



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Central Valley Operations Office
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 300
Sacramento, California 95821

IN REPLY
REFER TO:
CVO-100
WTR-1.10

FEB 20 2015

RECEIVED

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

FEB 20 2015

Ms. Maria Rea
Assistant Regional Administrator
California Central Valley Area Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Nat'l Marine Fisheries Svs.
Sacramento, CA

Subject: Transmittal of February 2015 Central Valley Project (CVP) Reservoir Operations Forecasts per 2009 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion

Dear Ms Rea:

The 2009 NMFS Biological Opinion Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) Action 1.2.3 requires Reclamation to submit its February forecast of CVP operations based on hydrology with a 90% or greater exceedance probability and the corresponding Sacramento River temperature modeling run to NMFS for review and concurrence. Due to the critically dry hydrology forecasted at the 90% exceedance interval and resulting potential temperature compliance point and end of September Shasta Reservoir carryover storage, the RPA also includes a number of additional actions for the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to implement including the preparation and submittal of a drought contingency plan.

Reclamation's 90% January forecast of CVP operations suggested that the Shasta Reservoir end of September storage would be less than 1.9 million acre-feet (MAF). Anticipating that RPA 1.2.3.C would be triggered by with February forecast of CVP operations, Reclamation and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) transmitted to NMFS by letter dated January 27, 2014, the Temporary Urgency Change (TUC) Petition, which also is serving as the interim drought contingency plan for February and March. Reclamation and DWR indicated that operational strategies described in the TUC Petition would be re-evaluated with input from the State and federal fishery agencies as the season progresses and that the interim drought contingency plan would be updated in March.

The draft 90% February forecast of operations attached to this letter includes the modifications to water rights decision 1641 approved by the State Water Resources Control Board in response to the TUC Petition for February and March. This forecast

projects that the end of September Shasta Reservoir storage would be about 1.3 MAF triggering RPA 1.2.3.C. The corresponding Sacramento River temperature modeling run indicates that 56 degrees Fahrenheit cannot be achieved through the season at a compliance point at Clear Creek. The use of other CVP reservoirs were priorities in this forecasted operations and could be at critically low storages by the end of September with Trinity Reservoir at about 600 thousand acre-feet and Folsom Reservoir at about 200 thousand acre-feet.

This initial temperature modeling suggests that a target location at Clear Creek may only be possible through August or early September provided that diversions can successfully be made through the side gate of the Shasta Temperature Control Device in August. As noted last year, temperature models have a difficult time reflecting actual release temperatures and conditions when the critical reservoir thermocline of about 52 degrees Fahrenheit approaches the elevation of the TCD side gates and/or the reservoir outlet works. Due to the extremely adverse reservoir and river temperature conditions represented in the 90% forecast of operations, Reclamation has also evaluating an alternative 90% operations forecast that would assume modifications to the D-1641 objectives in the April through July period. These modifications would be similar to those approved during the drought conditions in 2014, and would add operational flexibility to improve conditions for both the fishery and for water supply.

For this particular variation of the February 90% exceedance forecast, the Wilkins Slough flow target of 4,000 cfs controlled Keswick releases for an extended period in April and May, resulting in an increase in CVP upstream storage only at Folsom reservoir (approximately 34 taf). As a result, a separate temperature model run of this forecast was not undertaken at this time given its similarity to the 90% forecast included with this letter. We are evaluating other additional model runs to further refine this assumption, and these runs will be provided to your staff early next week.

Reclamation also prepared a 50% February forecast of operations and corresponding temperature modeling run. The 50% forecast of operation suggests an improved end of September Shasta Reservoir storage at about 1.9 MAF, with the potential to maintain 56 degrees at Clear Creek through the temperature control season. Early summer operations to a Balls Ferry target may be possible with this hydrology, but there could be some risk of exceeding compliance at Clear Creek later in the fall as a result. This forecast is also attached for your information.

NMFS has expressed concern over the ability of Reclamation's temperature model to accurately predict seasonal temperature performance of Shasta Reservoir and the Sacramento River. Given this model was developed to primarily assist in assessing the timing of season management decisions related to operation of the TCD, Reclamation shares your concern in this respect, and we are very interested in exploring options to obtain a fully predictive model.

