



United States Department of the Interior



IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS/IR10/FAC

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
California Great Basin
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2606
Sacramento, California 95825

Memorandum

To: Area Manager, Bay Delta Office, US Bureau of Reclamation, IR10

From: Assistant Regional Director, Fish and Aquatic Conservation

Subject: Temporary Urgency Change Petition Biological Review

Thank you for providing the opportunity to review the Biological Review prepared by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to accompany the Temporary Urgency Change Petition for June - August, 2021.

We have reviewed the portions related to delta smelt and delta ecosystem. We agree with you that the effects of drought articulated in the Biological Review and the 2019 Biological Opinion on delta smelt and delta habitat are dire. However, we don't see any alternative actions that could occur under current forecasted conditions that would improve conditions for delta smelt.

Although not related to the TUCP, the one action that we do see as having the potential to provide significant benefits for delta smelt is supplementation of the wild population. Thank you to you and Reclamation for your continued support of this effort.

As you know, we are planning for an experimental release in late 2021 or early 2022, which will involve releasing approximately 40,000 delta smelt into the Delta to help us work through the logistics of a small release and provide us with important lessons for the future.

We appreciate your assistance in helping us take this next step to making supplementation of the wild delta smelt population a reality.