

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Scott Cantrell, Water Branch Chief

State Water Resources Control Board Drought
Workshop

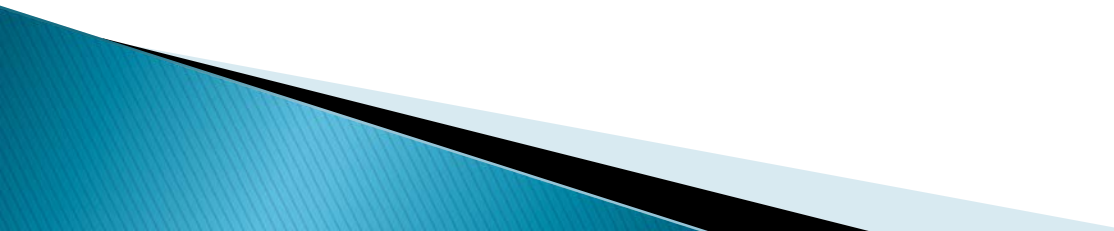
February 18-19, 2014



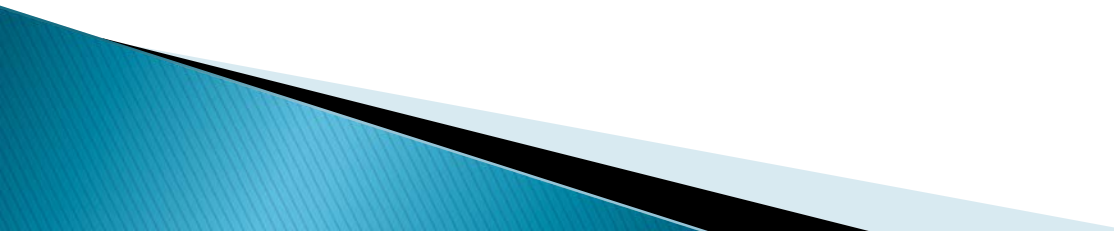
Change Petition (TUCP)

- ▶ DFW has been coordinating with DWR and Reclamation (the “Petitioners”) from the beginning of this temporary urgency change petition (TUCP) process
- ▶ On February 3, 2014 DFW confirmed ongoing CESA coverage for State Water Project operations under the TUCP, pursuant to existing CDs and Longfin smelt ITP

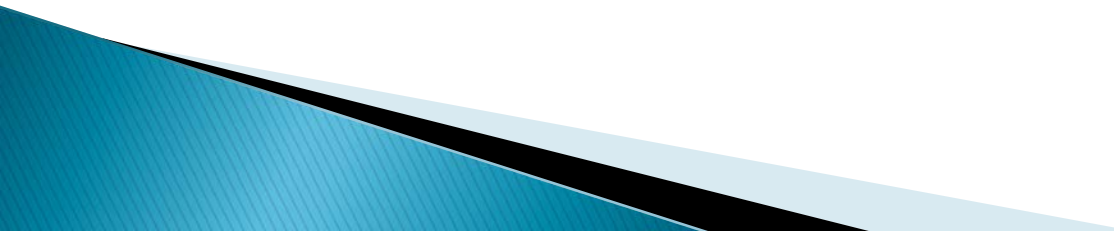
TUCP (continued)

- ▶ Hydrologic conditions and fish data are evaluated with support from existing groups (e.g. WOMT, DOSS, SWG, DCT) to evaluate adverse effects and ensure compliance with BO's and CESA authorizations.
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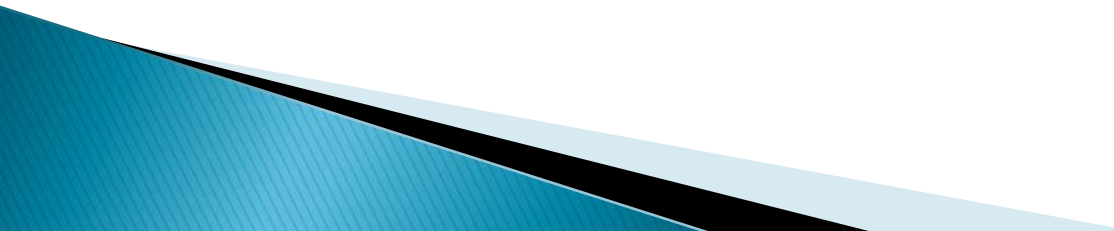
TUCP (continued)

