

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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Date: February 28, 2018

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

Mark Holderman, Acting Chief
Bay-Delta Office

From: **Department of Water Resources**

Subject: Quarterly Status Report, February 2018, State Water Resources Control Board
Order WR 2010-0002

MAR - 5 2018

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 starting work to incorporate all pumps and siphons in the south Delta into its modeling rather than the current method of combining agricultural diversions and drainage into certain DSM2 nodes. DWR is also using the 2017 Delta land use survey to refine the distribution of estimated consumptive use among Delta islands. This refinement will improve modeling of localized hydrodynamics and water quality in the central and south Delta.

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.

The third annual Management Agency Agreement (MAA) report between the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and Reclamation was submitted in January 2018 and is attached to this report. The next annual MAA report is planned for submittal in January 2019.

Condition A.5 – DWR completed the 2017 construction and operation of the South Delta temporary barriers. The fall Head of Old River barrier (HORB) and the Middle River barrier (MR) operation continued until mid-November when the removal of the barriers began. The breaching of HORB and MR barriers was achieved on November 13 and November 15, respectively. All in-water work was completed by the end of November 2017.

For 2018, DWR plans to construct and operate the Temporary Barriers Project (TBP) in compliance with all applicable federal and state permits. 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 begin in early March 2018, provided the San Joaquin River flow allows construction and all regulatory approvals are received. As in the past, the Head of Old River barrier construction will begin no sooner than March 1. Because the HORB restricts flows from the San Joaquin River into Old River, the construction of the Middle River, Old River near Tracy (ORT), and Grant Line Canal (GLC) barriers must coincide with the construction of the HORB. The MR and ORT agricultural barriers will be closed prior to the HORB to protect water levels for agricultural diversions, and the GLC barrier will be partially closed before the HORB is closed. The current estimated closure date for the agricultural barriers is March 30, 2018 and April 1, 2018 for the Head of Old River barrier. The GLC barrier can only be fully closed prior to June 1, 2018 if there is a demonstrated need for the barrier to protect water levels and approval is received from National Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

In compliance with the Board Orders, DWR submitted the 2018 Plan for Construction and Operation of the South Delta Temporary Barriers to the Board on January 30, 2018. Details of the barrier operation are included in the 2018 Plan. The plan is a best-case scenario and assumes construction starts March 1, 2018. No comments or feedback have been received to date.

In preparation of the upcoming barriers installation, DWR is making plans to comply with the measures and conditions imposed by the regulatory agencies. This includes additional extensive water quality monitoring and analysis required by the new five-year 401 Water Quality Certification. New 401 Certification requirements focus on analysis

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of the dissolved oxygen impairment in the South Delta, and it is not known if there will be new requirements set forth by the pending US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permit that may be required by the pending National Marine Fisheries Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service Programmatic Biological Opinions.

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 the second quarter of 2018. DWR will resume planning for potential future drought actions should drought conditions warrant action.

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,



Mark Holderman, Acting Chief
Bay-Delta Office

Attachment

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 February 28, 2018, 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: February 28, 2018

By:



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