



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Pacific Southwest Region
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2606
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

In reply refer to:
FWS/R8

MAY 03 2016

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid Pacific Region
Sacramento, California

From: Acting Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region
Sacramento, California

Subject: May 3, 2016 Determination under Component 2 Action 3 of the 2008 OCAP
Biological Opinion

Attached, please find the subject Determination. We find that under Component 2, Action 3 of the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative of the opinion that the 14-day running average OMR flow should be no more negative than -3000 cfs, with a simultaneous 5-day running average no more negative than -3750 cfs (within 25 percent).

Thanks you for your continued collaborative efforts to limit entrainment risk to Delta Smelt. Please call me if you have any questions or concerns at (916) 414-6469.



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May 3, 2016

Subject: Determination Under Component 2, Action 3 of the 2008 Coordinated Long-term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project Biological Opinion

Determination: The Service determines that Old and Middle River (OMR) flow should be no more negative than -3000 cfs on a 14-day running average, with a simultaneous 5-day running average no more negative than -3750 cfs (within 25 percent).

Previous Determination: On March 25, the Service determined that that OMR flow should be no more negative than -2500 cfs.

Rationale: Reclamation requested the Service consider a change in the OMR level to accommodate a pulse flow action on the San Joaquin River. Specifically, the Projects propose to maintain a consistent pumping rate of 2,600 cfs through May 24. This pumping rate will create a 14-day running average OMR flow of about -2,600 to -2,700 cfs by May 3. Changes in in-Delta consumptive use are anticipated to create more negative flow (approximately -2900 cfs to -3000 cfs) in the third week of May. Given current Delta conditions, results of the most recent 20mm survey and particle tracking modeling, and Smelt Working Group entrainment risk advice, the Service determines that the Projects' proposal should not cause a substantially greater entrainment risk so long as OMR flows are no more negative than -3000 cfs on a 14-day running average, with a simultaneous 5-day running average no more negative than -3750 cfs (within 25 percent). There has been salvage at low levels of export this year showing that some young-of-year Delta Smelt are already in the South Delta, and some salvage is therefore anticipated to continue at the current export rate. It is not anticipated that additional young-of-year Delta Smelt will be entrained into the Central and South Delta at these levels of export. However, given the depressed abundance of Delta Smelt and the importance of the larval and juvenile life stage, we believe that this continued OMR flow action is warranted. We are also concerned about maintaining adequate habitat conditions for juvenile Delta Smelt rearing in the west Delta throughout the late spring and summer. Reclamation has confirmed that this action will have no effect on their ability to meet the May X2 requirement or the ultimate position of X2 or outflow this summer.

We will continue to monitor conditions, including weather forecasts, Sacramento River flow levels, other Delta inflows, salvage, and survey results. If conditions indicate a change in risk of entrainment, we will reevaluate this determination.