

## State Water Resources Control Board

### **Notice of Temporary Urgency Change Petition to Modify San Joaquin River Flow Requirements for U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Water Right Permits 16597, 16600 and 20245 (Applications 14858A, 19304 and 14858B) in Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties**

On April 1, 2016, the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) filed a Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) to temporarily modify requirements in its water right permits for the New Melones Project, which is a component of the Central Valley Project. In response to low storage levels in New Melones Reservoir, Reclamation is requesting to modify its water right conditions requiring implementation of San Joaquin River flow objectives which were imposed pursuant to State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) Revised Decision 1641 (D-1641).<sup>1</sup>

D-1641 requires minimum monthly average flows on the San Joaquin River at Airport Way Bridge, Vernalis from February through June (spring base flows) and additional pulse flows for 31 days in April and May (on or about April 15 to May 15). For the April-May pulse flow period, the D-1641 Vernalis pulse flow requirement is 4,880 cubic-feet per second (cfs). Instead of meeting the D-1641 pulse flow requirement, Reclamation proposes that the Stanislaus River flows specified in Appendix 2(E) of the 2009 National Marine Fisheries Service Biological Opinion (an average of 720 cfs) be provided. In addition, Reclamation has requested that Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) and South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) concur with releasing 75 thousand acre-feet of water during the April-May period to supplement Reclamation's releases from storage in New Melones Reservoir to the Stanislaus River. The combined releases are expected to create a total flow on the Stanislaus River during the pulse flow period of approximately 2,000 cfs for 31 days. Reclamation expects these flows combined with releases from the Tuolumne and Merced Rivers and South San Joaquin River accretions to result in a flow rate at Vernalis of between 3,000 cfs to 3,200 cfs. Reclamation proposes that the Vernalis pulse flow requirement be temporarily adjusted to these levels. Reclamation also proposes a spring base flow requirement of 1,000 cfs from April 1 through April 14 and from May 16 through May 31, and 500 cfs for the month of June. The flow required by D-1641 for this period is between 2,280 cfs to 1,420 cfs. The State Water Board held a workshop on April 5, 2016, to receive public input on this matter. Based on the information from the workshop, written public comments and other information concerning this matter, the State Water Board will determine what action to take on the TUCP in the near future.

Pursuant to California Water Code section 1438, subdivision (d), any interested person may file an objection or comment regarding the petition. **Objections or comments filed in response to this notice should be submitted to the persons listed below.**

---

<sup>1</sup> Originally, Reclamation requested modification to permit conditions requiring implementation of the Stanislaus River dissolved oxygen (DO) objective. On April 14, 2016, the State Water Board received an email from Reclamation rescinding the DO request.

Send comments to:

Chris Carr  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Rights  
P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000  
[chris.carr@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:chris.carr@waterboards.ca.gov)

and

Lisa Holm  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Mid-Pacific Region, MP-440  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898  
[lholtm@usbr.gov](mailto:lholtm@usbr.gov)

For more information regarding this matter, please contact Chris Carr at (916) 341-5305 or by email at [chris.carr@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:chris.carr@waterboards.ca.gov), or Rich Satkowski at (916) 341-5439 or by email at [rich.satkowki@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:rich.satkowki@waterboards.ca.gov).

Date of Notice: April 14, 2016