

## List of Follow-up Actions Provided to Reclamation by Customers and Stakeholders

September 3, 2013

### Draft – For Discussion Purposes

This list was developed as a result of suggestions that were made during Reclamation's 2013/2014 water year meetings with customers and stakeholders. The meetings were conducted over a several week period in June 2013, and meetings continued in to mid-July, to discuss current water operations and ongoing water supply challenges. Stakeholders in attendance who generated this list include representatives from tribes, north of the Delta and south of the Delta water and power contractors and refuges, American River and Stanislaus River stakeholders; non-governmental organizations; and Contra Costa Water District. As noted in number 2 below, Reclamation committed at those meetings to sending out a summary of stakeholder suggested follow-up actions, and this is that list.

This list is reflective of actions that Reclamation will consider; it is not a commitment to carry any particular action forward. This first version of the list is in no priority and does not reflect Reclamation's view of importance. It is just a reflection of the requests that were made. The list does not yet contain timelines and steps to be taken; these will follow, for those that will be achievable in the 2014 water year.

Reclamation's goal is to prioritize the list and provide specific timelines on those actions that will be addressed prior to the 2014 water year. There are a fair number of requests that were made and due to limited resources and the short amount of time remaining in the 2013 water year Reclamation will not be able to address each idea prior to the beginning of the 2014 water year. Reclamation will prioritize the list of follow-up actions provided by customers and stakeholders to focus on achievability, additional operations flexibility, and value added to CVP operations as a whole.

As Reclamation moves through this effort, this list will be used to help develop strategies, which will be finalized by Oct 1, 2013, in support of the 2014 water year. In general, the strategies will be aimed at minimizing the negative impacts to affected CVP customers and stakeholders associated with a potential dry 2014 water year.

1. **Establish Follow-up Meetings:** Report back to customers and stakeholders by the end of September on the status of this list in terms of feasibility, priority and timeframes.

Status: A follow up meeting was held on July 26, and another is scheduled for September 4.

Meeting materials are being posted at:

[http://www.usbr.gov/mp/Waters\\_Supply\\_Meetings/Previous\\_Meetings/index.html](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/Waters_Supply_Meetings/Previous_Meetings/index.html)

2. **Provide List of Follow-up Actions Provided to Reclamation by Stakeholders:** Distribute this list to customers and stakeholders to review.



in order to employ some other means to decompose rice straw than the usual use of water. In addition, Reclamation was asked to consider the impacts of no water being delivered to the Lower Klamath refuges, which may result in more waterfowl migrating towards the Sacramento Valley refuges. Reclamation is currently evaluating the above options and impacts.

The timeline needed to implement a program of this type precludes an action this fall that could augment supplies in WY 2014. The primary concerns are loss to migratory waterfowl habitat in a dry year and possible air quality effects. Addressing these concerns will likely require a NEPA process that will take longer than available given this action would need to be up and running in October of this year. One option is to formulate a pilot program in conjunction with GCID (and possibly other Sacramento River Settlement Contractors) and the UC Davis School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences to evaluate the long-term viability of a rotation program to mix decomposition with mechanical means address rice straw. An action to coordinate rice decomposition and fall-run Chinook salmon spawning is addressed under item 22.

6. **Old and Middle River Index:** Develop a pilot project to test if using an index, rather than actual USGS gauge data to determine OMR negative-reverse flow, enables compliance with the BO in winter 2013 and spring 2014.

Status: A proposal for a pilot project is currently being written with the goal of implementation by December 2013.

7. **CVP/SWP Coordination Operations Agreement (COA):**

- a. **2013 Debt:** Determine whether the debt that accrued this spring can be repaid with storage from Shasta.

Status: The debt incurred this spring has been repaid.

- b. **2014 Long-term Issues:** Assess the utility of a near-term comprehensive review of COA as outlined in the agreement.

Status: Any attempt to propose long-term adjustments to COA will take a fair amount of time and coordination to develop. This effort cannot come to closure by the beginning of the 2014 water year, therefore, addressing this action will occur under a separate process.

8. **Adult Delta Smelt Incidental Take Statement (ITS):** In cooperation with Federal and State water contractors and the USFWS, develop data and processes that support revisiting the current 2008 BO adult delta smelt ITS calculation methodology.

Status: The goal in this effort is to ensure Reclamation complies with the ESA and protects the delta smelt in a manner that may allow more flexibility in operating the CVP and SWP. Reclamation has begun to develop proposed options that will be discussed with the appropriate parties before being finalized, with a target date of November 2013.

This action has been further broken out in to two projects, identified below: 8a. Population Dynamics Modelings (long-term); and 8b. New Estimation Method (short-term).

