



Memorandum

Date: August 6, 1997

To: CALFED Policy Group

From: Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

Subject: Update on the CALFED Ops Group
(Information Provided by Curtis Creel)

Summary

In June, the Ops Group discussed water supply impacts associated with changes in the operations of the CVP and SWP, and a plan to recover those impacts later in the year. The operational changes involved voluntary export reductions in April and May to improve conditions for outmigrating chinook on the San Joaquin River and delta smelt residing in the Delta. The plan to recover those impacts includes higher pumping later in the summer and fall, lower reservoir releases in the fall and winter, and lower Delta outflow in November and December.

In July, the Ops Group discussed monitoring for spring-run, triggers to indicate when juvenile spring-run will begin out migration, and adjustments to CVP and SWP operations to facilitate their out migration. Discussions focused on developing a spring-run protection plan that will be presented to the Fish and Game Commission (FGC) in August. In June, FGC agreed to list spring-run chinook as a candidate species under the California Endangered Species Act. The Commission also issued a draft incidental take statement for spring-run chinook that recognizes existing protections for spring-run by operating the CVP and SWP in accordance with the Delta Accord.

The Ops Group is proceeding to coordinate implementation of the water supply recovery plan and the spring-run protection plan and ensure that both are compatible. Details of both plans are being discussed with the Data Assessment Team and the No-Name Group. The Ops Group will meet on August 21 to discuss the two plans.

CALFED Agencies

California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal
Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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Action Item

No action is necessary. This agenda item will be for discussion only at the Policy Group Meeting.