Reclamation is currently evaluating the performance of the existing model for the conditions observed in 2014, as required by TUC Petition approved by the State Water Resources Control Board. Our findings will be shared with NMFS and pertinent and

feasible modifications to the existing model will be implemented as possible this year. Looking to the future, we would also like to convene a work group to explore more robust modeling tools to better predict temperature performance for the Sacramento River. This workgroup would include experts from our operations staff, as well as experts from NMFS and other outside entities.

Both the 90% exceedance hydrology and the 50% exceedance hydrology would be classified as a Critical year type under the Sacramento Valley Index. The forecasted inflow to Shasta Reservoir is 3.31 MAF under the 90% exceedance forecast and 4.45 MAF under the 50% exceedance forecast. The 90% exceedance inflow would trigger the shortage criteria to the water rights settlement contractors, water rights exchange contractors, and wildlife refuges. As per our contractual obligations, on February 17, 2015, Reclamation informed the water rights settlement contractors and water rights exchange contractors of these conditions. Examples of this notification are attached.

Given the limited supplies available with the 90% exceedance forecast, Reclamation proposes a very limited initial allocation to water service contractors this month: zero supplies to agricultural contractors both north and south of the Delta, and approximately only 25% of contract quantities to all municipal and industrial contractors representing a minimal health and safety supply.

As we work through these difficult drought conditions, Reclamation will continue to work in close coordination with DWR, NMFS, Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the State Water Resources Control Board, to collectively develop updates to the drought contingency plan. As a critical component to these updates, Reclamation will continue to refine the operations and temperature forecasts, and we will submit this information to NMFS as they are developed.

Reclamation requests your concurrence regarding compliance with the NMFS Biological Opinion related to the water supply allocation.

If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Kiteck at 916-979-2684.

Sincerely,



Ronald Milligan
Operations Manager

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Sue Fry
Bay-Delta Office
Bureau of Reclamation
801 I Street, Suite 140
Sacramento, CA 95814

February 20, 2015

Upper Sacramento River – February 2015 Preliminary Temperature Analysis

Temperature Model Inputs, Assumptions, Limitations and Uncertainty:

1. Operation is based on the February 2015 Operation Outlooks (monthly flows, reservoir release, and end-of-month reservoir storage) for the 90 and 50% exceedances.
2. The profiles used for Shasta, Trinity andiskeytown were taken on February 3, February 4, and February 3, respectively.
3. Guidance on forecasted flows from the creeks (e.g., Cow, Cottonwood, Battle, etc.) between Keswick Dam and Bend Bridge is not available beyond 5 days. Model input side flows (Cottonwood Cr & Bend Bridge local flow w/o Cottonwood Cr) were selected from the historical record, and are consistent with the forecast exceedance frequency. During spring, the relatively warm creek flows can be a significant percentage of the flows at Bend Bridge.
4. Although mean daily flows and releases are temperature model inputs, they are based on the mean monthly values from the operation outlooks. Mean daily flow patterns are user defined.
5. Cottonwood Creek flows, Keswick to Bend Bridge local flows, and diversions are mean daily synthesized flows based on the available historical record for a 1922-2002 study period.
6. Meteorological inputs were derived from a database of 86 years of meteorological data (1920-2005). The meteorological inputs in the model represent "Average" meteorological conditions.
7. Meteorology, as well as flow volume and pattern, significantly influences reservoir inflow temperatures and downstream tributary temperatures; and consequently, the development of the cold-water pool during winter and early spring.

Temperature Analysis Results:

Note that for all exceedances, Lake Shasta storage is too low to utilize the upper gates of the TCD. This TCD limitation, along with the relatively small cold-water pool volume, significantly impacts temperature management.

