

Central Valley Project (CVP) Stakeholder 2013/2014 Water Supply Meeting Notes

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

July 10, 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 will continue 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 will be coordinated.

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

Status: This list is being transmitted the week of July 8, 2013.

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3. **Public Relations:** Develop press release on the current water situation.

Status: Reclamation is willing to consider a press release provided it is fact-based and could be developed in a manner that does not create unnecessary controversy.

Solicitation for input will go out within the next few weeks. Since strategies developed will need to be included in the release, if Reclamation determines one is needed, a press release will be issued by September 2013.

4. **Lower Klamath River Fall Flows for Fall-run Chinook Salmon:**

- a. **2013 Develop plan for protecting fishery resources.**

- i. **Consultation:** Address SOD concerns that Reclamation has a contractual obligation to consult on issues affecting them, particularly as it relates to Trinity releases.
- ii. **CVP Cost Allocations:** Address interest in adjusting CVP cost allocations to mitigate for water and power impacts from Trinity Releases

Status: Reclamation has had internal discussions on the proposed release and is analyzing the proposed action in a draft NEPA document (EA) scheduled for release on or about July 16. Many of the affected parties will be informed of the proposed action the week of July 8, 2013.

- b. **2014 Develop plan for the long-term protection of fishery resources.**

Status: A draft proposal for a long-term plan will be available for review by the end of calendar year 2013.

5. **Rice Straw Decomposition:** Work with north of Delta districts to:

- a. Better coordinate river diversions for their rice decomposition water needs in the fall of 2013.
- b. Investigate alternatives to decomposition in the fall of 2013 as a way to conserve water supplies.

Status: In addressing this request Reclamation must consider that rice growers may seek funding 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.

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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:**

- 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 be delayed until further notice.

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.

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

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2013/2014 water years. Those RPA's that Reclamation can be addressed by November 2013 are contained in this list of follow up actions. Reclamation will take the lead in coordinating these efforts.

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.

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 justification for providing flows to connect the at the next water users status meeting. 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.

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14. **Coordination and Forecasting:** Develop 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 summer. Specific steps identified will be implemented in 2014 water year, or in 2013 if increased coordination is needed during the summer of 2013.

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

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Status: Reclamation met with stakeholders during the week of July 1st on this and is currently discussing a pilot project. A decision on whether or not to proceed should be made by the end of July 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.

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

Status: Reclamation is convening an all day workshop with our storage study partners on July 11th to provide a status for all the storage studies. 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.

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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.

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: In coordination with water users, Reclamation continues to look to acquire water for all CVP purposes from non-CVP water users on Sacramento and San Joaquin tributaries.

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

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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.