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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Pacific Southwest Region
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2606
Sacramento, California 95825



FEB - 5 2016

Memorandum

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

From: Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region
Sacramento, California 

Subject: February 5, 2016 Determination under Component 1 of the 2008 OCAP Biological Opinion

Attached, please find the subject determination. As noted, we find under Action 2 of the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative of the opinion that the 14-day average OMR should not be more negative than the -4000 cfs starting Sunday, February 7, 2016

We will work with you to closely monitor the situation over the coming days and make adjustments if needed. The next full review using the established Determination Process will include a Delta Conditions Team meeting on February 5 and subsequent review starting Monday, February 8, 2016.

Thank you for your actions to protect delta smelt and increase water operations flexibility. Please call me if you have any questions or concerns at (916) 414-6469.



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:

February 5, 2016

Subject: Determination Under Component 1, Action 2 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 can become more negative and -4000 could be implemented starting Sunday, February 7, 2016. After Sunday, OMR flow should be no more negative than -4000 cfs on a 14-day running average, with a simultaneous 5-day running average no more negative than -5000 cfs (within 25 percent), based on this determination.

Previous Determination: On January 26, the Service determined that OMR could become more negative at -500 cfs per day, such that an OMR flow of -3000 cfs OMR could be implemented on January 27 and -3500 cfs OMR could be implemented on January 28. Overall, the Service determined OMR flow should be no more negative than -3500 cfs on a 14-day running average, with a simultaneous 5-day running average no more negative than -3125 cfs (within 25 percent). This determination was continued on January 29.

Rationale: Based on current conditions, the Service determines that OMR flow of no more negative than -4000 cfs, starting February 7, 2016, on a 14-day running average, with a simultaneous 5-day running average no more negative than -5000 cfs (within 25 percent) is warranted. The more negative OMR flow in this determination than in the previous determination is based on our assessment of current conditions, including receding turbidity, a dry weather pattern, and the fact that we are now halfway through the adult season. However, we find that there is still an ongoing concern for entrainment risk of Delta Smelt documented in our previous determinations this year, including consistent confirmed presence of Delta Smelt at Prisoner's Point, fluctuating turbidities in the Old and Middle River corridors, and historically low abundance of Delta Smelt as evidenced by surveys in 2015 and 2016. In consideration of all of these factors we find that an OMR flow of no more negative than -4000 cfs starting February 7, 2016, is warranted at this time. Using the established Determination process, starting with a Delta Conditions Team review on February 5, we will begin the reevaluation of conditions on Monday, February 8. Additionally, we will continue to monitor conditions, including turbidity, Sacramento River and San Joaquin River flow levels, other Delta inflows, salvage, and the results of the Early Warning Surveys. If conditions change indicating increasing entrainment risk we will reevaluate our February 5, 2016, Determination.