- ▶ DFW is providing technical assistance to DWR and Reclamation, along with NMFS and USFWS, to identify potential impacts to aquatic species and available measures to minimize these impacts.
 - ▶ Collaborating on the development of fish monitoring protocols and operational triggers for DCC closure based on juvenile fish presence upstream
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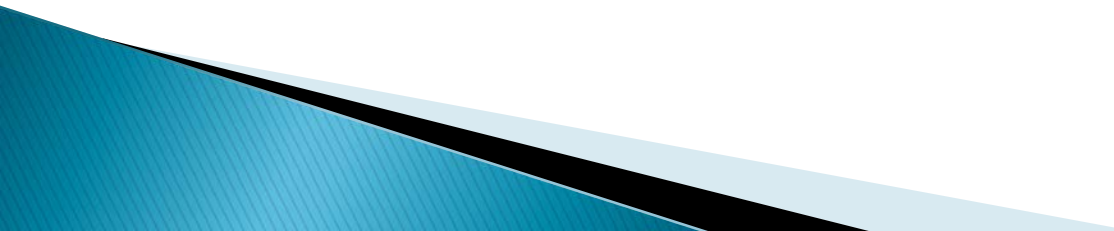
TUCP (continued)

- ▶ DFW is a member of Real-Time Drought Operations Management Team established by the Order and as required by the USFWS and NMFS approvals
 - ▶ Real Time Drought Operations Management Team ensures implementation of the Order and water project operations will not unreasonably affect fish and wildlife and other instream uses of water
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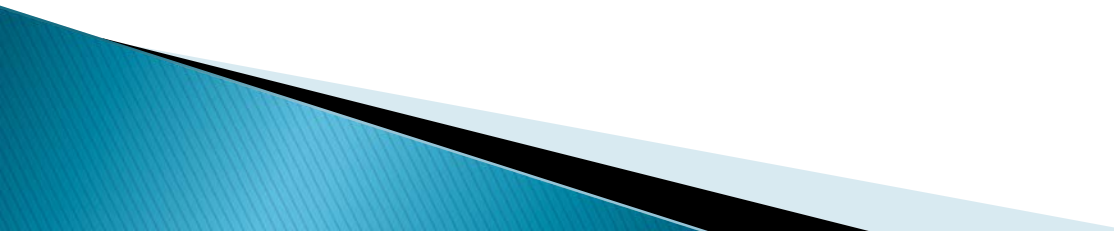
TUCP (continued)

- ▶ We are evaluating the short-term and long-term and upstream and downstream habitat needs of fish and wildlife and other instream uses of fish.
 - ▶ The Order requires the petitioners to continue consulting with the fish agencies on these issues.
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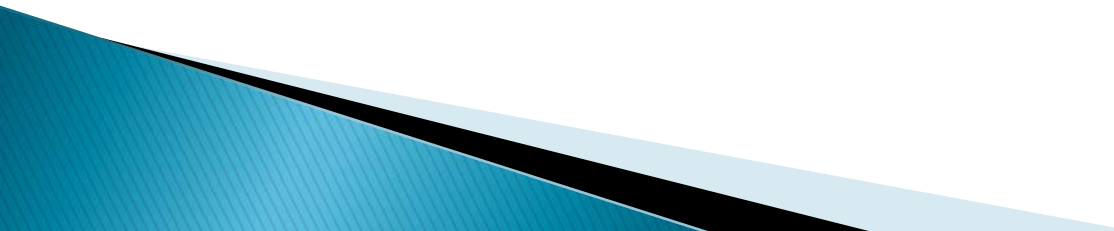
Related Activities

- ▶ Continued technical assistance to DWR and Reclamation on developing the drought contingency plan for the period March through July.
 - ▶ Working with DWR and others on potential in-Delta water quality management actions (temporary barriers) to minimize adverse effects on fisheries.
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Related Activities (continued)

- ▶ Coordinating with the SWRCB on a process to identify and prioritize critical streams in need of protection.
 - ▶ Monitoring the effects of drought on Central Valley fish and wildlife species and the habitats upon which they depend.
 - ▶ Developing contingency plans to manage reduced water resources for our lands and facilities.
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Related Activities (continued)

- ▶ Coordinating with DWR and SWRCB to develop approaches to streamline approvals for water transfers.
 - ▶ Participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP) as part of Biological Opinion Remand Process
 - ▶ In the remand process, developing improved tools and monitoring for guiding water operations decision making.
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Conclusion

- ▶ We will continue our active engagement in the Real-Time Drought Operations Management Team along with other state and federal agencies.
 - ▶ We will continue to provide technical assistance to DWR and Reclamation during implementation of the Order.
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