

# Memorandum

Date: October 17, 2002

To: Management Agencies

From: Project Agencies  
Department of Water Resources

Subject: **Fish Action #7-02: May 16 through May 31, 2001  
(Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan "Shoulders")**

## Description of Action

The Management Agencies requested an export reduction at the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project facilities immediately following the Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan (May 16 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 are referred to as VAMP "shoulders". The main purpose of this action was to reduce entrainment of delta smelt. The 14-day running average of delta smelt take had exceeded 400 (warning level as defined in the Service's 1995 Biological Opinion on the CVP Operation Criteria And Plan), and the cumulative daily expanded salvage of delta smelt had increased (exceeding 2,000 smelt, but below May's reconsultation limit of 55,277 smelt for a below normal year).

All flap gates on the south Delta agricultural barriers (the Old River barrier at the Delta Mendota Canal, Middle River and Grant Line Canal) were held open to maintain adequate hydrodynamics for delta smelt. The flap gates on the Old River barrier at the DMC were tied open on May 22, 2002, and resumed normal tidal operations on June 1, 2002. The flap gates were tied open at Middle River on May 26, 2002, and resumed normal tidal operations on June 2, 2002. The flap gates at Grant Line Canal remain tied open with the center portion open. The Head of Old River barrier was breached beginning on May 26, 2002.

The Delta Cross Channel gates were closed, except for the four days over Memorial Day weekend (May 24 through May 27, 2002).

A modeling analysis was performed to determine whether water could be conserved in upstream CVP or SWP reservoirs between April 15 and May 31, 2002. The modeling analysis shows there was no change to the required inflow to meet the water quality component of the Habitat Protection Outflow requirement (X2) as a result

of the EWA action for VAMP. The analysis compared a simulation of actual operations with a simulation of likely operations had no EWA action occurred. Using the historical conditions as guidance, the analysis shows that even without EWA action, the water quality in the western Delta and Suisun Marsh would not have degraded enough to require additional inflow to the Delta to maintain compliance with the X2 standard. Therefore, upstream CVP and SWP reservoir releases would not have been increased.

#### Estimated Cost Of Action

The Department of Water Resources has estimated that this action reduced the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project exports by approximately 62 TAF and 69 TAF, respectively. These estimates assume daily exports without the action would have varied within the range of approximately 900 cfs and 3,400 cfs at SWP, and 2,100 cfs and 4,200 cfs at CVP. The actual amount could vary slightly depending upon the actual operations required to meet Delta standards.

#### Method Of Accounting For Costs

DWR will provide to the Management Agencies an accounting of the actual water, energy, storage and conveyance costs or credits associated with the use of EWA assets in a future settlement of all EWA costs and credits. The water cost analysis will include a comparison between the actual operation (with the fish action) and a base operation (based on planned exports).

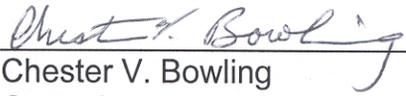
Disagreements regarding the analysis are to be discussed within the B2/EWA Interagency Team. If necessary, disputes will be elevated to the Water Operations Management Team for final resolution.

#### B(2)/EWA Assets

The Management Agencies have concluded that this was an EWA action. Therefore, EWA assets will be applied to the export reductions of the SWP and the CVP. This fish action is not to impact the baseline delivery capability of the SWP and

the CVP. Therefore, the Project Agencies are to make operations and water allocation decisions based upon the base operations plan, absent the fish action.

  
for Carl A. Torgersen, Chief 10/17/02 Date  
SWP Operations Control Office  
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Chester V. Bowling 10/18/02 Date  
Operations Manager  
Central Valley Operations  
Bureau of Reclamation

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

cc: (See attached list.)

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