

From: Milligan, Ronald [mailto:rmilligan@usbr.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2016 6:18 AM
Subject: 2016 Sacramento River management plan, modeling evaluation and plan, and Sacramento River Temperature Task Group process

Mr. Howard
Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board

Subject: 2016 Sacramento River management plan, modeling evaluation and plan, and Sacramento River Temperature Task Group process

Dear Mr. Howard:

Reclamation is providing this information in response to State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) Order WR 2015-0043 (Order). Specifically, this information is in follow-up to Reclamation's email communications to the State Board on February 1, 2016, and February 5, 2016, as well as Reclamation's presentation on March 18, 2016, whereby Reclamation described several pieces of information that would be provided to the State Board in order to meaningfully comply with the Order given the changing hydrologic conditions, and the time and resource demands of real-time Project operations. Specific components of the information are discussed below.

Sacramento River Operation Outlook/Management Plan (3.a)

Reclamation has identified the initial set of operations for Sacramento River temperature management for 2016. These operations are consistent to the operations outlined in the April update to the Drought Contingency Plan submitted to the Board last week. A summary of anticipated river temperatures this coming year are included as Attachment 1. The exact construct of the temperature management location and target will be finalized through continued discussion with the National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS) and the Sacramento River Temperature Task Force. Reclamation plans to further refine these operations in the coming weeks and will submit the final Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan to the State Board pursuant to the requirements of WR 90-5 by June 1, 2016.

The summary of temperature operations is based on modeling and analysis conducted using the April 12, 2016 runoff forecast update from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), as well as input gathered from stakeholders at a meeting held on April 6, 2016. Approximately 200 invitations were issued to representatives of various water contractors, tribes, non-governmental organizations, and other state, federal, and local agencies for the April 6 meeting. A summary of the meeting and input gathered is also attached (Attachment 2).

Sacramento River Temperature Modeling Evaluation (3.c.iv) and Sacramento River Temperature Modeling Plan (3.c.iii)

Reclamation, in coordination with NMFS, convened a multi-agency group to discuss and evaluate the development of Sacramento River temperature operations based on modeling and model inputs, and discuss concerns identified during 2014 and 2015. This group held two meetings in January and February, 2016. Based on this process, there appears to be agreement that the model used for Sacramento River temperature planning is being applied appropriately and that outstanding concerns

are not a result of issues with the model itself. Based on a variety of suggestions, several adjustments have been made regarding data input for this year's planning efforts. A summary of the process and outcomes of the evaluation meetings is included here as Attachment 3.

Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (3.b)

Reclamation has worked to modify the process and structure of the Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (SRTTG) for the 2016 temperature management season, and has scheduled the first meeting of the group for May 3, 2016. A summary of the proposed process for the SRTTG in 2016 is included as Attachment 4.

I look forward to our continued updates you and the State Board on Sacramento River temperature management over the coming year and other aspects of water supply challenges during your regular State Board meetings. If you have any questions or would like more information regarding the enclosed information, please contact me at 916-979-2199.

Sincerely,

Ron Milligan
CVP Operations Manager