

JUN 03 1999

Memorandum

To : Lester Snow
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

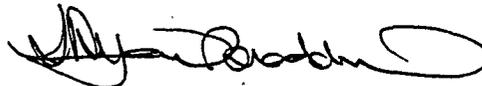
Date: June 3, 1999

From : Department of Fish and Game

Subject : Water Acquisition from Yuba County Water Agency in 1999

The Department of Fish and Game supports the allocation of CALFED funds for the acquisition of 70,000 acre feet of water on the Yuba River in 1999. Implementation of the Biological Opinion for delta smelt during the mid-April to mid-May San Joaquin River pulse flow period and project operations adjustments undertaken since mid-May to reduce the losses of young delta smelt at the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) have reduced the amount of water diverted from the Delta by the SWP and CVP. Export reductions this spring influence both carryover storage in San Luis Reservoir at the end of the summer and export pumping rates and patterns next fall and winter when other fish species, including juvenile spring-run, winter-run and late fall-run salmon, may be affected. Operations forecasts prepared by the projects with and without this acquisition show that export patterns are further modified if additional water is acquired, exports being higher in October and November but lower in February and March. Variations on the specific forecasted operations scenarios could be developed that would reduce the probability of adverse effects on fish in the Delta and upstream. Because the risk of a conflict with emigrating salmon from the Sacramento basin increases in November, acquisition-related pumping from the Delta should be completed as early in the fall as possible. Flow regimes must be developed in affected tributaries that will avoid salmon redd dewatering and juvenile fish stranding. The DFG anticipates working with project operators to determine the operations plan that will minimize fishery impacts of Delta exports in the fall and winter.

I realize there are issues related to management of water supplies pursuant to Central Valley Project Improvement Act Section 3406(b)(2) that affect CVP water supply impacts of spring pulse period actions. DOI accounting for the use of the b(2) water as required by the Federal court likely will reduce the quantity of CVP make up. Furthermore, water diverted in the fall by the SWP that would not be in the Delta were it not for releases from CVP reservoirs to meet Anadromous Fish Restoration Program stream flow flow targets should be considered to reduce the SWP water supply impacts of spring fishery actions. Yuba River acquisition will enable the SWP to recover the water costs of spring fishery actions and for the CVP to recover costs incurred beyond those offset by allocation of b(2) water for fishery purposes.



L. Ryan Broddrick
Chief Deputy Director

Lester Snow
June 3, 1999
page 2

cc:

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sacramento

Mr. James Lecky
National Marine Fisheries Service
Long Beach

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