

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

In the Matter of Conditional )  
Temporary Urgency Change Order )  
on Permits 12721, 11967, 12722, )  
12723, 12727, 11315, 11316, 11968 )  
11969, 12860, 11971, 11973 and )  
12364 issued pursuant to )  
Applications 5626, 5628, 9363, )  
9364, 9368, 13370, 13371, 15374 )  
15375, 15764, 16767, 17374 and )  
17376 )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

ORDER: WR 88- 18  
SOURCE: Old River  
COUNTY: Contra Costa

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

BY THE BOARD:

The U. S. Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) having filed a petition for a 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 State Water Resources Control Board (Board) having consulted with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR); Board Member Edwin H. Finster having concluded from available information that the Bureau qualifies for a Temporary Urgency Change and having issued a Conditional Temporary Urgency Change Order on August 18, 1988, subject to review and validation by the Board as provided by Water Code Section 1435(d); the Board finds as follows:

Substance of the Proposed Change

1. On June 30, 1988 the Bureau filed a petition with the Board to add the State Water Project's (SWP) Clifton Court Forebay, at the intake of the Harvey O. Banks Pumping Plant (Banks Plant), operated by the DWR, as a temporary point of diversion and rediversion under the following Bureau permits.

TABLE 1  
Water Right Applications and 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              | <b>11316</b>  |
| 15374              | 11968         |
| 15375              | <b>11969</b>  |
| 15764              | <b>12860</b>  |
| 16767              | <b>11971</b>  |
| 17374              | <b>11973</b>  |
| 17376              | <b>12364</b>  |

The petition requests that, in addition to the existing Central Valley Project's (CVP) point of diversion and rediversion specified in the permits, the Bureau be allowed to divert or redivert water temporarily under the above permits at the Clifton Court Forebay, the intake of the Banks Plant, at the following location:

California Coordinates, Zone 3, N 486,035;  
E 1,695,057; within the NW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of  
projected Section 20, T1S, R4E, MDB&M.

2. The petition requests that diversion and rediversion at the Banks Plant be authorized for up to 85,500 acre-feet of the Bureau's water that the Bureau is entitled to divert under the permits listed above during the July 1, 1988 through February 28, 1989 period, to **accommodate** the following drought related requests:

- A) To supply 7,500 acre-feet of water to the Kern National Wildlife Refuge (KNWR) from September 1, 1988 through December 31, 1988.
- B) To replace pumping capacity lost to the Bureau caused by reductions of pumping at the Tracy Pumping Plant. This operation is for the purpose of studying the influences of the Tracy Pumping Plant, during extreme tidal events, on minimum water levels in the southern Delta, for water users of the South Delta Water Agency (SDWA). The pumping capacity lost is estimated to be up to 48,000 acre-feet due to tidal events during July and August of 1988.
- C) To replace pumping capacity lost to the Bureau caused by reductions in releases from Shasta Reservoir. This operation is for the purpose of enhancing temperature conditions for Chinook (King)

salmon eggs and juvenile salmon in the upper Sacramento River. The pumping capacity lost is estimated to be up to 30,000 acre-feet during October and November 1988.

#### Temporary Urgency Need

3. The Central Valley of California is experiencing consecutive critically dry water years.
4. Even if the fall and winter runoff this year is normal or above normal the Bureau will not have sufficient pumping capacity available at the Tracy Pumping Plant to pump water related to the requested additional service and pumping deferrals.

#### Notices and Responses

5. On July 15, 1988 a Notice of the petition for a Temporary Urgency Change and of a proposed hearing was mailed to interested parties. The Board received letters of support, policy statements or objections from:
  - A) Semitropic Water Storage District,
  - B) Wilson, Hoslett & Whitridge (for the South Delta Water Agency),
  - C) California Waterfowl Association,
  - D) Murray, Burns and Kienlen (for the East Contra Costa Irrigation District),
  - E) Trinity County, and
  - F) Legal Department of the Hoopa Valley Business Council.

