

## Memorandum

Date: May 07, 2015

To: Ms. Barbara Evoy, Deputy Director  
Division of Water Rights  
State Water Resources Control Board  
PO Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95812-200

From: Neil Manji, Regional Manager   
Region 1 - Northern

**Subject: Request to Provide Pulse Flow on Deer Creek, Tehama County, for Central Valley Spring-Run Chinook Salmon**

A preliminary estimate of 11 Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon (spring run) passed during the first pulse flow and ramping period starting on April 27, 2015 at 5:00 pm and ending at 5:00 pm on April 29, 2015. While the current 50 cubic feet per second (cfs) minimum base flow in lower Deer Creek is still passing small numbers of spring run daily, a second pulse flow should attract greater numbers of fish, maximizing the opportunity for spring run to access the high quality habitat available in Deer Creek's upper watershed.

A pulse flow will mimic the sudden increase in base flow which follows a snow melt or rain event. This should attract adult spring run potentially holding in lower Deer Creek and/or the Sacramento River near the confluence, allowing them to quickly transit shallow riffles and diversion structures, and will aid in moving juvenile salmonids downstream. Due to a fourth year of drought and lack of significant spring storms, flows in lower Deer Creek are unusually low at a time when large numbers of spring run would typically be entering Deer Creek.

After discussing the request with Stanford Vina Ranch Irrigation Company & Deer Creek Irrigation District, the Department of Fish and Wildlife requests a 36-hour pulse flow of 100 cfs or full flows without diversions (whichever is less) on Deer Creek to begin May 15, 2015, at 5:00 pm, to attract greater numbers of spring run into Deer Creek. The Department also requests a ramp down period following the pulse flow such that each adjustment in flow reduction will not exceed ten cfs, with a minimum three-hour period between adjustments until a return to base flow level. This pulse flow will correspond with a projected low-pressure weather event.

If you have any questions, please contact Curtis Milliron, the Department's Northern Region Fisheries Program Manager, at (530) 225-2280 or [curtis.milliron@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:curtis.milliron@wildlife.ca.gov).

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