



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Interior Region 10
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825-1898

OCT - 1 2019

IN REPLY REFER TO:

MP-100
2.1.4.17

Mr. Charlton H. Bonham
Director
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, California 94244-2090

Dear Director Bonham:

This is in response to your September 24, 2019 letter regarding the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) proposed Fall X2 action for fall 2019.

Reclamation developed the proposed Fall X2 action in a transparent manner and in coordination with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). Consistent with applicable law, Reclamation worked with the Service to address new information and science concerning the delta smelt and habitat. Following the coordination between Reclamation and the Service, the Service determined that it "[did] not anticipate any sustained impact to the physical or biological factors that compromise the . . . suitability" for the delta smelt's critical habitat.

Reclamation's proposed Fall X2 action for fall 2019 is sound, science-based, and lawful. Moreover, in the event that 2020 is a dry year, the proposed Fall X2 action provides a safeguard by allowing Reclamation to store more cold water in the near term for future water temperature management that may be needed for endangered salmon.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) decision to not support Reclamation's proposed Fall X2 action for fall 2019 disregards this progress (described above), as well as the investments in science over the past decade to implement alternatives for meeting the overlapping temperature, turbidity, food, and other habitat needs of delta smelt, in addition to salinity. Nonetheless, as a matter of comity and in response to your request, Reclamation no longer intends to implement its proposed Fall X2 action during October 2019.

Reclamation values its relationships with CDFW, the California Department of Water Resources, and the California Natural Resources Agency. Going forward, it is my hope that these state agencies will continue to work collaboratively with Reclamation on important water resources issues such as the Voluntary Agreements and the anticipated Record of Decision for the Reinitiation of Consultation for Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project.

INTERIOR REGION 10 • CALIFORNIA-GREAT BASIN

CALIFORNIA*, NEVADA*, OREGON*

* PARTIAL

If you or your staff have addition questions or would like to discuss further, please contact myself or David Mooney at (916) 414-2400, dmmooney@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,



Ernest A. Conant
Regional Director

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