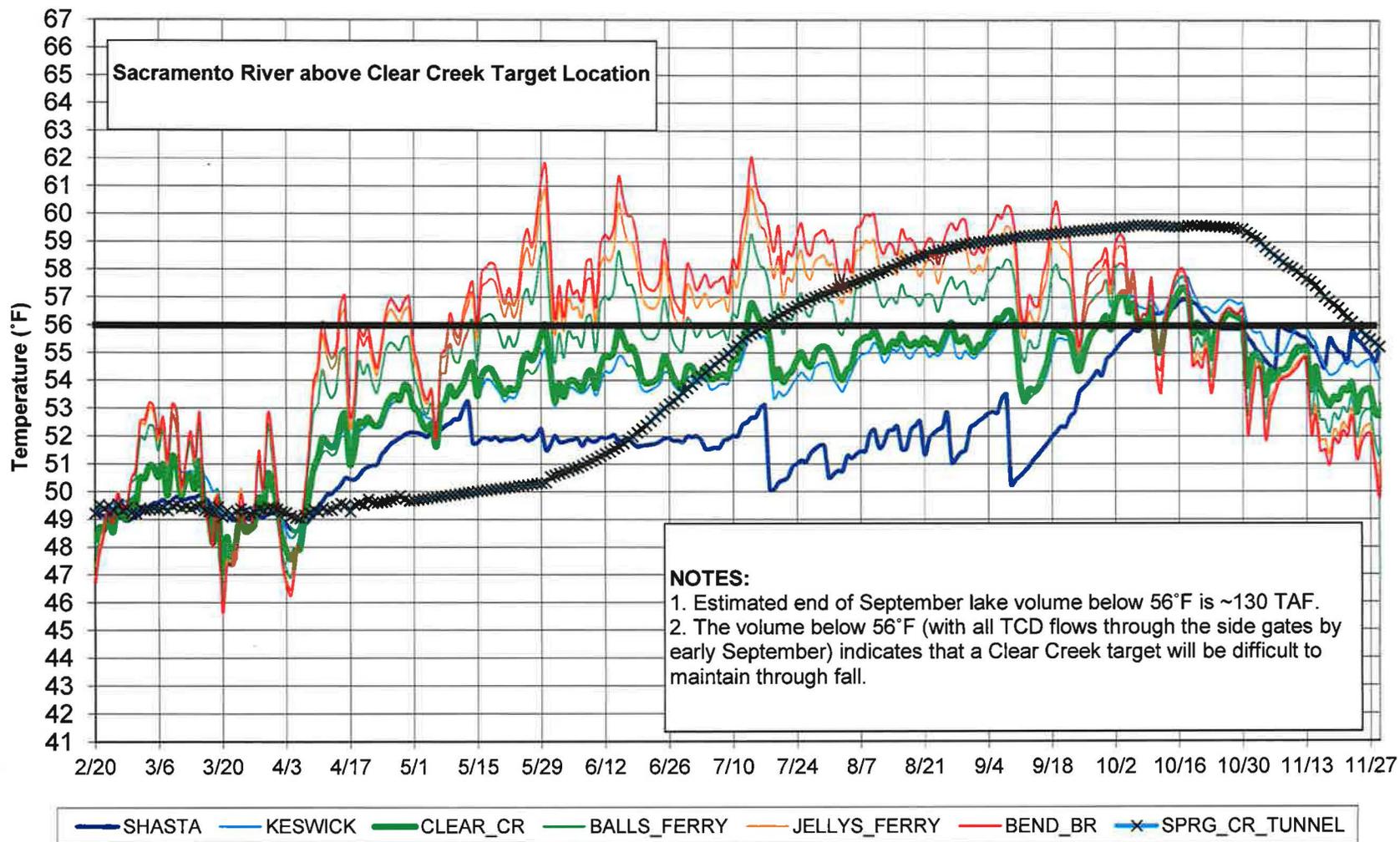
90%-Exceedance:

A temperature target location at Clear Creek is possible through mid-August or early September (Figure 1). By September, the TCD intake level will be through the side gates. Shasta Dam release temperature is expected to exceed 56°F by mid-August, nearing 62°F by mid-September.

