

Draft

TESTIMONY OF
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MID-PACIFIC REGION, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
AT A JOINT HEARING
OF THE CALIFORNIA SENATE AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES AND
ASSEMBLY WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEES
Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Senator Costa, Assemblyman Machado, and Committee Members, good morning and thank you for the opportunity to present our Water Year 2000 Operations Plan for the Federal Central Valley Project.

Each month our operations office in coordination with the operations office from the Department of Water Resources prepares a 12-month operations forecast for the Central Valley Project (CVP). In order to be consistent with the 1995 Winter-Run Chinook salmon biological opinion we prepare a forecast at the 90 percent exceedence level hydrology. This means ~~the forecast 90 percent of the time.~~ We also prepare a forecast at the more median condition of 50 percent exceedence. *actual conditions will be better than forecasted 90% of time.*

Included in the material we provided to the committee are a series of charts depicting the planned operations of the CVP. Each chart illustrates the CVP reservoir conditions at both the 90 and 50 percent forecasts. These charts were prepared for a presentation to our CVP contractors last week and are based on storage and forecast conditions as of December 31, 1999. We have marked each chart with the actual storage levels as of midnight January 26. At that time storage levels in Trinity, Shasta, and Folsom Reservoirs were at the prescribed flood control levels for this time of the year. New Melones Reservoir was slightly below the flood control level and we anticipate reaching that level if the rainy patterns continue.

Four additional charts are provided to help describe the operations of the CVP in the Delta and San Luis Reservoir. Again these charts are for both the 90 and 50 percent exceedence levels of hydrology. Since the operations of the Delta are of interest to so

many people, we have taken the time to portray on the Delta and San Luis charts the conditions as we forecasted as of November 30, 1999 and as of December 31, 1999. This is to show how the conditions changed through the month of December, which was a very dry month.

Export pumping at the Federal Tracy Pumping Plant through the month of December was at a level planned in our December forecast. The CVP operations in the Delta during the month of December and up to today have been planned in accordance with the Department of Interiors plan to use the 800,0000 acre-feet of under Section 3406(b)(2) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA). In fact the current level of Federal storage in San Luis reservoir is slightly above that projected for the end of January.

We will continue to plan and operate the CVP in accordance with the provisions of the Water Quality Control Plan and CVPIA. In saying that, we are also fully aware of the importance to the water users of an adequate water supply each year. For that reason we have been working through the CALFED process to provide tools that can insure better water supplies while meeting the environmental needs. To date we have pursued tools such as joint point of diversion, relaxation of regulatory standards that make sense and can be done in an environmentally responsible manner, and have sought out opportunities to acquire water, mainly south of the Delta.

On December 29, 1999 we sent to the State Water Resources Control Board an application for joint point of diversion. The joint-point will allow the CVP to use the State export pumps once the State has filled its storage space in San Luis Reservoir south of the Delta. If our application is approved, we anticipate pumping up to 200,000 acre-feet of water through the use of joint point, assuming continuation of rainy patterns across the state. The application is now out for public review, and we expect a decision this month.

Through CALFED, we have also begun discussions with parties south of the Delta on acquiring water from ground water and surface sources. This will provide 75,000 acre-feet of additional water during the summer depending on hydrologic conditions. This water, as with the water from joint point of diversion, will allow the CVP to increase water supplies to users and address any water quality concerns caused by low summer storage levels in San Luis Reservoir.

The Department of Water Resources is pursuing approval to increase its pumping rates in late summer to support its own demands for water and assist in any low point problems in San Luis Reservoir. DWR is working through the regulatory process at this time and expects to have approval in time to begin the additional pumping in July 2000.

Finally, a recent change in the hydrology has altered regulatory conditions within the Delta. As part of the Water Quality Control Plan, the projects may export water in February at a rate of 35 to 45 percent of the inflow. The precise ratio is determined by the prior month's inflow. Through the CALFED Operations Group process we will seek allowing the projects to operate at the upper end of the range. This could allow the CVP to export any remaining contract year 1999 water for Cross Valley Canal contractors and allow for some pay-back to the State for its participation in last year's operation under CVPIA Section 3406(b)(2) operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to explain our planned operations. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.