



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

Ms. Maria Rea
Assistant Regional Administrator
California Central Valley Area Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Contingency Plan for Water Year 2014 (WY 2014) Pursuant to Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) Action 1.2.3.C of the 2009 Coordinated Long-term Operation of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) Biological Opinion (2009 BiOp)

Dear Ms. Rea:

By letter dated February 28, 2014, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) concurred that the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) and the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Interim Contingency Plan for March 2014, as modified by revised Delta Cross Channel Gate closure criteria, is consistent with RPA Action 1.2.3.C, and later concurred with adjustments to the Interim Contingency Plan made on March 14, 2014. Reclamation now requests concurrence from NMFS that the operations described in the attached CVP and SWP Drought Operations Plan and Operational Forecast (Plan) are within the limits of the Incidental Take Statement of the BiOp and serves as the Contingency Plan for the remainder of WY 2014 in accordance with RPA Action 1.2.3.C. Additional, Reclamation requests concurrence that CVP and SWP operations described in the Plan concerning RPA Action IV.2.1 are within the limits of the Incidental Take Statement.

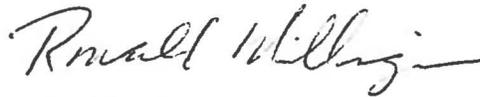
The Plan developed in coordination with DWR, NMFS, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the State Water Resources Control Board, outlines proposed actions and a likely range of coordinated operation of the CVP and SWP through November 15, 2014. Severe drought 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 throughout WY 2014.

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

Sincerely,



Ronald Milligan
Manager, Operations

Enclosure -1

cc: Mr. Chuck Bonham
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