Three of the letters (A, B, and C) were supportive of the proposed change, one letter (D) requested the observance of a condition in an existing agreement with DWR, and two letters (E and F) contained objections. The

objectors indicated that they would not attend the hearing scheduled for August 10 and **11, 1988**. The hearing was therefore cancelled. The observance of the DWR Agreement will be made a condition of this temporary change order. The objections are addressed in the findings below.

The California Waterfowl Association letter of support mentions that the KNWR requires 8,200 af rather than 7,500 af this year. The petition was noticed for the requested 7,500 af. If further water is needed, an additional petition is required.

6. On August 26, 1988 a Notice of the petition was published in the Contra Costa Times. The period for submitting objections ended September 6, 1988.

FINDINGS RELATED TO DELIVERY OF WATER TO KERN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (KNWR)  
ACTION:

7. The Bureau is authorized under its existing permits to service the KNWR with water from the Delta. Under existing limits on the Tracy Plant the Bureau cannot service the KNWR request for 7,500 af this season.
8. Both objectors are concerned that no additional reduction in flows in the Trinity River result from this temporary change. This conditional temporary urgency change allows the Bureau to use the Banks Plant to pump the 7,500 af for KNWR. When uncontrolled flows are available for diversion, no additional releases from Trinity would be necessary. While a portion of the 7,500 af could be withdrawn from the Trinity River such withdrawal would be insignificant this year and would not cause a violation of any permit terms or conditions.

9. The proposed action is a minor alteration in the operations of the water projects, results in an improvement of habitat for wildlife and assures maintenance of a natural resource. Successive actions of this type do not have significant cumulative impacts.

#### FINDINGS RELATED TO PUMPING MODIFICATIONS TO BENEFIT THE SOUTH DELTA WATER

#### AGENCY ACTION:

10. Water users along the Old River, within the southern Delta, have had pumping problems when low water levels occur during extremely low tide cycles.
11. The water level problem may be compounded by pumping at the Tracy Pumping Plant.
12. Low tides are anticipated to occur about four days per tidal event, with four events occurring during July and August of 1988.
13. The SDWA, the DWR and the Bureau have an October 10, 1986 Agreement on a Framework for Settling Litigation regarding this problem, i.e., diversions in the south Delta during low water elevation conditions.
14. The Bureau's ability to reduce pumping at the Tracy Pumping Plant is constrained by the Bureau's contractual obligations to deliver CVP water to its users, and by capacity limits in the first reach of the Delta Mendota Canal. The Bureau has agreed to curtail pumping at the Tracy pumping plant by up to 1,600 cfs during the tidal events if the DWR is authorized to wheel replenishment water through the Banks Plant and the California Aqueduct.

15. This critically low flow year provides an opportunity to measure the influence of the Tracy Pumping Plant operations on water levels in the Old River during low tide events.
16. The East Contra Costa Irrigation District (ECCID), by Letter of Comment, dated July 28, 1988, had no objection to the temporary change "provided that the State Water Project facilities are operated in accordance with the following condition contained in paragraph 4 from the Contract Between the State of California, DWR, and the ECCID for the Assurance of a Dependable Water Supply of Suitable Quality.

"4. Water Surface Elevation: The State shall not operate the SWP so as to cause the water surface elevation at the District's Pumping Plant No. 1 to fall below - .230 feet, District datum (0.0 on District datum is equal to +0.35 feet USGS datum) during the period April 1 through October 31 of each year."

17. This change will not have an effect on storage in Trinity Reservoir distinguishable from the operations of the CVP without this change, and consequently will not adversely affect the interests of the objectors.
18. The proposed action is an experimental management activity that will allow collection of valuable information regarding the effects of curtailing diversions during low tide cycles. Successive projects of this type do not have a significant cumulative impact.