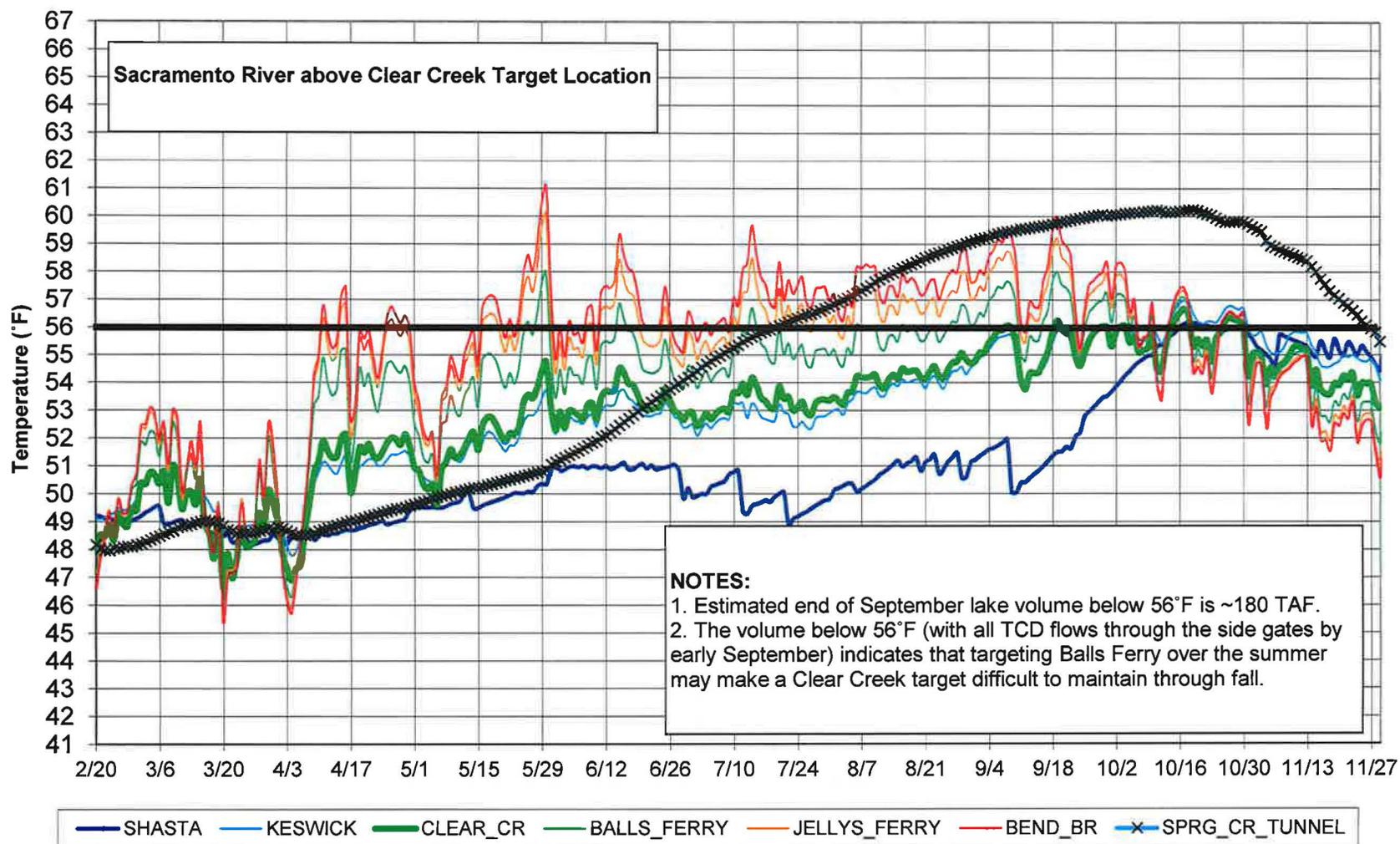
50%-Exceedance:

A temperature target location at Clear Creek is possible through the temperature season (Figure 2). By September, the TCD intake will be through the side gates. Early summer operation to a Balls Ferry target may be possible but it would be at the risk of exceeding compliance at Clear Creek in the fall. Shasta Dam release temperature is expected to exceed 56°F by early October.

