



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
West Coast Region
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
Sacramento, California 95814-4700

May 4, 2022

Ms. Kristin White
Operations Manager
Central Valley Operations
Bureau of Reclamation
3310 El Camino Avenue, #300
Sacramento, California 95821
knwhite@usbr.gov

Re: Approval of 2022 Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan Pursuant to the Interim Operations Plan for Water Year 2022

Electronic transmittal only

Dear Ms. White:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is writing in response to your May 2, 2022, request to approve the Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan for Water Year 2022 (Temperature Management Plan). The Temperature Management Plan was developed pursuant to the 2020 Record of Decision and the proposed action analyzed in the 2019 NMFS Biological Opinion for the Long-term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project as modified by the State/Federal Interim Operations Plan (IOP) adopted by the court on March 14, 2022.

Paragraph 12(i)(a) of the IOP requires that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) will not schedule or make deliveries of stored water from Shasta Reservoir for any reason other than for Public Health and Safety until Reclamation receives approval of a temperature management plan that shows Reclamation will meet winter-run Chinook salmon habitat criteria per paragraph 15(i) and end of September carryover storage per paragraph 16(i) of the IOP. If Reclamation is not able to meet habitat criteria then the agencies (Reclamation, NMFS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the California Department of Water Resources, and the State Water Resources Control Board) will agree on an operation to provide sufficient habitat for the longest period possible.

The agencies determined that hydrologic conditions have not resulted in sufficient water to allow Reclamation to meet the habitat criteria in paragraph 15 of the IOP and agreed upon an operation as required by paragraph 12(i)(b). The Shasta Planning Group reached a consensus on this operation consistent with decision making process described in paragraph 17 of the IOP.

The Temperature Management Plan includes a temperature management strategy, based on recommendations received from Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (SRTTG). The strategy is to target less than 58°F daily average temperature (DAT) at the State Route 44 bridge



gage (SAC) during the initial part of the season and then target 54.5°F DAT for 16 weeks around the estimated peak spawning date of August 2. This would result in targeting 54.5°F DAT from June 7 through September 27 or until the cold water is used. Reclamation will operate the Shasta Dam temperature control device to target as close as possible to 54.5°F DAT at the SAC gage to conserve cold water for maintaining target temperatures during egg incubation. The SRTTG will meet regularly during the temperature management season to review observed data and will make adjustments as needed. The Shasta Planning Group will meet every other week or as necessary to provide direction to the SRTTG and to confirm with Reclamation that the multiple priorities of the IOP can be satisfied based on the latest forecasts and hydrology.

The operation described in the Temperature Management Plan results in an end of September Shasta storage of approximately 1.14 MAF. This storage serves at Reclamation's final carryover storage volume planning goal consistent with paragraph 16(i) of the IOP.

NMFS has determined that, given current hydrologic conditions, Reclamation has met the requirements of the IOP to provide sufficient habitat for winter-run Chinook salmon for as long as possible and to determine a final carryover storage volume planning goal. Accordingly, NMFS approves the Temperature Management Plan.

NMFS appreciates the coordination with Reclamation on the development of the Temperature Management Plan and will remain engaged during the temperature management season through the SRTTG, the Upper Sacramento River Scheduling Team and the Shasta Planning Group. Please direct questions regarding this letter to Howard Brown, NMFS California Central Valley Office, at (916) 930-3608 or via e-mail at Howard.Brown@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

A. Catharine Marcinkevage

Cathy Marcinkevage
Assistant Regional Administrator
California Central Valley Office

cc: to the file ARN: 151422-WCR2016-SA00300

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