

M e m o r a n d u m

Date : October 3, 2001
 To : Management Agencies

Project Agencies

From : Department of Water Resources

Subject: **Fish Action #9: May 21 through May 31, 2001 (VAMP Shoulder)**

Description of Action

The Management Agencies requested an export reduction at the State Water Project facility immediately following the Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan (May 21 through May 31) in order to maintain the 1,500 cfs VAMP export rate. Reductions in exports either just prior to or just after the 31-day VAMP period is referred to as the "shoulder". One purpose of this action was to reduce entrainment of delta smelt. The 14-day running average of delta smelt take had exceeded 400 (yellow light limit as defined in the Service's 1995 OCAP opinion), and the Daily Expanded Salvage of delta smelt had increased sharply (exceeding 2000). A recent increase on salmon catch at Mossdale indicated the salmon smolt migration from the San Joaquin River was still underway (refer to the notes from the May 22, 2001 Data Assessment Team meeting). These fish, migrating through the southern Delta, also would benefit from this action.

Removal of the Head of Old River barrier (HORB) was delayed until May 26, 2001. All flap gates on the south delta agricultural barriers were held open to maintain adequate hydrodynamics for delta smelt. The Delta Cross Channel gates were closed, except for the four days over Memorial Day weekend (May 25 through May 29, 2001).

Estimated Cost Of Action

The Department of Water Resources has estimated that these actions could reduce the State Water Project exports by approximately 15 TAF. The estimate assumes SWP exports would continue at a level approximately between 700 and 1,800 cfs in the base operation. Since maintenance had been scheduled at the Skinner Fish Facility between May 29 and June 1, 2001, the Management Agencies requested the gates at Clifton Court Forebay to be closed and exports at Tracy Pumping Plant to be at approximately 850 cfs for two days. The actual amount could be either more or less dependent upon the actual operations. DWR has not performed a cost analysis of the change in operations.

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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 resolved by the Ops Group. If the Ops Group is unable to resolve the dispute, it will be elevated to the Water Operations Management Team for final resolution.

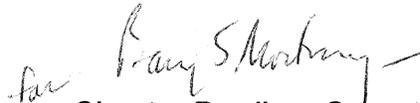
B(2)/EWA Assets

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.

The Department of Interior may have B(2) water available and may want to expend a portion of or all of the excess towards this proposed fish action, thereby reclassifying this action as a B(2) instead of an EWA action. However, there are adequate EWA assets available to cover this May fish action, if it is decided to not apply the B(2) water towards this proposed 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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National Marine Fisheries Services – Michael Aceituno