Sacramento River Modeled Temperature 2015 February 90%-Exceedance Outlook



Sacramento River Modeled Temperature 2015 February 50%-Exceedance Outlook



Storages

Federal End of the Month Storage/Elevation (TAF/Feet)

		Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	
Trinity		874	1112	1177	1178	1017	908	806	702	642	611	578	562	570
	Elev.	2267	2274	2274	2257	2244	2232	2217	2209	2204	2198	2196	2197	
Whiskeytown		205	206	206	238	238	238	238	230	206	206	206	206	
	Elev.	1199	1199	1209	1209	1209	1209	1209	1207	1199	1199	1199	1199	
Shasta		2001	2671	2856	2746	2471	2169	1766	1471	1324	1299	1345	1416	1537
	Elev.	993	1001	996	983	967	943	923	912	911	914	919	928	
Folsom		448	542	559	554	549	465	293	224	192	182	177	181	196
	Elev.	422	424	423	423	412	386	373	365	362	361	362	366	
New Melones		563	600	559	488	385	299	206	119	63	49	54	61	63
	Elev.	878	870	855	831	808	778	741	707	696	700	706	707	
San Luis		347	372	392	366	313	219	103	23	72	163	196	324	505
	Elev.	479	475	459	439	414	387	366	369	388	411	443	473	
Total		5502	5750	5570	4973	4297	3412	2777	2523	2510	2556	2750	3076	

State End of the Month Reservoir Storage (TAF)

Oroville		1444	1740	1828	1761	1633	1408	1176	1012	971	964	871	865	943
	Elev.	757	766	759	745	720	690	666	660	659	643	642	655	
San Luis		756	900	839	702	555	423	323	255	227	271	420	578	721
Total San Luis (TAF)		1103	1272	1231	1068	868	642	426	278	299	434	617	902	1225

Monthly River Releases (TAF/cfs)

Trinity	TAF	17	18	32	180	47	28	28	27	23	18	18	18
	cfs	300	300	540	2,924	783	450	450	450	373	300	300	300
Clear Creek	TAF	10	11	9	9	9	7	5	9	11	10	11	11
	cfs	175	175	150	150	150	120	85	150	175	175	175	175
Sacramento	TAF	180	200	350	454	506	589	479	297	251	202	200	200
	cfs	3250	3250	5881	7383	8500	9579	7800	5000	4077	3394	3250	3250
American	TAF	50	49	52	49	98	182	87	48	49	48	50	49
	cfs	900	800	868	800	1645	2964	1418	802	800	800	807	800
Stanislaus	TAF	14	25	30	29	16	19	14	9	35	15	13	18
	cfs	255	403	503	465	270	316	232	153	573	260	205	295
Feather	TAF	53	49	131	49	116	141	108	77	55	54	55	55
	cfs	950	800	2200	800	1950	2300	1750	1300	900	900	900	900

Trinity Diversions (TAF)

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Carr PP	2	0	34	18	77	78	77	32	15	28	19	6
Spring Crk. PP	3	9	8	15	70	70	70	30	30	19	12	3

Delta Summary (TAF)

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Tracy	50	75	45	61	46	45	45	133	146	65	148	200
USBR Banks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Contra Costa	7	7	11.4	11.4	11.4	9.9	10.6	11.4	7	8.4	9.2	9.2
Total USBR	57	82	56	73	57	55	56	144	153	73	157	209
State Export	225	75	18	15	35	45	45	30	75	165	181	200
Total Export	282	157	74	88	92	100	101	174	228	238	338	409
COA Balance	0	0	-22	-22	-64	-55	-48	-38	-38	-38	-39	-39

Old/Middle River Std.												
Old/Middle R. calc.	-4,070	-2,060	-924	-1,216	-1,536	-1,575	-1,636	-2,635	-2,939	-3,302	-4,492	-5,319

Computed DOI	9527	4604	7396	4425	4001	4002	2993	3009	2993	3496	3497	5482
Excess Outflow	2431	602	0	423	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1985
% Export/Inflow	36%	35%	11%	17%	16%	15%	18%	32%	44%	48%	60%	58%
% Export/Inflow std.	45%	35%	35%	35%	35%	65%	65%	65%	65%	65%	65%	65%

Hydrology

Water Year Inflow (TAF) Year to Date + Forecasted % of mean	Trinity	894	74%	Shasta	3,792	68%	Folsom	856	31%	New Melones	248	23%
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Storages

Federal End of the Month Storage/Elevation (TAF/Feet)

		Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	
Trinity		874	1117	1279	1373	1220	1028	873	751	636	585	579	617	682
	Elev.	2268	2284	2292	2278	2258	2240	2224	2208	2199	2198	2205	2214	
Whiskeytown		205	206	206	238	238	238	238	230	230	225	206	206	
	Elev.	1199	1199	1209	1209	1209	1209	1209	1207	1207	1205	1199	1199	
Shasta		2001	2703	3129	3296	3208	2843	2423	2085	1954	1912	1961	2164	2577
	Elev.	994	1013	1020	1017	1001	980	962	955	952	955	967	988	
Folsom		448	564	673	704	759	639	450	340	299	298	314	349	424
	Elev.	424	437	440	445	433	410	394	387	387	390	395	406	
New Melones		563	600	613	588	532	466	384	308	258	249	269	296	327
	Elev.	878	880	876	864	850	831	810	795	793	799	807	816	
San Luis		347	392	512	427	268	141	55	64	135	285	496	657	815
	Elev.	473	483	457	420	385	352	340	353	395	441	472	501	
Total		5581	6413	6625	6225	5355	4422	3785	3512	3559	3843	4289	5029	

State End of the Month Reservoir Storage (TAF)

Oroville		1444	1790	2055	2185	2083	1891	1677	1515	1447	1412	1393	1458	1715
	Elev.	762	788	800	790	772	750	732	724	720	718	726	754	
San Luis		756	825	805	617	426	264	142	73	67	198	391	542	700
Total San Luis (TAF)		1103	1217	1317	1044	694	405	198	136	202	482	887	1200	1514

Monthly River Releases (TAF/cfs)

Trinity	TAF	17	18	32	258	126	68	28	27	23	18	18	18
	cfs	300	300	540	4,189	2,120	1,102	450	450	373	300	300	300
Clear Creek	TAF	10	11	10	11	9	7	7	9	12	12	11	11
	cfs	175	175	175	175	150	120	120	150	200	200	175	175
Sacramento	TAF	180	200	268	430	666	679	584	369	307	268	200	200
	cfs	3250	3250	4500	7000	11200	11041	9500	6200	5000	4500	3250	3250
American	TAF	50	111	153	98	195	246	170	101	77	74	77	77
	cfs	900	1800	2567	1600	3273	4000	2762	1690	1250	1250	1250	1250
Stanislaus	TAF	14	25	30	29	16	19	14	9	35	15	13	18
	cfs	255	403	503	465	270	316	232	153	573	260	205	295
Feather	TAF	53	58	57	58	89	127	123	89	58	57	58	61
	cfs	950	950	950	950	1500	2070	2000	1500	950	950	950	1000

Trinity Diversions (TAF)

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Carr PP	1	3	42	31	93	97	98	91	40	19	1	1
Spring Crk. PP	35	30	23	35	90	90	90	90	30	19	25	25

Delta Summary (TAF)

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Tracy	60	220	48	49	145	231	278	270	282	270	200	200
USBR Banks	0	0	0	0	11	11	11	0	0	0	0	0
Contra Costa	7	6.35	11.35	11.35	9.9	10.55	11.35	12	8.4	9.2	9.15	7
Total USBR	67	226	59	61	166	253	300	282	290	279	209	207
State Export	200	170	42	43	65	68	74	80	189	235	200	200
Total Export	267	396	101	104	231	321	374	362	479	514	409	407
COA Balance	0	0	-19	-19	-8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Old/Middle R. std.												
Old/Middle R. calc.	-3,651	-4,795	-1,265	-1,276	-3,238	-4,243	-4,984	-4,972	-5,934	-6,697	-5,198	-5,131
Computed DOI	23737	18122	10977	7841	7094	4002	2993	3009	3009	3816	9337	13030
Excess Outflow	16641	11013	0	732	0	0	0	0	16	319	5840	9533
% Export/Inflow	17%	26%	11%	14%	27%	38%	47%	51%	63%	65%	41%	35%
% Export/Inflow std.	45%	35%	35%	35%	35%	65%	65%	65%	65%	65%	65%	65%

Hydrology

Water Year Inflow (TAF)	Trinity	Shasta	Folsom	New Melones
Year to Date + Forecasted	1226	4,547	1,479	513
% of mean	101%	82%	54%	49%

CVP actual operations do not follow any forecasted operation or outlook; actual operations are based on real-time conditions.

