Ms. Maria Rea
Supervisor
Central Valley Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
Sacramento, CA 95814-4708

Dear Ms. Rea:

Enclosed for your review and concurrence is the Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Implementation Plan (Implementation Plan). This Implementation Plan was prepared jointly by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Bureau of Reclamation to address two specific actions set forth in the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) included in the 2009 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion and Conference Opinion on the Long-term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project (Operation BO):

- RPA Action I.6.1: Restoration of Floodplain Rearing Habitat, through the increase of seasonal inundation within the lower Sacramento River basin; and
- RPA Action I.7: Reduce Migratory Delays and Loss of Salmon, Steelhead, and Sturgeon, through the modification of Fremont Weir and other structures of the Yolo Bypass.

This Implementation Plan describes the objectives and performance measures for these actions, potential actions for further evaluation, the process and timeline to implement RPA Actions I.6.1 and I.7, and a few proposed refinements to RPA Actions I.6.1 and I.7. The Implementation Plan incorporates comments received from NMFS, California Department of Fish and Game, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Reclamation requests NMFS concurrence with the Implementation Plan by September 28, 2012, so that Reclamation and DWR can initiate the environmental compliance process for implementing RPA Actions I.6.1 and I.7 as described in the Implementation Plan. Your concurrence may be in the form of a separate letter prepared by NMFS or by signing the concurrence form included on the following page.
If you have any questions regarding the enclosed material or require more information, please contact Mrs. Becky Victorine, Natural Resource Specialist, at 916-414-2429, or rvictorine@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Fry
Area Manager

Enclosure

Concur:

Maria Rea
Supervisor, Central Valley Office

Date

cc: Mr. Dan Castleberry
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way, W-2606
Sacramento, CA 95825

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California Natural Resources Agency
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