FINDINGS RELATED TO FLOW AND PUMPING CHANGES REQUESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME:

19. Because of low runoff conditions this year, Shasta Reservoir will be at a low level and consequently releases from the reservoir during this fall will be warmer than optimum for the survival of salmon eggs and juvenile salmon. Water temperatures can be lowered by: 1) increasing the proportion of Keswick Dam releases originating from the Trinity River, and/or 2) by making releases from the lower level outlets at Shasta Dam, which results in loss of hydroelectric power generation.
20. This year's critically dry water conditions and very hot weather this summer have resulted in high water temperatures in the upper Sacramento River below Keswick Dam. This is threatening the survival of the fall run Chinook (King) salmon eggs and fry (juvenile salmon). The Bureau has already begun releasing water from the lower levels at Shasta Dam to reduce temperatures and as a consequence has lost some hydroelectric power generation.
21. The requested modifications in flows below Keswick Dam will be achieved by reducing releases from Shasta Reservoir rather than increasing releases from Trinity Reservoir. The result will be an increase in the proportion of cooler Trinity Reservoir water below Keswick without an increase in the volume of Trinity water released. This will affect the amount of water being transferred this fall by the Bureau from storage (north of the Delta) to the San Luis Reservoir (south of the Delta). The modifications will not affect the net amount of carryover storage in Trinity Reservoir or the flows in the Trinity River that would be present without the temporary change.

22. The proposed changes will allow the Bureau to reduce considerably mortality in the fall salmon run without **foregoing** export of the water. The Bureau will be diverting water at Banks Plant for export at a time when it is anticipated that potential impacts of pumping will be minimal.
23. The proposed action is a minor alteration in water resources which results in improved habitat for fish and greater fish production, and is also an action to assure maintenance of a natural resource. Successive actions of this type do not have a significant cumulative impact.

#### Additional Findings

24. The Bureau has a temporary urgent need to add the proposed point of diversion and rediversion at the entrance to the Clifton Court **Forebay** and to use the **DWR's** Ranks Plant, to make up for: 1) deliveries to the **KNWR**, 2) tidal considerations for the **SDWA**, and 3) reconfigured operations to reduce upper Sacramento River temperatures.
25. The temporary change described above:
- A) is in the public interest, because the actions are planned to assist and enhance fish and wildlife and gain information regarding natural tidal events,
  - B) does not constitute the initiation of a new right nor operate to the injury of any other lawful user of water; since there is no other user between the permitted point and changed point; additional pumping (above Tracy's capacity) will occur when there are higher flows in the Delta to limit salinity intrusion, and

C) does not unreasonably affect fish, wildlife or other **instream**

beneficial uses, and the intent of the measures is to enhance fish and wildlife habitats.

26. The temporary change will not have an effect distinguishable from normal operations of the CVP on the level of water stored in Trinity Reservoir or on flow in the Trinity River. Consequently, it will not adversely affect the interests of the objectors.

27. The Chief of the Division of Water Rights is authorized to file a Notice of Exemption pursuant to the State EIR Guidelines, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 15304, 15306 and 15307.

Actions by Board Member Finster

28. In accordance with the delegation of authority in Resolution 84-2 as authorized by Water Code Section 1435(d), Board Member Edwin H. Finster issued a Conditional Temporary Urgency Change Order on August 18, 1988, allowing a temporary change to the Bureau's permits, in the point of diversion and rediversion at the Clifton Court **Forebay**, subject to several specified conditions.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The issuance of the August 18, 1988 order by Board Member Finster allowing a **Conditional** Temporary Urgency Change in point of diversion and rediversion under Permit 12721 and 12 others is validated subject to the terms and conditions specified in the order except as corrected below.

2. IT IS FURTHERED ORDERED that this change is subject to the observance by the SWP at all times of Paragraph 4 of the October 10, 1986 Agreement between the DWR and the ECCID.
  
3. Information shall be gathered during the actions related to the tidal events and shall be submitted along with the information required in the Conditional Temporary Change Order.

CERTIFICATION

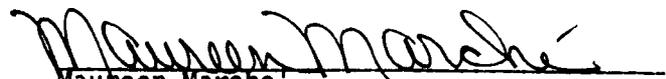
The undersigned, Administrative Assistant to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on September 7, 1988.

AYE:           W. Don Maughan                   Eliseo M. Samaniego                   Danny Walsh

NO:           None

ABSENT:       Darlene E. Ruiz                   Edwin H. Finster

ABSTAIN:     None

  
Maureen Marche  
Administrative Assistant to the Board

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