CVP operational forecasts or outlooks represent general system-wide dynamics and do not necessarily address specific watershed/tributary details.

CVP releases or export values represent monthly averages.

CVP Operations are updated monthly as new hydrology information is made available December through May.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Region
South-Central California Area Office
1243 N Street
Fresno, CA 93721-1813

IN REPLY REFER TO:
MP-440/SCC-440
WTR-4.00

FEB 17 2015

Mr. Steve Chedester
San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority
P.O. Box 2115
Los Banos, CA 93635

Subject: Notification of Year 2015 Water Supply Conditions and Availability - Critical Year
Water Supply - Second Amended Contract for Exchange of Waters - Contract No. Ilr-
1144 (Contract) – Central Valley Project, California

Dear Mr. Chedester:

Steve

California is in its fourth consecutive year of below average precipitation and the Governor's State of Emergency proclamation, dated January 17, 2014, remains in effect. After consultation with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the National Weather Service, the Bureau of Reclamation has computed the forecasted full natural inflow into Shasta Lake for the current water year, October 1, 2014, through September 30, 2015, to be 3.3 million acre-feet (AF). Pursuant to Article 7 of the Contract, this letter is notification of a Critical Year due to the total accumulated actual deficiencies of successive prior water years exceeding 800,000 AF and the forecasted full natural inflow into Shasta Lake being below 4.0 million AF.

Pursuant to Article 8 of the Contract, during critical calendar years Reclamation shall deliver an annual substitute water supply of not to exceed 650,000 AF in accordance with the maximum monthly entitlements. Reclamation is committed to meet the terms of the Exchange Contract, however, due to the uncertainties noted in Reclamation's and DWR's Drought Contingency Plan (DCP), dated January 15, 2015, we may be unable to deliver the annual substitute water supply and/or the maximum monthly entitlements specified in Article 8.

Although the DCP includes as a first objective to continue operation of the Delta pumping facilities, taking advantage of opportunities to export natural or abandoned flow while maintaining Delta water quality and providing adequate protections for listed fish, the actual operation including water deliveries is still uncertain at this time because of changing hydrology and our need to consult with the fishery agencies prior to finalizing operations and expected water deliveries.

Reclamation will continue to review the forecasted full natural inflow to Shasta Lake as frequently as conditions and information warrant, and we will immediately inform you of any significant changes in our forecasts of this "critical calendar year." We are committed to undertake all reasonable efforts to comply with our contractual obligations and look forward to

working with you to devise a mutually agreeable delivery schedule based upon these uncertain conditions and will also keep you informed as we pursue finalization of our operations.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Erma Leal at 559-487-5195, email eleal@usbr.gov or at 800-735-2929 for the hearing impaired.

Sincerely,



Michael P. Jackson, P.E.
Area Manager

cc: Mr. Chris White
Central California Irrigation District
P.O. Box 1231
Los Banos, CA 93635

Mr. Randy Houk
Columbia Canal Company
6770 Avenue 7 ½
Firebaugh, CA 93622

Mr. Jeff Bryant
Firebaugh Canal Water District
P.O. Box 97
Mendota, CA 93640

Mr. Chase Hurley
San Luis Canal Company
11704 West Henry Miller Avenue
Dos Palos, CA 93620

Ms. Frances Mizuno
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water
Authority
P.O. Box 2175
Los Banos, CA 93635

Mr. Ron Jacobsma
Friant Water Authority
854 North Harvard Avenue
Lindsay, CA 93247



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Region
Northern California Area Office
16349 Shasta Dam Boulevard
Shasta Lake, CA 96019-8400

IN REPLY REFER TO:

NC-442
WTR-4.00

FEB 17 2015

Stan Wangberg
Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District
2810 Silver Street
Anderson, California 96007-4238

Subject: Notification of Critical Year – Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District –
Sacramento River Settlement Contract Number 14-06-200-3346A-R-1
(Settlement Contract) – Central Valley Project, California

Dear Mr. Wangberg:

California is in its fourth consecutive year of below average precipitation and the Governor's State of Emergency proclamation, dated January 17, 2014, remains in effect. After consultation with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the National Weather Service, the Bureau of Reclamation has computed the forecasted full natural inflow into Shasta Lake for the current water year, October 1, 2014, through September 30, 2015, to be 3.3 million acre-feet. Pursuant to Article 5 of the Settlement Contract, this letter is notification of a Critical Year due to the total accumulated actual deficiencies of successive prior water years exceeding 800,000 acre-feet and the forecasted full natural inflow into Shasta Lake being below 4.0 million acre-feet.

