

Determination of Actions Required Under Component 1 of the 2008 OCAP Biological Opinion  
March 1, 2010

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The Service has determined that OMR flows be no more negative than -5000 cfs on a 14-day average (no more negative than -6250 cfs on a 5-day average), as allowed under the RPA.

Delta temperatures have exceeded 12<sup>0</sup>C since February 14 and egg size in salvaged and survey females is approximately 0.9mm in diameter. This indicates that the spawning is underway and the juvenile protective phase of the biological opinion (RPA Component 2; Action 3) should now be implemented. This action will continue until June 30 or when the 3-day mean water temperature at Clifton Court Forebay reaches 25<sup>0</sup>C, whichever occurs earlier.

The Service's determination is based the Smelt Working Group (SWG) recommendation made on March 1, 2010. The SWG recommended OMR flows of no more negative than -5000 cfs. The group determined that the risk of adult entrainment remains low. Four adult delta smelt (16 expanded) have been salvaged at the CVP since February 22 and none at the SWP. Current hydrological conditions, results from the SKT #2, and the planned operations of the projects support this assessment.

The three-day, three-station average water temperature exceeded 12<sup>0</sup>C on February 14 and is now at 12.5<sup>0</sup>C, indicating that temperatures are appropriate for spawning. Given incubation rates at 12-13<sup>0</sup>C, the SWG expects that some larvae will have already entered the water column. However, large fractions of annual larval production are not expected until temperatures reach 15<sup>0</sup>C.

Cumulative take of adults is 56 out of the 123 take limit. If the salvage rate increases markedly, the SWG will reconvene for further discussion. The projects have initiated larval monitoring. No delta smelt larvae have been detected in salvage operations so far this season.