

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

In the Matter of Conditional )  
Temporary Urgency Change Order )  
On Permit 12860 )  
(Application 15764) )  
U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, )  
Permittee )

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ORDER: WR 87 - 10  
SOURCE: Old River  
COUNTY: Contra Costa

ORDER VALIDATING AND MODIFYING ISSUANCE OF CONDITIONAL  
TEMPORARY URGENCY CHANGE  
IN POINT OF DIVERSION

BY THE BOARD:

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) having filed a petition for a conditional temporary urgency change in point of diversion and rediversion pursuant to Chapter 6.6 (commencing with Section 1435), Part 2, Division 2 of the Water Code; the Board having consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Water Resources (DWR); Chairman W. Don Maughan having concluded from available information that the Bureau qualifies for a temporary urgency change and having issued a conditional temporary urgency change order, subject to review and validation by the Board as provided by Water Code Section 1435; the Board finds as follows:

Substance of the Proposed Change

1. On July 27, 1987, the Bureau filed a petition for a temporary urgency change in the point of diversion under the 13 water right permits specified in Table 1 Below:

Table 1  
Water Right Permits Covered by  
The Petition For Temporary Urgency Change

<u>Application</u>	<u>Permit</u>
5626	12721*
5628	11967*
9363	12722*
9364	12723*
9368	12727**
13370	11315*
13371	11316*
15374	11968*
15375	11969*
15764	12860
16767	11971*
17374	11973**
17376	12364*

\*These permits allow redirection of water stored north of the Delta to use or to storage in San Luis Reservoir (redirection) using the permittee's Tracy Pumping Plant and the Delta Mendota Canal.

\*\*These permits allow direct diversion of water only and cannot be used to place water into storage.

The July 27, 1987 petition requests that, in addition to the existing point of diversion and redirection specified in the permits, the permittee be allowed to divert or redirect water temporarily under said permits at the Clifton Court Forebay Intake of the State Water Project, Harvey O. Banks Pumping Plant (Banks Plant) at the following location:

California Coordinates, Zone 3, N 486,035; E 1,695,057;

within NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of projected Section 20, T1S, R4E, MDB&M.

2. The petition for a temporary urgency change requests that the diversion and rediversion at the Banks Plant be authorized from September 1, 1987 to April 30, 1988 with the total amount diverted or rediverted not to exceed 10,000 acre-feet (ac-ft) for use at Kern National Wildlife Refuge (Kern NWR). Subsequent correspondence from Kern NWR reduced that amount to 6,200 ac-ft.

Temporary Urgency Need

3. The urgent need to utilize facilities of the State Water Project (SWP) arises as a result of the Kern NWR requirement for 6,200 ac-ft of water for waterfowl habitat which, due to unusually dry conditions, is not available from the normal sources of surface water supply previously used by the refuge.
4. Petitioner states that this action is needed to provide important wintering migratory waterfowl habitat on the refuge and that no substitute supply is available. Marsh habitat in the Central Valley of California is in critically short supply and flooding this fall is urgently needed to support Pacific Flyway waterfowl. The water to be applied to Kern NWR is especially important to produce wildlife food crops and to make this food available to waterfowl during the winter period. The proposed action of applying good quality water for wetland habitat at Kern NWR will provide a direct benefit to migratory waterfowl. Wetland habitat values will be greatly restricted if the water is not delivered. The proposed action will also assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in carrying out its responsibilities for management of migratory bird resources.

Notice and Responses

5. Notice of the petition for a temporary change was provided by publication and by mail to interested parties. The Board received responses from eight interested parties; three supported the proposed change, three commented on the proposed change and two opposed the proposed change.
  
6. Contra Costa Water Agency objects to the proposed change based on the contention that there is insufficient justification and contends no "urgency" for the change exists, as required by statute. As explained in the preceding paragraphs, however, there is sufficient evidence for the Board to conclude that there is an urgent need to approve the change in order to maintain waterfowl habitat under the unusually dry conditions existing this year.
  
7. Central Delta Water Agency and Conrad Sylva joined in an objection to the proposed change based on alleged adverse effects to "water levels and water quality." No explanation is provided regarding the "water levels" contention. With respect to water quality, the Board finds that Delta water quality will be adequately protected by the provision of Chairman Maughan's September 11, 1987 order which effectively restricts diversion of water under the temporary urgency change to times when Delta outflow exceeds the amount required to meet the water quality standards established by Decision 1485.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The change order restricts diversion to times when the Delta "is not in a balanced condition". The Delta is said to be in balanced conditions when Delta inflow is just sufficient to satisfy Delta consumptive use, Delta and Suisun Marsh water quality standards, CVP & SWP water quality objectives at their export facilities in the Southern Delta and Delta export demands. When Delta inflow is in excess of these demands the Delta is not in balanced conditions.

8. The Board has considered the comments and objections and found that none of them raise issues necessitating a hearing, nor have any of the objectors shown that the proposed change would cause injury to any lawful user of water or have unreasonable effect upon fish, wildlife, or other instream beneficial uses.