Pursuant to Article 5 of the Settlement Contract, during a Critical Year the monthly quantity of Base Supply and Project Water to be diverted during the period April through October 2015 shall be reduced by 25 percent. Reclamation continues to monitor the hydrology and will notify you of the actual water supply availability and timing as soon as practicable, which may not be until March 15, 2015. In order to assist us in that notification and in accordance with Article 3(c), please submit a written schedule as soon as possible, but no later than April 1, 2015, indicating the Base Supply and Project Water to be diverted each month, to:

Bureau of Reclamation
Northern California Area Office
P.O. Box 988
Willows, CA 95988

As we did in 2014, we are committed to working with you to devise a mutually agreeable diversion schedule based upon the current and projected hydrology while ensuring sustainable long-term operations. Reclamation will continue to review the forecasted full natural inflow to Shasta Lake as frequently as conditions and information warrant, and we will immediately inform you of any significant changes in our forecasts of this Critical Year.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jacob Berens at 530-934-1359, jberens@usbr.gov, or Ms. Natalie Wolder at 530-934-1356, nwolder@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,



Federico Barajas
Area Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FEB 17 2015

MP-410
WTR-4.00

Board of Directors
Grassland Water District
200 W. Willmott Avenue
Los Banos, CA 93635

Subject: 2015 Notification of Critically Dry Year – Refuge Water Supply Contract No. 01-WC-20-1754 (Contract), Central Valley Project, California Water Year 2015

Ladies and Gentlemen:

California is in its fourth consecutive year of below average precipitation and the Governor's State of Emergency proclamation, dated January 17, 2014, remains in effect. After consultation with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the National Weather Service, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has computed the forecasted full natural inflow into Shasta Lake for the year, October 1, 2014, through September 30, 2015, to be 3.3 million acre-feet. Pursuant to Article 4 of the Contract, this letter is notification of a Critically Dry Year due to the total accumulated actual deficiencies of successive prior water years exceeding 800,000 acre-feet and the forecasted full natural inflow into Shasta Lake being below 4.0 million acre-feet.

Pursuant to Articles 4 and 9 of the Contract, during this Critically Dry Year the availability of Level 2 Water Supplies is reduced 25 percent. However, due to the circumstances noted in Reclamation's and DWR's Drought Contingency Plan, dated January 15, 2015, Reclamation may be unable to deliver even the reduced quantities specified in Article 9. Adjustments in scheduling water for fall flood-up of managed wetlands, delaying a portion of fall flood-up quantities until October and November, similar to 2014, along with possible delays in early water delivery scheduling for March-May, may be necessary to conserve the limited available water supply. Reclamation's Refuge Water Supply Program (RWSP) will provide further direction for developing 2015 initial water schedules pursuant to Article 4 during the Interagency Refuge Water Management Team meeting on February 25, 2014.

Pursuant to Article 4 of the Contract, Reclamation currently estimates 12,000 acre-feet of Incremental Level 4 water supplies to be acquired by the RWSP for Contract Year 2015

Reclamation will continue to update the forecast monthly, as necessary, based on then-current hydrologic conditions. We are committed to working with you to devise a mutually agreeable diversion schedule based upon the current and projected hydrology while ensuring sustainable long-term operations.

Thank you for making every effort to conserve water. Please contact Mr. Tim Rust, Fish and Wildlife Program Manager, at 916-978-5516, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



ACTING FOR David G. Murillo
Regional Director

cc: Mr. Ricardo Ortega
General Manager
Grassland Water District
200 W. Willmott Avenue
Los Banos, CA 93635