

To: calfedda@water.ca.gov, CBOWLING@mp.usbr.gov,
drobinson.2MPRO01.ibr2dm10@mp.usbr.gov,
pfujitani.2CVO100.ibr2dm10@mp.usbr.gov, jsandberg@mp.usbr.gov,
tmorsteinmarx.2CVO100.ibr2dm10@mp.usbr.gov (Tom Morstein-Marx),
Subject: SUMMARY OF DAT CONFERENCE CALL TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1999
Cc: Steve Kashiwada <slk@water.ca.gov>, Lowell Ploss <lploss@mp.usbr.gov>,
lgage@water.ca.gov

Summary of DAT Conference Call Tuesday, December 21, 1999

Participants: Marty Kjelson, Roger Guinee, Mark Pierce, Jim White,
Bruce Herbold, Sheila Greene, Dave Robinson,
Victor Pacheco, John Leahigh, John Burke,
Serge Birk, David Briggs, Rick Sitts, Tom Boardman

The purpose of this call was to discuss the proposed water project operations after Wednesday, 12/22.

During the DAT Conference Call Wednesday, 12/15, the fish biologists and the water project operators discussed opening the Delta Cross Channel Gates for water quality and a proposed operation plan to optimize circulating fresher water into the interior and south Delta. The operators proposed an operations schedule through Wednesday, 12/22. The schedule was to ramp pumping, if water quality allowed, to a maximum pumping rate of 4100 cfs by Wednesday, 12/22. The fish regulatory agencies were concerned about operations after 12/22, and proposed the Cross Channel Gates be closed 2 days prior an increase in exports above 4100 cfs. The purpose of the proposal was to provide an opportunity to discuss operations prior to the beginning of an increase in exports.

At the NoName Group conference call on Monday, 12/20, the USBR proposed ramping combined exports beyond 4100 cfs beginning Thursday, 12/23, to a maximum of 8000 cfs. Beginning 12/23, CVP and SWP propose to ramp exports from 4100 cfs by 1000 cfs per day to a maximum of 8000 cfs by Sunday, 12/26. The SWP will increase 1000 cfs on Thursday, from 3300 cfs to 4300 cfs. On Friday, the CVP will increase from 800 cfs to 3000 cfs and the SWP will reduce from 4300 cfs to 3000 for a combined export of 6000 cfs. The CVP will increase 1000 cfs on Saturday, and the SWP and will increase 1000 cfs on Sunday for a maximum combined export of 8000 cfs. Increasing at the CVP and ramping at the SWP will circulate better water quality from the full tide cycle into the southern Delta, and minimize forebay fish losses during the 3 days.

Since the operators have concern over the water quality conditions in the interior Delta, they recommend the Cross Channel Gates be kept open.

Reservoir releases will remain near their current rate. Keswick is at 5500 cfs, Oroville is at 3500 cfs, and Folsom is at 2350 cfs. The operating schedule proposed above, the current reservoir releases, and keeping the Cross Channel gates open will provide an opportunity to improve circulation and reduce salinity in the

southern Delta and maintain balanced conditions in the Delta.

Rock Slough salinity standard was exceeded yesterday, 12/20. The daily average chloride concentration was 258 mg/l. East of Pumping Plant #1, in Rock Slough, at the Delta Road Bridge, chlorides were sampled at 266 mg/l. That water will have to be pumped before they have access to fresher water. Tracy EC decreased from 900 EC to 600 EC, but Old River did not improve that much. CCWD must use Rock Slough diversion for limited local demands. When salinity improves CCWD will start diverting from the Old River pumping plant. Under the 90% exceedence forecast Los Vaqueros will likely not fill because high-quality surplus water in the Delta may be limited, under the 50% forecast it likely will fill.

Jim Snow suggested investigating opening Sand Mound Slough and circulating any fresher water from Big Break (near Bethel Island) into Rock Slough. Dave Briggs will report on this at the NoName Conference Call Wednesday, 12/22.

FWS took the lead in developing biological criteria and operational recommendations for closing the Cross Channel Gates for fish protection. The recommendations are meant to help us work through the period December 20 to January 3 when many people will be on vacation.

When the fish indicators are observed, the recommendation is to close the Cross Channel Gates for 5 days to allow the fish to pass. If water quality does not allow for the gates to be closed, then the recommendation is to reduce exports to 4100 cfs. These operational recommendations are intended to provide fish protection, and avoid repeating any water quality problem in the Delta.

Following is the fish monitoring schedule for the Christmas weekend

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Tisdale	Y	Y	N	Y
Knights Landing	Y	Y	N	Y
Sacramento Trawl	Y	N	N	N
Beach Seines	Y	N	N	N
Chipps Island	Y	Y	Y	Y

Sheila Greene
sgreene@water.ca.gov
916/227-7538 voice
916/227-7554 fax