accordance with provisions of the Drought Contingency Plan or Temperature Management Plan for the Sacramento River.

A new Temporary Urgency Change petition for April and May (and possibly beyond that) will be submitted to the SWRCB by the Projects today or tomorrow.

Fisheries Update

DOSS (B. Byrne)

DOSS estimates of the current distribution of listed Chinook salmon, as a percentage of the population, are based on recent monitoring data and historical migration timing patterns.

YOY winter-run (naturally produced): Yet to enter Delta = very few (indeterminate), In Delta = 75%, Exited Delta = 25%

YOY winter-run (hatchery produced): Yet to enter Delta = very few (indeterminate), In Delta = 75%, Exited Delta = 25%

YOY spring-run: Yet to enter Delta = 5-20%, In Delta = 80-90%, Exited Delta = <10%

Yearling spring-run: Yet to enter Delta = very few (indeterminate), In Delta = 40%, Exited Delta = 60%

Hatchery Steelhead: Yet to enter Delta = 10%, In Delta = 30%, Exited Delta = 60%

Sacramento River Steelhead (naturally produced): No estimates due to limited catch data.

San Joaquin River Steelhead: Yet to enter Delta = 30%, In Delta = 60%, Exited Delta = 10%

Entrainment Risk in the Interior Delta at SWP/CVP Export Facilities

OMR Range: From -1200 to -2000 cfs: Medium

From -2000 to -3500 cfs: Medium

From -3500 to -5000 cfs: High

DOSS also advised NMFS that genetic testing of salmon detected at salvage facilities should be suspended until OMR limitations control scheduled exports (to save costs).

SOG (B. Byrne)

Finalized advice on April-May pulse flow for Stanislaus River, was moved to start March 25 because of higher than normal water temperatures. NMFS approved SOG advice on pulse flow. The 1st peak of the “pulse flow” schedule has already been approved by Reclamation. The 2nd peak of the “pulse flow” is still pending a determination by Reclamation to implement.

Delta Smelt (E. Gleason)

Group has been meeting regularly, no advice, proposed operations are adequately protective of Delta smelt.

Longfin Smelt (C. Dibble)

No advice, proposed operations are adequately protective of longfin smelt.

Workgroup Updates

Nothing to report

Water Project Operations Summary

Freeport Flow = 6800 cfs

Vernalis Flow = 450 cfs

Delta Outflow = 4500 cfs

Keswick = 3250 cfs

Nimbus = 500 cfs

Goodwin = 1500 cfs until 3/28, then drop back to 200 cfs by April 24, 2015

Oroville = 800 cfs

Jones PP = 950 cfs

Clifton Court = 550 cfs

San Luis (Federal share) = 400 TAF

San Luis (State share) = 970 TAF

