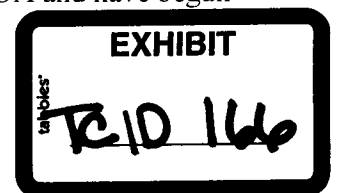


From: Steve Alcorn (by way of Paul Dabbs <pdabbs@water.ca.gov>) <tcco04@sierra.net>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 1998 11:28 PM (GMT)
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Cc: kwinkler@water.ca.gov
Subject: TROA impacts and mitigation

Way back in October, we had a Management Team meeting at which we identified some resources that might be impacted by TROA -- to the point that mitigation could be considered. We raised the issue in October to give the negotiators a "heads up" and avoid surprising anyone later. I am resending the information and supplementing it with some additional text just so that everyone is on the same page.

1. FWS currently feels California gulls could be adversely affected during dry years. TROA may result in some reduction of water available for diversion to the Newlands Project, resulting in a slight reduction in water levels at Lahontan Reservoir. During dry years, the reduction in water level at the reservoir could expose the gull nesting sites to increased levels of predation above those expected without TROA. This species is classified as a Species of Special Concern by California -- neither the Federal government nor Nevada has classified it as a sensitive species. FWS is reviewing the status of the entire gull population, including the Mono Lake population. Apparently with the rise in water level at Mono Lake, the total number of California gulls continues to increase, and the condition of the species is improving. We may have a circumstance where TROA results in an adverse impact to the local population, but has not adverse effect on the species as a whole.
2. Newlands Project concerns -- we do not know if there will be any significant adverse effects to the Newlands Project. We are going to expand the study area to at least include Lahontan Reservoir. Whether we go beyond that or not will be determined by the results of our modeling effort. Several of us believe we might be able to see a small change in the volume of water getting to the reservoir via the canal, but we are not yet convinced we will be able to detect any change coming out of the reservoir. Right now, the Denver staff wants the opportunity to work through the economics to verify our intuitive feelings.
3. TTSA water quality -- TTSA contends that the reduction of average flows in the Truckee River will adversely affect the ability of their treatment facility to meet effluent water quality standards. In addition, TTSA is planning a 30% increase in the capacity of the treatment plant and is even more concerned about meeting standards with the expansion. The most troubling time of the year is the drier summer months. BOR and California are reviewing some data to get a feel for how significant the issue might be.
4. Tahoe yellow cress -- CDFG has prepared a "jeopardy" opinion for the Tahoe yellow cress due to the possibility that TROA could increase Lake Tahoe water levels, inundating yellow cress habitat. CDFG has identified some potential mitigating measures and presumed that DWR will be responsible for implementing the measures.
5. Lake Tahoe shoreline erosion -- Due to the lake's designation as an "Outstanding Natural Resource" (standards set by Clean Water Act), no human induced degradation of water quality is allowed. Some commentators contend that any change in average water level in the lake will result in increased erosion, and thus degrade the lake. The changes estimated via the model results do show some changes in the level of Lake Tahoe water levels, but the changes are within 'natural' variability of the lake. However, the fact remains that TROA could increase average water levels at the lake, and some people have latched on to that possible change in a big way.
6. Washoe Water Conservation District is concerned that TROA will impact their diversion facilities and change their operations.

While we will not know the full extent of these possible impacts until we have a 'final' TROA and have begun



our impact analyses, it may be worthwhile passing this information along to at least the Mandatory Signatories. Some of these possible impacts may be mitigated through water management changes expected with TROA, others may require some financial commitment from the appropriate entities. One thing we will need to know is how the negotiators would like to address these and any other impacts that arise. We do not want the document proposing mitigation measures that are unacceptable to the negotiators.