



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

JUN - 1 2016

Memorandum

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

From: Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region
Sacramento, California

Subject: June 1, 2016 Determination under Component 2 Action 3 of the 2008
Coordinated Long-term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water
Project 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 -5000 cfs, with a simultaneous 5-day running average no more negative than -6250 cfs (within 25 percent). As we stated in our May 3rd and now June 1st determinations, we remain concerned about maintaining adequate habitat conditions for juvenile Delta Smelt rearing in the west Delta throughout the late spring and summer. Last week, X2 was at about 74 km, a location that provides relatively good habitat conditions for Delta Smelt. Continuing to maintain X2 in this position would help to sustain Delta Smelt through the end of the water year. Allowing X2 to move no more eastward than 81 km through the end of the water is critical to maintaining adequate habitat quality for Delta Smelt. Without action to provide adequate habitat, we risk continued declines in Delta Smelt abundance. We appreciate your efforts to date to address our concerns and strongly encourage you to continue those efforts.

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

*Thank you for your
efforts to maintain
water to outflows.
to find
Ren*



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June 1, 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 -5000 cfs on a 14-day running average, with a simultaneous 5-day running average no more negative than -6250 cfs (within 25 percent).

Previous Determination: On May 3, the Service determined that that OMR flow should be no more negative than -3000 cfs.

Rationale: Given current Delta conditions, results of the most recent 20mm survey and Smelt Working Group entrainment risk advice, the Service determines that OMR flows should be no more negative than -5000 cfs on a 14-day running average, with a simultaneous 5-day running average no more negative than -6250 cfs (within 25 percent). Action 3 will remain in place until June 30 or until temperatures reach 25°C three day mean in Clifton Court Forebay to limit entrainment of young-of-year Delta Smelt. Given the depressed abundance levels, the Service maintains that sufficient habitat is needed to sustain Delta Smelt through the end of Water Year 2016 and into Water Year 2017. It is our understanding that D-1641 will require X2 to be maintained at Collinsville (81 km) in June. The quantity and quality of habitat available to Delta Smelt can be maximized by moving the Low Salinity Zone (LSZ) westward to more productive areas of the estuary. Allowing X2 to move no more eastward than 81 km through the end of Water Year 2016 is critical to maintaining adequate habitat quality by allowing the LSZ to move back and forth between eastern Suisun Bay and Marsh and the confluence where the low salinity water can intersect with the higher habitat diversity in that part of the estuary. Juvenile fish rearing in the LSZ will have access to most of the suitable abiotic habitat in Suisun Bay and eastern Suisun Marsh.

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.