



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825-1898

FEB 15 2006

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

MP-730
WTR-4.10

Ms. Celeste Cantu
Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

106
~~DKR~~
VACW
Div. Control
~~DKR/GKT~~
due 3/30/06

Subject: Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC) Recirculation Study Revised Plan of Action (POA) 0.06.17

Dear Ms. Cantu:

In accordance with the requirements of Revised Water Right Decision 1641 (D-1641) on page 153, and in response to your letter dated July 13, 2005, the Bureau of Reclamation hereby submits its Revised POA for the DMC Recirculation Study. As requested in your July 13th letter, the enclosed Revised POA generally describes the actions that will be taken to satisfy the requirements of D-1641 and a timeline for completion of those actions.

Questions regarding this Revised POA may be referred to Mr. Gerald Robbins, Project Manager, at 916-978-5061, or Ms. Jo Ann Struebing, Regional Water Rights Officer, at 916-978-5249.

Sincerely,

Alan R. Candlish
Regional Planning Officer

Enclosure

REVISED PLAN OF ACTION
Delta-Mendota Canal
Recirculation Study

AUTHORITY

Reclamation is proceeding with the study of recirculation alternatives according to project objectives included in the CALFED Programmatic Record of Decision and State Water Rights Decision 1641 (D-1641) under General Planning Investigations authority granted for appraisal level planning investigations. Currently, there is a partial appraisal study of alternatives based upon a Plan of Action that was developed in 2000. With recent passage of the CALFED Bay-Delta Authorization Act (Public Law 108-361), Reclamation now has the authority to initiate a federal feasibility study.

FUNDING

Reclamation has spent approximately \$200,000 to date on Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC) recirculation investigation studies. The General Planning Investigations authorities provided the federal funding for the partial appraisal study in an effort to identify federal interest in conducting a feasibility investigation. Appraisal studies are accomplished by the Reclamation Mid-Pacific Regional Office as programmed line items in the Region's General Planning Investigations budget. With the federal authority granted in Public Law 108-361, Reclamation is developing a Plan of Study (POS) to initiate the recirculation feasibility study consistent with the established objectives of D-1641 and requirements of Public Law 108-361. Once the POS is completed, the feasibility study will be initiated based on the framework established in the POS. This study/investigation will analyze recirculation at a higher level of detail to determine whether there is a federal interest and a feasible alternative consistent with the "Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies, March 10, 1983."

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the DMC Recirculation Feasibility Study (Study) is to determine whether recirculation is the most effective and feasible method for meeting and/or augmenting the Vernalis flow objective and San Joaquin River water quality standards. The Study is intended to include the remaining requirements of D-1641 in relation to page 153 of Order WR 2000-02, revised March 15, 2000.

TASK DESCRIPTIONS

1. Complete POS
 - Define approach to Study
 - Identify detailed activities
 - Submit final detailed project schedule
 - Provide project cost estimates
2. Initiate feasibility study
3. Complete tech memo: "Impact on Native Fish, Fall Run Chinook, and Steelhead"
4. Initiate early (limited) ESA consultation for impacts on endangered fish species
5. Obtain non-federal partner commitment for cost-sharing
6. Initiate public involvement program
7. Complete draft EIS/EIR and feasibility study
8. Initiate formal ESA consultation for the entire project
9. Submit Record of Decision/Notice of Determination
10. Complete 404 permit process

SCHEDULE

<u>Task</u>	<u>Duration**</u>
Complete POS	5 months from current date
Initiate feasibility study	upon federal appropriation
Complete tech memo: "Impact on Native Fish, ..."	6 months after appropriation
Consult with State Water Board*	10 months after appropriation
Complete early (limited) ESA consultation	10 months after appropriation
Obtain non-federal partner commitment	first year after appropriation
Initiate public involvement program	12 months after appropriation
Complete draft EIS/EIR and feasibility study	24 months after appropriation
Complete final EIS/EIR and feasibility study	35 months after appropriation
Submit Record of Decision/Notice of Determination	37 months after appropriation
Complete 404 permit process	37 months after appropriation

* The purpose of consultation with the State Water Board will be to evaluate D-1641 issues.

**Completion of many of these tasks is dependent upon appropriation of funds by the federal government and obtaining a cost-sharing partner for the project.