

Update on Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Long-term Operation of the CVP and SWP

Provided by Katrina Harrison
Bay-Delta Office, Bureau of Reclamation

Initial Actions

- Reclamation is pursuing a San Joaquin River Inflow to Export ratio modification with an Environmental Assessment and ESA letter exchange, anticipated to occur this fall of 2018.
- Reclamation is also pursuing an expansion of the transfer window to allow transfer water to be pumped through November (currently it is July - September). Transfer water would only be pumped if there is capacity.
- Both of the actions above were part of the project formerly known as "Track 1".

Long-term ROC on LTO

- Reclamation is exploring initial alternatives' development for the ROC NEPA document, using ideas brainstormed over the past year, including ideas from TMC Partners/Trinity River stakeholders.
- Reclamation is currently thinking about having a broad range of alternatives, in "Protect", "Restore", and "Maintain" categories. This protect / restore / maintain comes from the "Listen to the River" report and Australia.
 - "Protect" actions are contingency plans for the time of drought, when we anticipate fish populations will crash. We think it might be helpful to have off-the-shelf contingency plans to implement. These could be a variety of actions, but for simplicity we are thinking of these as "direct intervention" actions, such as trap and haul, hatchery management, or perhaps fish passage / reintroduction efforts. Actions that are directly intervening in the fish populations.
 - "Restore" actions are actions that we could take in any year as funding is available. These are habitat restoration projects, fish screens, TCD upgrades, facility improvements, possibly predator removal, and other actions that are not operational, but instead require funding to implement.
 - "Maintain" actions are operational - i.e. flow - actions we would take in nearly every year. This includes flows for temperature management, gravel mobilization, passage, outmigration pulses, etc. We would implement these in most years (although possibly in some severe droughts we would instead do "protect" actions). These actions could be combined with "restore" and "protect" actions depending on the hydrology and fish population.

- Reclamation is thinking that within these 3 large categories there could be several sub-alternatives that would bracket a minimum / moderate / maximum level of effort on each type of action.
- Then there would be at least 1 alternative that mixes and matches from these action suites to develop the proposed action.
- Currently the direction is to complete Biological Opinions for the ROC on LTO by August 2020, although there are rumors of May 2020 (House appropriations language) and August 2019.
- Direction has been received, at this time, to focus on developing the proposed action with CVP water users.
- It is anticipated the next opportunity for input on the document would be cooperating agencies to review the portions of the draft NEPA document relevant to their expertise in summer 2019 (*if on the August 2020 schedule*), or January 2019 (*if on the August 2019 schedule*).
- WIIN Act 4004 also requires quarterly meetings on the ROC on LTO. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for **October 25, 2018**.
- Tribes may, of course, request Government to Government meetings.