



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

IN REPLY REFER TO:

BDO-100
ENV-7.00

AUG 02 2016

William W. Stelle, Jr.
Regional Administrator, West Coast Region
National Marine Fisheries Service
7600 Sand Point Way Northeast
Seattle, WA 98115

Subject: Request to Engage in Adaptive Management Provision of 2009 Biological Opinion for the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA), section 11.2.1.2

Dear Mr. Stelle:

We are submitting this letter to request the use of the adaptive management provision outlined in the RPA, section 11.2.1.2, of the 2009 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion (2009 BiOp) relating to Shasta Reservoir operations (collectively, Shasta RPA). The primary reasons for this request include recent multiple years of drought conditions, new science and modeling, and data demonstrating low population levels of endangered Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon and threatened Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*).

We would like to coordinate with you on possible modifications to the Shasta RPA that reflect temperature management approaches learned during ongoing drought over the last 3 years. As evidenced over recent years, we remain committed to continuing to engage with NMFS on 2009 BiOp implementation efforts. This commitment includes continued monitoring and coordination of operational activities to address species needs.

As modifications to the Shasta RPA are developed, we will request the ongoing participation of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). As you are aware, the limited resources available for meeting both water supply and environmental needs has proven particularly challenging these past few years. Specifically, we feel the needs of federally-listed salmonid species and Delta Smelt should be given equal consideration and we support efforts to engage the Service in conversations related to the Shasta RPA modifications in order to ensure equivalent coordination among regulatory agencies.

We appreciate the continued collaboration with NMFS to address the suite of water management challenges we have faced throughout this drought, and look forward to jointly developing effective modifications to the Shasta RPA with your staff. If you have any questions, please

contact Ms. Michelle Banonis, Bay-Delta Area Manager, at 916-414-2401 or at mbanonis@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David G. Murillo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "D" and "M".

David G. Murillo
Regional Director

cc: Mr. Ren Lohofener
Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2606
Sacramento, CA 95825

Mr. Charlton Bonham
Director
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Mark Cowin
Director
California Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1115-1
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