**8a. Long-term Population Dynamics Modeling Effort to Revise Adult Delta Smelt Incidental Take Statement:** This effort, being accomplished by the FWS, includes development of a life cycle model (LCM) for delta smelt that would allow the incidental take limit (as defined in the incidental take statement) to be determined by the use of population dynamics versus the focus on entrainment of delta smelt at the pumps between December and March timeframe as is now used in the 2008 BO.

Status: FWS plans to have a draft of the LCM by late fall 2013, a final LCM (that has been peer reviewed) in 2014, with the goal of implementing the new population dynamic estimates in 2015.

**8b. Short-term New Estimation Method Based on New Range of Years Adult Delta Smelt Incidental Take Statement:** This effort would result in a new Cumulative Salvage Index (CSI) calculation based on a selection of additional years than is currently in the BO. (2006-2008 are the years in the current BO.) This new CSI would then be used to determine the Cumulative Expanded Salvage.

Status: Reclamation staff is coordinating with State and Federal water contractor staff to develop a proposal that will then be provided to FWS for consideration. A proposal is expected to be provided to FWS in late Fall 2013 for implementation in December 2013-January 2014.

**9. Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives Modifications:** Coordinate with south of Delta interests regarding opportunities for short-term modifications to existing BO RPA actions to identify opportunities that these interests can provide assistance via scientific, policy, or legislative support.

Status: South of Delta interests would like Reclamation to address RPA actions that create challenges for water supply deliveries. Efforts as part of this 2013/2014 exercise are meant to address actions that are achievable and will provide results within the 2013/2014 water years.

This action has been further broken out in to five projects, identified below: 9a. Development of New and Refinement of Existing Turbidity Modeling Tools for the Delta Smelt ITS; 9b. OMR Modifications; 9c. Smelt Working Group; 9d. San Joaquin River I/E Ratio; and 9e. Salmonid Genetic Testing.

**9a. Development of New and Refinement of Existing Turbidity Modeling Tools for the Delta Smelt Incidental Take Statement:** OMR and Turbidity are key predictors of delta smelt salvage. MWD and DWR are developing a turbidity forecast model aimed at predicting turbidity conditions that lead to delta smelt entrainment events. Specifically, the model will be used to determine the magnitude and duration of conditions that create a turbidity bridge for delta smelt to move between the central Delta and the export pumps.

Status: In a presentation provided on August 12 by State and Federal water contractors, new modeling

tools are expected to be available in late Fall 2013 for use in the December 2013-January 2014 timeframe.

- 9b. OMR Modifications:** Reclamation will, in cooperation with DWR, FWS, NMFS, and DFW, work to develop opportunities to modify OMR within the bounds of the BO in the December to June timeframe to improve SOD pumping.

Status: Reclamation will determine what might be possible within the existing BOs. After this initial effort, meetings with State and Federal agencies will be initiated to determine what is possible and then a workplan will be developed.

- 9c. Smelt Working Group (SWG):** Reclamation will, in cooperation with DWR, FWS, and DFW and Stakeholder groups, work to develop revisions to how the Smelt Working Group functions in an effort to improve coordination and information sharing between the SWG and the WOMT.

Status: Reclamation will initiate a workgroup to look at the options for SWG efforts. Once an initial plan is developed, coordination with DWR, FWS, and DFW will take place. The goal will be to develop recommended improvements to process and decision making.

- 9d. San Joaquin River I:E Ratio Experiments:** Through the South Delta Salmonid Research Collaborative (SDSRC) working group, Reclamation is working with State, Federal agencies and Stakeholders to determine appropriate experiments to evaluate fish movements as a result of I:E ratio requirements as mandated by the BO. Additionally, the 6-year steelhead survival study results will be used to inform future experiments.

Status: The SDSRC has been meeting for about 9 months and has made good progress on conceptual models for looking at the effect of the I:E ratio. Reclamation is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of 6 for the lower San Joaquin River steelhead survival study (RPA IV.2.2). Coordination will continue between these two efforts to develop an experimental design to be implemented by in Water Year 2014. A plan is expected in December 2013.

- 9e. Salmonid Genetic Testing:** Opportunities exist to improve genetic testing of salmonids salvaged at the Tracy Fish Facility. Genetic evaluation is a part of the Term and Condition 2a of the 2009 NMFS BO. Including genetic information in the loss equation could increase accuracy in estimating annual and seasonal loss estimates of different ESUs of Chinook salmon.

Status: Reclamation's Bay-Delta Office submitted a requisition in July 2012 for a laboratory contract that included genetic testing evaluation and are planning on a 2014 contract award.

- 10. Water Transfers:** Look at further streamlining Reclamation's water transfer process.

Status: Reclamation continues to try to improve the water transfer process. Current timelines for transfers range from one to five weeks long depending on the complexity and type of transfer. Some

transfers may require additional State board approval. The goal is to have any adjustments that will shorten our time to approve transfers in place by the end of September 2013.