Other Findings by the Board

9. Permits 12727 and 11973 (Application 9368 and 17374) allow direct diversion of water only and cannot be used to place water into storage.
10. Permits 12721, 11967, 12722, 12723, 11315, 11316, 11968, 11969, 11971 and 12364 (Applications 5626, 5628, 9363, 9364, 13370, 13371, 15374, 15375, 16767 and 17376) allow rediversion of stored water to use or to restorage in San Luis Reservoir through the permittee's Tracy Pumping Plant.
11. Permit 12860 (Application 15764) allows diversion at the permittee's Tracy Pumping Plant to storage in San Luis Reservoir.
12. DWR staff has informed Board staff that DWR is willing to wheel the replacement water for the Bureau through the Banks Plant and the California Aqueduct to storage in San Luis Reservoir.
13. The temporary urgency change as approved in this order does not constitute the initiation of a new right nor operate to the injury of any other lawful user of water and does not unreasonably affect fish, wildlife or other instream beneficial uses.
14. The proposed action is an emergency measure under CEQA that will avoid adverse effects on wildlife habitat and wildlife due to unusually dry conditions.

Action by Board Chairman Maughan

15. In accordance with the authorization in Water Code Section 1435(d), the Board adopted Resolution 84-2 delegating authority to individual Board members to approve temporary changes on projects where no detrimental effects are anticipated.
16. In accordance with the delegation of authority in Resolution 84-2, Board Chairman Maughan issued a conditional temporary urgency change order on September 11, 1987 allowing a temporary change in the point of diversion at Clifton Court Forebay under Permit 12860 subject to several specified conditions.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Issuance of the September 11, 1987 order by the Board Chairman Maughan allowing a conditonal Temporary Urgency Change in point of diversion and point of rediversion under Permit 12860 is validated subject to the terms and conditions specified in the order as revised herein.
2. Condition 2 of the order is corrected to read as follows:

Use of Clifton Court Forebay and the Banks Plant to transfer (redivert) stored water into San Luis Reservoir under Permits 12721, 11967, 12722, 12723, 11315, 11316, 11968, 11969, 11971 and 12364 (Application 5626, 5628, 9363, 9364, 13370, 13371, 15374, 15375, 16767 and 17376) is not authorized under this temporary urgency change.

3. Condition 3 of the order is modified to read as follows:

Diversion of water at the Banks Pumping Plant under this order is authorized beginning November 1, 1987 and continuing until 6,200 ac-ft are delivered to San Luis Reservoir or until March 10, 1988, whichever occurs first and shall then be of no further force or effect unless extended by the Board prior to that event.

4. Condition 10 of the order is updated to read as follows:

Pursuant to California Water Code Sections 100 and 275, and the common law public trust doctrine, all rights and privileges under this permit and under any license issued pursuant thereto, including method of diversion, method of use, and quantity of water diverted, are subject to the continuing authority of the State Water Resources Control Board in accordance with law and in the interest of the public welfare to protect public trust uses and to prevent waste, unreasonable use, unreasonable method of use, or unreasonable method of diversion of said water.

The continuing authority of the Board may be exercised by imposing specific requirements over and above those contained in this permit with a view to eliminating waste of water and to meeting the reasonable water requirements of permittee without unreasonable draft on the source. Permittee may be required to implement a water conservation plan, features of which may include but not necessarily be limited to: (1) reusing or reclaiming the water allocated; (2) using water reclaimed by another entity instead of all or part of the water allocated; (3) restricting diversions so as to eliminate agricultural tailwater or to reduce return flow; (4) suppressing evaporation losses from water surfaces; (5) controlling phreatophytic growth; and (6) installing, maintaining, and operating efficient water measuring devices to assure compliance with the quantity limitations of this permit and to determine accurately water use as against reasonable water requirements for the authorized project. No action will be taken pursuant to this paragraph unless the Board determines, after notice to affected parties and opportunity for hearing, that such specific requirements are physically and financially feasible and are appropriate to the particular situation.

The continuing authority of the Board also may be exercised by imposing further limitations on the diversion and use of water by the permittee in order to protect public trust uses. No action will be taken pursuant to this paragraph unless the Board determines, after notice to affected parties and opportunity for hearing, that such action is consistent with California Constitution Article X, Section 2; is consistent with the public interest and is necessary to preserve or restore the uses protected by the public trust.

CERTIFICATION

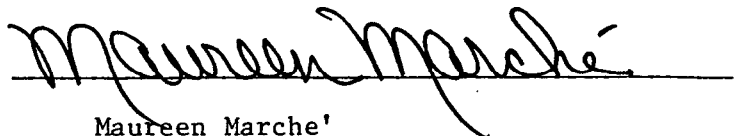
The undersigned, Administrative Assistant to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on October 8, 1987.

Aye: W. Don Maughan  
Darlene E. Ruiz  
Edwin H. Finster

No: None

Absent: Danny Walsh  
Eliseo M. Samaniego

Abstain: None



Maureen Marche'  
Administrative  
Assistant to Board