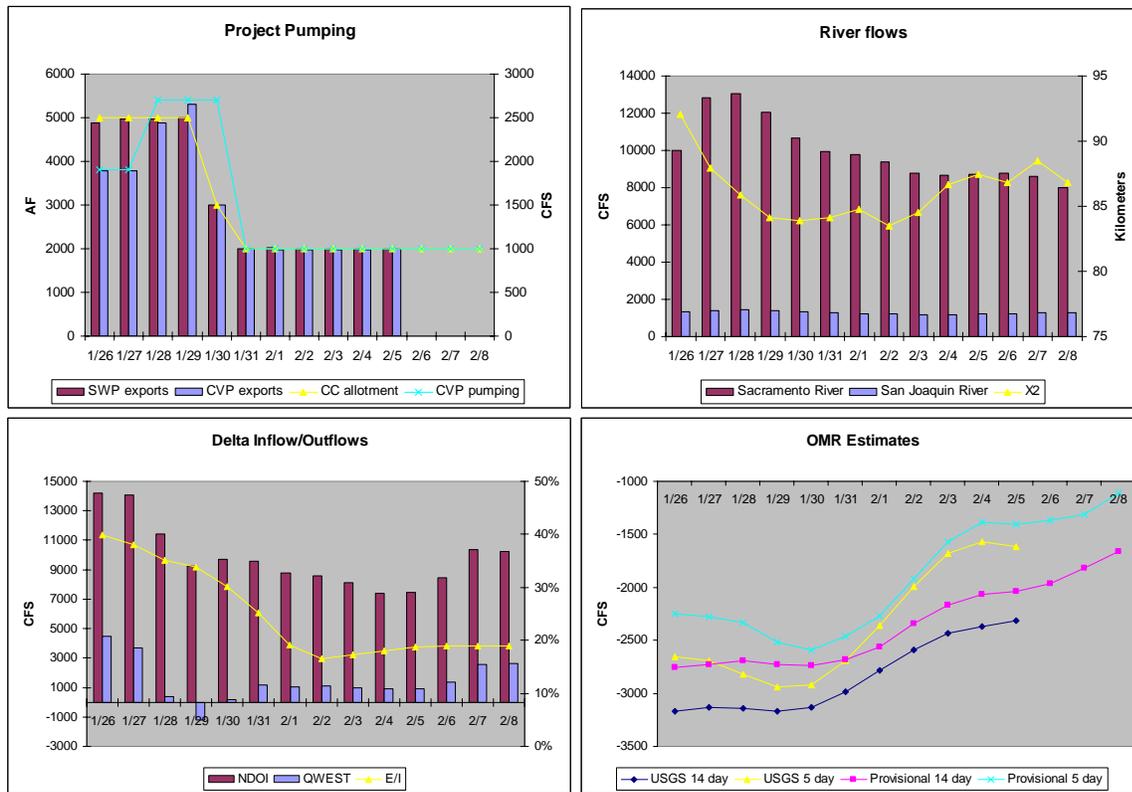


**Recommendation for the week of February 9, 2009:**

The catch of larval delta smelt in the Delta has triggered the start of Action 3 in the biological opinion, which requires OMR flows between -1250 and -5000. However, based on the current delta smelt distribution and low OMR flows, no OMR recommendation is necessary at this time.

1) Current environmental data.

Temperatures for the 3 station average is 11.4 C. Turbidity (as per the new BO, part B of Action 1) is 4.92 NTU. The provisional estimate by the projects is -1663 cfs for 14 day average, -1109 cfs for 5 day average. USGS OMR as of February 5 is -2317 cfs 14 day average and -1618 cfs for 5 day average. No salvage has been reported for either delta or longfin smelt through February 4. Graphs are depicted below.



2) Delta fish monitoring:

The Smelt Larval Survey #3 finished last week. In a supplemental SWG conference call on February 10, the group was informed that very small (~4 mm) larval delta smelt were caught near Chipps Island. These fish would be further verified in the lab, but due to their small size,

they were likely to be delta smelt and not longfin smelt. The Spring Kodiak Trawl Survey #2 begins this week. Results from previous larval surveys and the SKT are available online at: <http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/projects/?ProjectID=SKT>.

### 3) Discussion for Recommendation

The SWG was monitoring for the triggers (Part B) that would initiate Action 1. However, based on the information provided on February 10, the catch of larval delta smelt indicates that spawning has occurred, which triggers the start of Action 3. Action 3 requires OMR flows of -1,250 to -5,000 cfs based on a 14-day average with a simultaneous 5-day running average within 25% of the 14-day OMR flow requirement. No salvage has been recorded, and the turbidity average is 4.92 NTU.

### 4) Projects' letter to the SWRCB regarding February water quality standards

DWR and Reclamation submitted a letter to the SWRCB on February 5 requesting a temporary urgency relief from Delta outflow and San Joaquin River flow requirement at Vernalis. The Projects propose they will meet the X2 standard by maintaining a minimum daily net outflow of 7100cfs on a 3-day running average. The Service presented this letter to the SWG and requested technical assistance in drafting a response.