In the last two weeks, Reclamation has met with SLDMWA, DWR, north of Delta sellers and south of Delta buyers. The buyers and sellers are currently developing a list of 2014 transfers that will form the basis of needed environmental compliance for the 2014 water transfer program. Reclamation is working with DWR to focus on procedural efficiencies that will facilitate 2014 transfers that require both DWR and Reclamation involvement; and is coordinating with SLDMWA on applicability of project energy and storability of transfer water in San Luis. All of these discussions will continue this fall.

**11. San Joaquin River Restoration Program 2013 Flows:** Provide a justification for the 2013 plan to “connect the river”, and look for ways to maximize recapture and recirculation.

Status: Reclamation will provide the following explanation for providing flows to connect the river: Reclamation must accomplish the following to allow Interim Flows to pass Sack Dam: (1) complete the seepage easement appraisals and successfully negotiate easements and/or update the Seepage Management Plan; *and* (2) complete the flowage easement appraisals and successfully negotiate easements. The seepage easements or updates to the Seepage Management Plan are necessary to ensure the commitments in the Program Record of Decision and the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act are met. The flowage easements are necessary to ensure we have the appropriate rights to flood private property. In general, the Settlement provides no discretion to the Secretary to choose to release flows or to choose to reduce flows in certain reaches of the river. Paragraph 13(g) of the Settlement sets flow targets in each reach of the river from Friant Dam to the Merced River. The Settlement calls for flows to be released up to “then existing channel capacity”. The only reductions in flows allowed for in the Settlement are due to inspection or maintenance of CVP facilities or emergency situations. The Settlement Act authorizes and directs the Secretary to implement the Settlement, including the flow releases. The Settlement Act also specifies that flows are to be released up to “then existing channel capacity” and allows for reductions in Interim Flows due to material adverse impacts from seepage. If channel capacity exists to release the flows and convey them to the Merced River confluence, then both the Settlement and Settlement Act direct the Secretary to do so.

Reclamation will continue to look at ways to maximize the recapture and recirculation of applicable flows; and will have the recapture and recirculation plan completed in 2014.

**12. Improve Operational Coordination with CCWD:** Improve coordination between CVP/SWP operations and CCWD operations related to Delta conditions, points of diversion, and filling of Los Vaqueros through the summer and fall.

Status: Reclamation is holding weekly coordination calls with CCWD. Improved coordination will benefit the CVP and CCWD by increasing the likelihood of mutually beneficial operations in the future. Reclamation will propose a meeting in the fall to improve processes for the coming water year.

**13. South of Delta Impacts from Various CVP Requirements:** Respond to concerns that various legal and regulatory impacts on CVP SOD water supplies are inequitably borne by Westside SOD water

service contractors, and exercise discretion to more broadly distribute impacts to all CVP contractors.

Status: Reclamation will have discussions with the SOD contractors on how policy decisions are made with respect to regulatory requirements, what options are available and are being taken to address this concern. These discussions will occur in 2013 and continue into 2014.

- 14. Coordination and Forecasting:** Develop a plan for future coordination and forecasting of water demands (particularly as it relates to NOD diverters).

Status: An initial step taken is covered in action # 5 above. Further, Reclamation will work with the appropriate water users in order to improve coordination. Specific steps identified will be followed in a manner that will increase coordination for the 2014 water year.

- 15. Refuge Water Supply:** Identify opportunities to lessen the impact on water contractors of meeting CVP refuge obligations through coordinated operations and management of refuge water supplies.

a. **Demand Scheduling:** Work with NOD refuges on the possibility of attenuating their fall demand.

b. **Reallocation of Supplies:** Review options for using Level 2 water that is unused at some refuges for other refuges.

c. **Supply Flexibility:** Consider options for strategic and prioritized water deliveries to certain refuges based on the time of their various water needs.

Status: Reclamation's Refuge Water Supply Program team will investigate these suggestions and report back as progress at the next customer and stakeholder meeting. Any viable options will be explored in 2013 and implemented beginning in the 2014 water year.

- 16. Improve Hatchery Operational Coordination with North of Delta Diverters:** Develop a plan for better future coordination of water demands during high diversion periods.

Status: Concerns were expressed that at times hatchery fish releases if coordinated properly could have coincided with adequate natural flows, which would have prevented the release of stored water to support the effort. To address this concern, Reclamation will increase ongoing coordination with the California and U.S Fish and Wildlife Services and other hatchery partners beginning this fall.

- 17. North of Delta Rescheduling:** Investigate the opportunity for a pilot program in 2013 to allow rescheduling for Sacramento Valley agricultural water service contractors.

