iii. First flush events and runoff associated with precipitation events

3.7.2 Proposed Future Drought Procedures

In order to evaluate the challenges related to the 2013-2016 drought, federal and state agencies (Reclamation, DWR, USFWS, NMFS, CDFW, and SWRCB) relied heavily on on-going communication and coordination through the RTDOMT and frequent meetings of the executive leadership of these agencies. In order to better prepare for future droughts, this type of coordination and communication will need to begin as early as possible.

Therefore, on October 1st, if the prior water year was dry or critical[40], Reclamation and DWR will convene a multi-agency drought management team to include representatives from Reclamation, DWR, USFWS, NMFS, SWRCB, and CDFW and be charged with evaluating current hydrologic conditions and the potential for continued dry conditions that may necessitate the need for development of a drought contingency plan for the water year.

The drought management team will commit to convening at least every month to assess hydrologic conditions and forecast predictions and identify the potential need for development of a drought contingency plan until it is clear that drought conditions for that year will not persist. Information and recommendations from the drought management team will be reported back to the executive leadership of the agencies. These assessments would also inform what actions should be included in a drought contingency plan, depending on the updated hydrology assessment and the magnitude and duration of the preceding dry conditions. While a drought contingency plan may recommend adhering to the operations as identified in existing regulatory authorizations, in longer periods of dry conditions, the plan could also propose other drought response actions. Such a contingency plan should, at a minimum, include information pertaining to: an evaluation of current and forecasted hydrologic conditions and water supplies; recommended actions or changes needed to respond to drought (including changes to project operations, contract deliveries, and regulatory requirements) and any associated water supply or fish and wildlife impacts; identified timeframes; potential benefits; monitoring needs and measures to avoid and minimize fish and wildlife impacts; and proposed mitigation (if necessary).

[40] For either Sacramento Valley or San Joaquin Water Year classifications