

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

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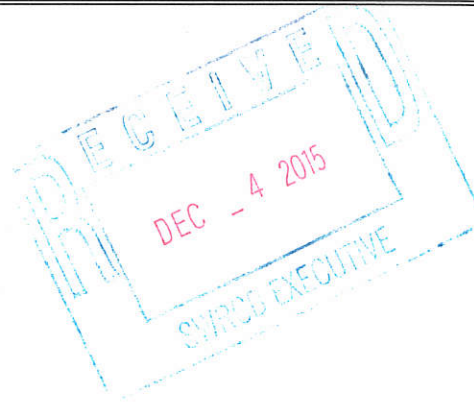


Date: November 30, 2015

To: Thomas Howard, Executive Director  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

From: Paul A. Marshall, Chief  
Bay-Delta Office  
**Department of Water Resources**

Subject: Quarterly Status Report, November 2015, State Water Resources Control Board  
Order WR 2010-0002



DWR

Pursuant to Condition 11 of State Water Resources Control Board (Board) Order WR 2010-0002 (Order), the Department of Water Resources (DWR), in coordination with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), is submitting this report to apprise the Board of the activities undertaken to comply with the conditions listed in paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 of the Order's Part A.

Condition A.3 – DWR has no new information to report this quarter regarding the June 25, 2010 work plan to improve the accuracy of the delta models in the south Delta. We are awaiting direction from the Board on whether or not to proceed with the work plan as proposed.

Staff is currently responding to an SWRCB request for information and technical assistance in updating the Delta outflow objective (letter from Thomas Howard to Mark Cowin, received via email October 2, 2015). This response includes updates on Delta channel depletion estimates. These estimates are significant inputs into the Delta simulation models and affect their accuracy.

Work continues on updating Delta consumptive use estimates. Documentation of the updated estimates will be presented in *Methodology for Flow and Salinity Estimates in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh* Annual Report to the SWRCB, which will be released later this year.

Condition A.4 – DWR and Reclamation continue to implement activities described in the Compliance Plan for Station C-6 (Plan). These activities include monitoring within the south Delta, reviewing prior data and analyses, modeling and developing salt balances, working with wetland managers to improve wetland discharges, and continuing to support and facilitate real-time water quality monitoring programs. In addition, the Plan includes a section titled *San Joaquin Salinity Management Plan* describing programs and activities to control the volume and concentrations of saline discharges to the San Joaquin River upstream of Vernalis.

As reported in the August 2015 status report, the first annual Management Agency Agreement (MAA) report between the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and the USBR will be completed in December 2015. The yearly status of some activities supporting implementation of the Plan, including those activities to improve wetland discharges and manage real time water quality monitoring programs will be included. In this quarter,

Reclamation awarded close to \$900,000 in drought resiliency project grants to three districts in the San Joaquin Valley to improve water supply management.

Condition A.5 – As a result of low San Joaquin River flows, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife requested DWR install the Fall Head of Old River barrier (HOR) on August 31, 2015. The purpose of the barrier is to maximize the effects of the attraction flows to support the returning adult salmonids into the tributaries and their respective spawning habitats. Construction of the Fall Head of Old River barrier started on September 3 with closure completed September 14. The fall barrier stayed in operation until the San Joaquin pulse flow ended on November 7. On September 8, the Middle River (MR) and Old River near Tracy (ORT) barriers were notched to allow passage for migratory salmon. The Grant Line Canal barrier (GLC) weir was also adjusted on the same date.

Operations of the agricultural and fish barriers were concluded on October 30. During the barrier operation, DWR continued to monitor water levels and water quality in the south Delta. No adjustments to culvert flap gates were made and water levels continued to be above target elevations. The ORT and GLC barriers removal started on October 29 and October 30, respectively. Both barriers were breached on November 4. The ORT barrier was completely removed on November 19, 2015. The complete removal for GLC barrier is scheduled for November 30. The MR barrier was breached on November 20 and completely removed on November 24. The fall HOR barrier breach took place on November 13 and removal was completed November 19.

Upon completion of removal of all barriers, DWR will prepare the Temporary Barrier Project (TBP) compliance report and the 2016 TBP Construction and Operation Plan. The 2016 plan will be submitted for the Board's review by January 31, 2016.

Condition A.6 – Reclamation has no new information to report this quarter regarding the Delta-Mendota Canal Recirculation Plan Formulation Report, which remains available for download and review at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/dmcrecirc/docs/final/index.html>. The related Delta-Mendota Canal Recirculation Project Feasibility Study also remains available for download.

Condition A.7 – DWR and Reclamation continue to work closely with the Delta Water Master and the South Delta Water Agency in formulating and evaluating options to reduce local sources of water quality degradation.

South Delta Salinity Study field data collection, as reported in recent quarterly reports, is ongoing. As reported last quarter, the data collected to date clearly identifies the presence of high saline water originating in and along specific reaches in the south Delta, particularly Paradise and Sugar cuts, which migrates into Old River and by the Old River near Tracy Boulevard Bridge (C-6) compliance station. As previously reported, DWR has developed conceptual alternatives to improve salinity at C-6 and are preparing a conceptual alternative analysis report. The report is undergoing final review and is now scheduled to be released in January 2016. Consistent with the order and amendments resulting from the Temporary Urgency Change Petition that the Board approved, DWR and Reclamation continue to closely monitor water quality conditions.

As reported in the August status report, DWR completed the construction of a temporary emergency drought barrier (EDB) at West False River in June 2015. Removal of the EDB began early September with the barrier breach occurring October 1 and full removal completed

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November 15. EC data from various local water quality monitoring stations has shown the barrier was effective at reducing the movement of higher salinity water into the Central and South Delta region. A barrier effects analysis report is planned for completion by January 2017.

Reclamation continues to await comments from the Board regarding the report titled *Special Study: Evaluation of Dilution Flow to Meet Interior South Delta Water Quality Objectives* submitted April 11, 2011.

Condition A.8 – No additional salinity control measures have been required by the Executive Director. DWR and Reclamation continue to take action based on the approval of the Compliance Plan for Station C-6 as described under Condition A.4. Additionally, DWR successfully completed the 2015 Temporary Barriers Project as described above under Condition A.5. DWR also completed the temporary West False River EDB project as described under Condition A.7 and DWR and Reclamation are continuing to evaluate other potential drought response actions.

If you or your staff wishes to discuss this report further, please contact Mark Holderman, Chief of the South Delta Branch, at 653-7247 or [Mark.Holderman@water.ca.gov](mailto:Mark.Holderman@water.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Paul A. Marshall, Chief  
Bay-Delta Office

ec.: (see attached list)

PROOF OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am over the age of eighteen (18) years of age and an employee of the State of California Department of Water Resources, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California 95814.

On November 30, 2015, I served true and correct copies of the attached Department of Water Resources "Quarterly Status Report" electronically to the office of Division of Water Rights of the State Water Resources Control Board on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor of the California Environmental Protection Agency Building at 1001 I Street in Sacramento. I also served true and correct copies of this document by electronically transmitting the report to the parties listed on the attached Mailing List.

Date: November 30, 2015

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