Status: Reclamation met with stakeholders during the week of July 1<sup>st</sup> on this and is currently discussed the potential for a pilot project. A decision was made not to pursue rescheduling in 2013.

- 18. Expand Forecasting/Planning Horizon:** Address interest in expanding the water supply planning

horizon beyond 12 months.

Status: Reclamation will explore with our contractors whether or not expanding the water supply planning horizon past 12 months is viable or valuable. Reclamation will identify any options by the end of 2013 water year.

**19. Folsom Intake Protection:** Avoid Folsom water levels that daylight M&I intakes.

Status: This fall and winter should dry conditions persist, Reclamation will convene a meeting with American river stakeholder to discuss options to meet minimal river flows for fisheries and downstream diversions while ensuring the Folsom M&I intake remains operational. In the event the lake level is forecasted to fall below the M&I intake after reasonable actions are taken for conservation, then installation of a temporary pump system will be pursued.

**20. Compensation for Folsom Power Bypass:** Develop a long-term plan to compensate for foregone power generation when bypass of the Folsom Power plant is necessary for cold water management for non-listed fish species.

Status: Reclamation is currently exploring options and will keep affected interests informed of options and of status before a bypass occurs in 2013. There is a planned bypass in the October timeframe.

**21. Storage Studies:** Address Contra Costa's questions and comments on the Los Vaqueros Expansion and Shasta storage studies.

Status: Reclamation is rescheduling the July 11 all day workshop that was canceled, to update the CVP operating partners on the status for all storage studies. Our partners were unable to attend the original date in July. Reclamation is also actively pursuing the feasibility for accelerated completion for all or some of the storage studies.

**22. GGSA Salmon Projects:** Work with the Golden Gate Salmon Association on their list of projects that might help mitigate current and forecast drought issues.

Status: Reclamation is working closely with GGSA in assessing the feasibility and viability of individual projects that would be applicable to the 2014 water year, either as presented or in some modified form. These projects include:

Project A.1 – Delta Cross Channel Electrical Barrier: Temporary electrical barrier at the confluence of the Delta Cross Channel and the Mokelumne River to reduce straying of Mokelumne fish. This project is in plan formulation.

Project B.1 - Sacramento River Gravel Augmentation: Identification of additional sites for spawning and rearing habitat projects. The project team completed a site visit on 7/29 and is currently formulating alternatives.

Project B.9 – Sacramento River Flows: Coordination and development of pulse flows for

temperature and migration queues. This project is being chartered.

Project B.9(b) – Sacramento River Temperature Facilities: Modifications to physical infrastructure to improve management of the cold water pool. This project has been chartered and is currently developing a management plan.

Project B.10 – Painter’s Riffle: Excavation of a historical engineered side channel near Redding, CA. This project is included within B.1 and a potential parallel track is under discussion with GCID for earlier completion.

Project B.11 – Sacramento River Stranding: Coordination of rice decomposition diversions with GCID and other Sacramento River Settlement Contractors. The project has been formulated and environmental compliance is underway.

An action to increase water supplies through alternatives to rice decomposition water is underway as item 5.

**23. Long-term Water Transfer Process:** Continue to work on long-term water transfer NEPA compliance.

Status: Reclamation will provide a list of all 2013 transfers and is continuing to work on the long term Water transfer EIS that is expected to be released in the fall of 2014.

**24. San Joaquin River Restoration Program Recapture:** Review options for using recaptured San Joaquin River Restoration Program flows for refuge supplies.

Status: Reclamation will continue to work closely with Friant Water Users to facilitate using recaptured/recirculated water for refuge purposes. In most cases, these will take the form of sales or exchanges. In coordination with Friant and the refuges Reclamation will identify any 2013 and 2014 water recapture opportunities as early as possible.

**25. Relief from Water Quality Objectives:** Work closely with State and Federal resource agencies to consider opportunities to request relief from or modification to various water quality objectives if such objectives have disproportionately high water supply impacts or shift a significant fishery concern to another part of the system. For example, petition the State Board to move the dissolved oxygen objective compliance point from Ripon to the Orange Blossom Bridge.

Status: Reclamation is forecasting and closely monitoring the ability to meet water rights conditions and will closely coordinate with water users and agencies should any relaxation be needed.

**26. Acquire Non-CVP Water:** Pursue San Joaquin transfers to augment water supplies for agricultural, refuge, instream, and other purposes.

Status: Reclamation continues to make progress on this action and expects to know more about potential sources in a couple of months.

**27. Warren Act Contracts at New Melones:** Investigate New Melones/Stanslaus River Operations to facilitate valid water transfers.

Status: Reclamation is working directly with non-CVP water users in the Stanislaus River Basin and is considering whether such a request could be met without harming the CVP.

**28. Other Actions:** Receive and add actions to this list based on follow-up email input. Status: Additional actions have not been received.