

M e m o r a n d u m

Date : June 26, 2001

To : Management Agencies

Project Agencies

From : Department of Water Resources

Subject: **Fish Action #7: April 5 through April 9, 2001**Description of Action

The Management Agencies requested an export reduction at the SWP facility before the start of VAMP (April 20) to reduce entrainment of spring-run chinook, San Joaquin fall-run chinook, Central Valley steelhead, and delta smelt. The estimated losses of young-of-the-year spring-run sized (6,444 in March) and fall-run sized chinook (5,599 in March) were high over the last two weeks and the steelhead cumulative salvage total (3,560 between December 1, 2000 and April 1, 2001) exceeded the incidental take level contained in last year's OCAP biological opinion (3,400). This action was deemed appropriate to protect a listed species since there is no take authorization for steelhead at this time. Also, delta smelt that spawned in February are expected to be migrating pass the pumps and will benefit from the reduction in pumping.

Estimated Cost Of Action

The Department of Water Resources has estimated that these actions could reduce the State Water Project exports by approximately 20 TAF. The estimate assumes SWP exports would continue at a level approximately between 2,500 and 3,800 cfs in the base operation. The actual amount could be either more or less dependent upon the actual operations required to meet Delta Standards. DWR has not performed a cost analysis of the change in operations.

Method Of Accounting For Costs

DWR will provide to the Management Agencies an accounting of the actual water, energy, storage and conveyance costs. The water cost analysis will be provided within thirty days of completing the action and will include a comparison between the actual operation (with the fish action) and a base operation (based on planned exports). All other costs will be submitted thirty days upon completion of the recovery actions. Disagreements regarding the analysis are to be discussed within the B2/EWA Interagency Team. Disputes will be reviewed by the Ops Group and elevated to the Water Operations Management Team for final resolution.

B(2)/EWA Assets

The Management Agencies have concluded that this may be an EWA action. Therefore, EWA assets may be applied to the export reductions of the SWP. The proposed fish action is not to impact the baseline delivery capability of the SWP. Therefore, DWR is to make operations and water allocation decisions based upon the base operations plan, absent the fish action.

There are adequate EWA assets available to cover this April fish action. The amount of water and the time it becomes available will be determined when DWR submits the final water cost analysis to the Management Agencies.


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Management Agency Authorization provided by:

Department of Fish and Game – Perry Herrgesell
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services – Michael Thabault
National Marine Fisheries Services – Michael Aceituno