



DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Division of Operations and Maintenance
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 300
Sacramento, California 95821



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

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

Erik Ekdahl
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Condition 10 of the June 1, 2021 Temporary Urgency Change Order

Dear Mr. Ekdahl:

Consistent with the June 1, 2021 Temporary Urgent Change Order by the State Water Resources Control Board issued to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and in compliance with Condition 10 of that Order, DWR and Reclamation hereby submit this summary of the constraints that exist on minimum export pumping levels of the State Water Project (SWP) and the Central Valley Project (CVP), also collectively referred to as Projects.

Minimum deliveries for health and safety purposes

The Projects have minimized Delta exports, which are going toward municipal and industrial water, refuge water, and senior water rights deliveries. This exported volume has been well below the limit of 1,500 cfs included in the June 1, 2021, Temporary Urgency Change Order.

Minimum health and safety exports will vary within a range, and 1,500 cfs is a reasonable cap on that range. Export levels at any particular time will depend on a number of factors and should consider not only the need to deliver water directly for drinking water, sanitation, and fire suppression purposes, but also the need to store water now for blending later for health and safety water quality considerations in the event that, direct Delta diversions become unusable.

Subject: Condition 10 of the June 1, 2021 Temporary Urgency Change Order

2

From June 1 through August 15, 2021 the SWP minimum exports were in the range of 300 to 350 cfs. This export rate supplied water to Byron Bethany Irrigation District, who diverts from Clifton Court Forebay, and also to the SWP South Bay Public Water Agencies who are not directly connected to San Luis Reservoir and who therefore rely on direct diversions from the Delta to meet their municipal and industrial demands due to limited or exhausted local storage and a lack of sufficient alternative supplies.

While this small diversion rate was sufficient during this time period, SWP Public Water Agencies who receive water supply through the South Bay Aqueduct are extremely vulnerable to water quality degradation in the Delta because there is limited storage or dilution capability on this system; water is pumped from the Delta and conveyed directly to water treatment plants operated by the Agencies. Consequently, degradation of water quality in the Delta arrives at these water treatment plants within 24 hours. Therefore, as a contingency response for possible future salinity degradation, SWP exports may include water that will be put into storage in Lake Del Valle for blending purposes in the event that Delta salinity conditions become too poor to meet drinking water health and safety standards.

Water exported at Jones Pumping Plant is primarily diverted for meeting municipal and industrial (M&I) public health and safety demands, wildlife refuge demands as required under CVPIA, and senior water right holders.

Infrastructure specifications and safety thresholds

Repeatedly starting and stopping pumping units causes excessive wear and tear and can ultimately result in catastrophic damage to the pumping units. Due to the age of the pumping plant, Reclamation strives to avoid this kind of wear and tear by maintaining a one-unit operation, even when Delta exports are being held to minimum levels. Once Reclamation completes the Jones Pumping Plant Rewind Project in 2023, starting and stopping units will be less of a concern.

Opportunities to use system infrastructure to reduce exports

The Projects used system infrastructure to reduce exports from the Delta for several weeks this summer through a "single-facility export" operation.

During this operation, the Projects used the Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC)-California Aqueduct (CA) Intertie (DCI) to help distribute exports from Jones Pumping Plant or Banks Pumping Plant. Through this operation, the Projects reduced combined exports by about 250 cfs per day. Beginning July 15, 2021, the Projects ceased the single-facility operation, and exports resumed at each facility.

Subject: Condition 10 of the June 1, 2021 Temporary Urgency Change Order

3

Field operations staff monitored both canal systems during this unique operation to evaluate its sustainability of operations. The single-facility operation is a successful approach to further limit exports when possible without causing excessive wear and tear on the pumping units at Jones Pumping Plant.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Tracy Pettit of DWR at (916) 574-2662 or Ms. Liz Kiteck of Reclamation at (916) 979-2684.

Sincerely,

Molly White

Molly White, Manager
Water Operations Office
Division of Operations and Maintenance
Department of Water Resources

Kristin White

Kristin White, Operations Manager
Central Valley Operations Office
Bureau of Reclamation

cc: Diane Riddle
Division of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95812

Amy L. Aufdemberge
Assistant Regional Solicitor
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1712
Sacramento, California 95825

David Mooney
Bay-Delta Office Manager
Bureau of Reclamation
801 I Street, Suite 140
Sacramento, California 95814

John Leahigh
Water Operations Executive Manager
Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street, Room 615
Sacramento, California 95814

James Mizell
Office of the General Counsel
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1118
Sacramento, California 95814