

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

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October 3, 2002

**Environmental Water Account Action 4-02****Relaxation of the Export/Inflow Ratio****Background**

Variations to the allowable percent of Delta inflow diverted are authorized if agreed to by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Services, and the California Department of Fish And Game as described in footnotes 18 and 20, on pages 186 and 187 of the State Water Resources Control Board Water Rights Decision 1641. The Environmental Water Account Operating Principles established that water pumped under this provision of D-1641 would be used to create EWA assets.

Any EWA actions taken by the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project are treated in a manner consistent with EWA Operating Principles. These assets and expenditures are not to affect normal SWP or CVP water operations. Therefore, a base condition was developed which reflects operations without any EWA actions. Any water allocation decisions made by the Department of Water Resources (e.g., the declaration of the availability of Article 21 water) and the Bureau of Reclamation are determined from this base condition.

**Introduction**

On January 29, 2002, the representatives from USFWS, NMFS, and CDFG were informed by DWR and Reclamation staff of the opportunity to flex the Export/Inflow Ratio. DWR received the Management Agencies' verbal approval to flex the E/I Ratio (potentially up to about 45 percent) on January 30, 2002, with an email follow-up on January 31, 2002.

The agencies agreed that this action would be discontinued if either of the following two conditions occurred: (1) the combined daily loss of non-clipped winter-run sized chinook exceeded 150-per-day at the fish salvage facilities, or (2) the combined daily delta smelt salvage exceeded 10 times the previous day 14-day running average (e.g., the 14-day average was 6 on February 19; therefore, the criterion would be 60 on February 20). The criterion would change as the 14-day running average changed. The Delta Smelt Group, which met on February 20, 2002, added the second condition.

SWRCB was notified verbally of this proposed relaxation effective February 1, 2002, with a follow-up letter dated February 7, 2002. As set forth in Decision 1641 (footnote 18, page 186), the variations will remain in effect provided the Executive Director of SWRCB does not object within 10 days. SWRCB did not express any concerns with the proposed relaxation.

#### Acquisition of Assets

The E/I ratio was relaxed between February 1 and 16, and between February 19 and 26. In the Data Assessment Team call on February 26, the biologists recommended to suspend relaxing the E/I Ratio. The recommendation was made based upon the increases in the number of chinook salmon, steelhead, delta smelt and Sacramento splittail at SWP and CVP export facilities. While these numbers were not excessive, the Management Agencies believed it prudent to return to the protection levels contained in the existing standards. The recommendation to discontinue the E/I relaxation was discussed at the Water Operations Management Team meeting on February 26, 2002, with WOMT concurring with the recommendation. (See the February 2002 Summary of DAT call notes.)

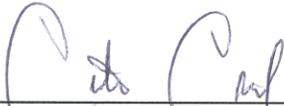
During the relaxation of the E/I Ratio standard, 75,952 acre-feet was pumped by SWP and stored in San Luis Reservoir. This amount does not include the aqueduct conveyance loss associated with conveying the water to San Luis Reservoir.

The disposition of this variable asset was discussed during the DAT calls and in WOMT meetings. The WOMT expected that these EWA assets would likely be used in either February or March in a strategic fishery-related action. However, in the event that such an action either did not occur or cost less than 75,952 acre-feet, then the balance of EWA asset would be held in San Luis Reservoir until the reservoir filled.

#### Conclusion

As of February 26, 2002, EWA had 93,260 acre-feet of water in storage in San Luis Reservoir: 10,644 acre-feet of water held over from purchased water in the Fall and 82,616 acre-feet of water obtained from the "state gain" in October 2001, and the relaxations of the E/I ratio in November 2001, and February 2002. The EWA Operating Principles allow the storage of EWA assets in San Luis Reservoir and other SWP and CVP facilities provided this storage does not adversely affect SWP or CVP

operations. It was recognized these EWA assets stored in San Luis Reservoir would convert to Project water at the rate the projects could have filled San Luis Reservoir absent the stored EWA water.

*for*  10/18/02  
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Operations Manager  
Central Valley Operations  
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cc: (See attached list.)

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