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MAY 2 3 2018

Dr. John Callaway
Delta Science Program
Delta Stewardship Council
980 9th Street, Suite 1450
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Response to the Delta Science Program and Independent Review Panel Report on the Yolo Bypass Salmon Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Analytical Tool Review

Dear Dr. Callaway:

The Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) would like to thank the Delta Science Program (DSP) and Independent Review Panel (IRP) for participating in the Yolo Bypass Salmon Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Analytical Tool Review.

Reclamation and DWR are responsible for implementing the National Marine Fisheries Service reasonable and prudent alternative (RPA) in the 2009 Biological Opinion on the Coordinated Long-term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. The RPA includes Actions I.6.1 and I.7 to increase juvenile floodplain rearing habitat and improve adult fish passage for Endangered Species Act-listed salmonids and sturgeon. Reclamation and DWR have developed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the California Environmental Quality Act. For this effort, Reclamation and DWR have utilized a suite of analytical tools to evaluate alternatives. Reclamation and DWR requested that the DSP review these analytical tools with respect to hydrodynamics, fishes, and agricultural economics.

We value the detailed report and feedback received. We acknowledge the IRP's statements regarding the need to better document elements of uncertainty for several of the tools. In the Final EIS/EIR, we plan to address uncertainties by more clearly documenting model approaches. Additionally, we will specifically identify potential areas of integration among the tools. Reclamation and DWR agree with the IRP's statement that the "body of scientific investigation

represents a remarkably comprehensive assessment of options." We are confident moving forward with the EIS/EIR process based on the IRP's finding that the tools are appropriate for selecting a notch location and configuration (i.e., selecting a Project alternative).

Prior to completing the EIR/EIS process, Reclamation and DWR will use updated hydrodynamic data to refine the SRH2D flow model and to develop a 3D flow model and will consider how improvements can be made based on the IRP's recommendations, specifically regarding integration of the various tools. Once an alternative is selected, the optimization, implementation, and adaptive management processes will each benefit from enhanced integration among tools.

The model developers and fish biologists will work together to develop a collaborative Science Work Plan. The objective of this work plan is to improve the ability of these tools to assist with selecting a preferred alternative, optimizing a final design, and ultimately implementing and adaptively-managing the selected alternative.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Ben Nelson of Reclamation at bcnelson@usbr.gov or 916-414-2424 or Ms. Karen Enstrom of DWR at Karen.enstrom@water.ca.gov or 916-376-9788.

Sincerely,

David M. Mooney
Area Manager
Bay-Delta Office
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Dean Messer
Chief
Division of Environmental Services
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