

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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Date: November 30, 2017

To: Eileen Sobeck, Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Francis Chung, Chief
Bay-Delta Office
From: **Department of Water Resources**

Subject: Quarterly Status Report, August 2017, State Water Resources Control Board
Order WR 2010-0002

Pursuant to Condition 11 of State Water Resources Control Board (Board) Order WR 2010-0002 (Order), the Department of Water Resources (DWR), in coordination with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), is submitting this report to apprise the Board of the activities undertaken to comply with the conditions listed in paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 of the Order's Part A.

Condition A.2 – DWR and Reclamation completed the response to the Board Notice for Submission of Interior Southern Delta Salinity Objectives Compliance Plan and Schedule letter, dated December 20, 2016. The response was submitted on June 19, 2017.

Condition A.3 – DWR has no new information to report this quarter regarding the June 25, 2010 work plan to improve the accuracy of the delta flow and water quality models in the south Delta. We are awaiting direction from the Board on whether or not to proceed with the work plan as proposed.

DWR has continued to work on improving estimates of Delta channel depletions, a key component for evaluating circulation and water quality in the south Delta. DWR is actively participating in a study sponsored by the Board, the Delta Stewardship Council, and UC Water to evaluate the impact of land fallowing in 2016 on Delta consumptive use. This work has been used to validate DWR's new Delta consumptive use model, an important first step in estimating channel depletions. Estimates of channel depletions are being better refined through accounting improvements of subsurface water sources.

Condition A.4 – DWR and Reclamation continue to implement activities described in the Compliance Plan for Station C-6 (Plan). These activities include monitoring within the

south Delta, reviewing prior data and analyses, modeling and developing salt balances, working with wetland managers to improve wetland discharges, and continuing to support and facilitate real-time water quality monitoring programs. In addition, the Plan includes a section entitled *San Joaquin Salinity Management Plan*, describing programs and activities to control the volume and concentrations of saline discharges to the San Joaquin River upstream of Vernalis.

As reported in the previous 2017 Quarterly Status reports, the second annual Management Agency Agreement (MAA) report between the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and Reclamation was submitted in January 2017. The report provides a synopsis of various activities performed in 2016 by Reclamation, including providing flows to the system, salt load reductions, and mitigation. The next annual MAA report is planned for submittal in January 2018 and will provide a synopsis of 2017 activities. In this quarter, Reclamation awarded two WaterSMART WEEG grants: 1) to Del Puerto Water District to facilitate real-time, accurate flow tracking of the District's water use to save 455 acre-feet of water annually as well as reduce groundwater use, and 2) to North San Joaquin Water Conservation District to slip line 7 miles of concrete pipe which is expected to save 1,346 acre-feet of water annually.

Condition A.5 – The agricultural irrigation season started with flood conditions on the San Joaquin River and minimizing the need for temporary rock barriers. Yet after high flows ceased, localized low water level problems were still experienced by some agricultural diverters. DWR implemented actions to alleviate these water level problems on Middle River and at the Tom Paine Slough siphons. The Middle River barrier was constructed and in operation on August 15, 2017: the weir section of the barrier was notched on September 15, 2017 for adult salmon passage. The removal of the Middle River barrier began on November 15, 2017 with complete removal scheduled by November 25, 2017. DWR installed temporary portable pumps at the intake of Tom Paine Slough to allow the Pescadero District to divert the amount of water they would have been able to divert in the absence of project exports or with project exports and the temporary rock barriers. The portable pumps were expeditiously installed the first week of August, and the operation was concluded by mid-September.

On September 20, 2017, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) requested installation of the fall Head of Old River barrier (HORB). Construction began on September 26, 2017, and closure was achieved on October 13, 2017. To allow more water to flow from the San Joaquin River into Old River and help alleviate water level issues that were occurring without the other two of the three agricultural barriers in place, the six 48-inch culverts on the HORB have remained open. To provide the most benefit for the up-migrating salmon, CDFW requested to delay removal of the rock barriers as late as possible. The removal of the fall Head of Old River barrier began on November 13 with complete removal scheduled by November 28.

DWR continues to work with regulatory agencies to secure the required permits for 2018 Temporary Barriers construction. It is anticipated the installation of the barriers will

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begin on March 1, 2018, provided the San Joaquin River flow allows construction and all regulatory approvals are received.

Condition A.6 – Reclamation has no new information to report this quarter regarding the *Delta-Mendota Canal Recirculation Plan Formulation Report*, which remains available for download and review at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/dmcrecirc/docs/final/index.html>. The related *Delta-Mendota Canal Recirculation Project Feasibility Study* also remains available for download.

Condition A.7 – DWR continues to work closely with the Delta Watermaster and the South Delta Water Agency (SDWA) in formulating and evaluating options to reduce local sources of water quality degradation.

The 2015 emergency drought barrier effects analysis report is still being finalized and is expected to be provided to the Board in early 2018. Planning for potential future drought actions may resume next year.

Reclamation continues to await comments from the Board regarding the report entitled *Special Study: Evaluation of Dilution Flow to Meet Interior South Delta Water Quality Objectives*, submitted April 11, 2011.

Condition A.8 – No additional salinity control measures have been required by the Executive Director. Additionally, DWR and Reclamation continue to take action based on the approval of the Compliance Plan for Station C-6 as described under Condition A.4.

If you or your staff wishes to discuss this report further, please contact Mark Holderman, Chief of the South Delta Branch, at 916-653-7247 or Mark.Holderman@water.ca.gov.

Sincerely,


Francis Chung
Bay-Delta Office

ec: (see attached list)

PROOF OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am over eighteen (18) years of age and an employee of the State of California Department of Water Resources, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California 95814.

On November 30, 2017, I served true and correct copies of the attached Department of Water Resources "Quarterly Status Report" electronically to the office of Division of Water Rights of the State Water Resources Control Board on the 14th floor of the California Environmental Protection Agency Building at 1001 I Street in Sacramento. I also served true and correct copies of this document by electronically transmitting the report to the parties listed on the attached Mailing List.

Date: November 30, 2017

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