



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board

May 29, 2012

David H. Roose, Chief
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Ronald Milligan, Operations Manager
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Dear Mr. Roose and Mr. Milligan:

RE: REQUEST TO PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING EXCEEDANCES OF SOUTH DELTA WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES, STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WR 2010-0002

Thank you for your timely response to my April 20, 2012, letter on the above-entitled topic. My letter requested that you address the following items:

- 1) Descriptions of a strategy that will enable DWR and USBR to project potential exceedances of southern Delta salinity objectives and to timely inform the State Water Board. Part of that strategy could include web posting in a prominent manner of the full continuous record of daily and 30-day running average EC levels at the three monitoring stations.
- 2) A description of corrective actions that can be taken this year. These actions should go beyond those listed in DWR's February 2012 Quarterly Status Report.

Your letter of May 15, 2012, provided an adequate response to both items. Regarding the first item, you clearly outlined the steps you have taken to provide a full continuous and public record of daily and 30-day running average EC levels at all three monitoring stations. All parties can use this information to project anticipated exceedances. This information, together with a more rigorous planning process that follows the steps set forth in State Water Board Order WR 2010-0002, should enable all to plan program improvements that focus on EC exceedances at the major areas of concern.

Regarding the second item, your action to complete installation of the Grand Line Canal barrier on May 5 and to keep the culverts open appears to have assisted in reducing EC levels at Station P-12. Levels have dropped from 1.2 EC to around 0.4 EC. The scheduled increase in the height of the Middle River barrier's weir should also improve flow through Old River. For next year, consideration should be given to completing both of these improvements at an earlier time.

CHARLES R. HOPPIN, CHAIRMAN | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Order WR 2010-002 conditioned extension of the time schedule for meeting EC objectives in part upon continued operation of the temporary barriers program as an interim protective measure. This program has been shown to improve salinity levels. The Order requests The Department of Water Resources (DWR) to pursue improvements in the program in consultation with the South Delta Water Agency (SDWA) and with any necessary assistance from the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). To best ensure that the program improves on an iterative basis, the process set forth in the Order must be followed:

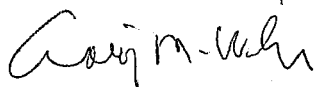
- 1) DWR and USBR shall consult with SDWA regarding potential improvements to the temporary barriers project on a yearly basis and as needed throughout the irrigation season (A.5)
- 2) If DWR or USBR disagree with SDWA regarding the feasibility of proposed improvements, DWR and USBR shall immediately advise the State Water Board's Executive Director who will make a determination regarding necessary actions (A.5)
- 3) By February 1 of each year, DWR and USBR shall submit a plan for approval by the Executive Director outlining the proposed construction and operation of the temporary barriers during the upcoming irrigation season (A.5)
- 4) The DWR and USBR shall implement the plan as approved by the Executive Director (A.5)
- 5) In the event DWR and/or USBR projects potential exceedances of the EC objectives, DWR and/or USBR shall immediately inform the State Water Board of the potential exceedance and shall describe additional corrective actions they are initiating to avoid or reduce the exceedances (A.a)

Based on reports from the last several years, the area of greatest concern regarding EC exceedances is in the Old River, particularly the area between the Old River Tracy barrier and Monitoring Station P-12. This area should be a focus of next year's program. In that regard, I would be happy to work with your staff to identify improvements to the program that will reduce exceedances in the area, including the identification of potential upstream cause(s) of the exceedances.

Thank you again for your timely response to my April 20 letter. Based on your response, I will not consider enforcement actions for this year's EC exceedances.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (916) 445-5962.

Sincerely,



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Delta Watermaster

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