



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Central Valley Operations Office
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 300
Sacramento, California 95821

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

CVO-100
ENV-7.00

APR 08 2014

MEMORANDUM

To: Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Attn: Michael A. Chotkowski

From: Ronald Milligan
Manager, Operations

Subject: Continuing Drought Response Measures Under the 2008 Coordinated Long-term Operations of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) Biological Opinion (2008 BiOp)

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is submitting the attached CVP and SWP Drought Operations Plan and Operational Forecast (Plan) that describes the proposed drought response measures for April 2014 through November 15, 2014, consistent with the Re-initiation Statement for consecutive dry or critically dry years in the 2008 BiOp. We are seeking concurrence of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) that the drought response actions proposed by Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in the Plan will result in no additional adverse effects to delta smelt or its critical habitat for the remainder of Water Year 2014 (WY 2014) beyond those analyzed in the 2008 BiOp.

The Plan developed in coordination with DWR, Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the State Water Resources Control Board, outlines proposed actions and a likely range of coordinated operation of the CVP and SWP through November 15, 2014. Severe drought conditions continue in California and Reclamation and DWR recognize that it is essential that the CVP and SWP operate to provide for, at a minimum, essential human health and safety needs for the remainder of WY 2014. In addition to health and safety needs the Plan's purposes include controlling of salinity intrusion in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, preserving cold water storage in project reservoirs, and maintaining minimum protections for endangered species and other fish and wildlife resources suffering from the ongoing drought. The Plan will be modified based on evolving information which could include additional conditions in the State Water Resources Control Board regulatory approvals as well as Federal Endangered Species Act and California Endangered Species Act requirements. DWR and Reclamation also intend to continue to refine the Plan as hydrological and biological information become available.

Reclamation and DWR will be submitting a revised Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUC) to the State Water Resources Control Board to incorporate these drought response actions as needed. Both the revised TUC and the Plan propose to utilize the Real Time Drought Operations Management Team for management of drought operational activities through WY 2014.

We appreciate the assistance we have received from the Service and look forward to your response. Please contact me at 916-979-2199 if you have any questions.

Attachment - 1

cc: Mr. Chuck Bonham
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