

WOMT Summary for March 26, 2010

The WOMT Agencies met and discussed the following:

The SWG recommended OMR flows of no more negative than -5,000 cfs. The group noted that the risk of entrainment for adult delta smelt is considered to be low at this time due to no salvage at Projects' export facilities since March 14 and the latest SKT survey (#3) suggests that the greatest densities of delta smelt are in the Sacramento River and outside the influence of the pumps.

FWS has determined that OMR flows be no more negative than -5,000 cfs on a 14-day average (no more negative than -6,250 cfs on a 5-day average), as allowed under the RPA.

The DOSS advice to WOMT and NMFS is to maintain an OMR flow of no more negative than -5,000 cfs to protect winter-run and steelhead juveniles emigrating through the Delta. NMFS accepts the DOSS advice and determines that, at this time, operating the the SWP and CVP such that OMR flow is no more negative than -5000 cfs is consistent with Action IV.2.3 in the 2009 biological opinion and will provide the intended protection for salmon and steelhead.

NMFS determines that the flows schedule provided by Reclamation on March 25, 2010 (Attachment 1) is consistent with the Vernalis flows and Stanislaus flows required under Actions III.1.3, IV.2.1 & Action IV.2.2 of the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative of the Opinion. In accordance with Action IV.2.1, daily combined CVP and SWP export rates must not exceed 1,500 cfs (unless Vernalis flows exceed 6,000 cfs), from April 1 through May 31, in order to provide protections necessary to avoid jeopardy to Central Valley steelhead, as described in the RPA action.