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United States Department of the Interior

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Central Valley Operation Office
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 300
Sacramento, California 95821



24 AM 10:47

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Division of Operations and Maintenance
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 300
Sacramento, California 95821

AUG 20 2012

IN REPLY REFER TO:
CVO-100
WTR-4.10

Thomas Howard
Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Report of Exceedance of South Delta Water Quality Agricultural Objective at Old River at Tracy Road Bridge Station

Dear Mr. Howard:

Pursuant to Condition A.10 of the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) Order WR 2010-0002 (Order) to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), DWR and Reclamation advise SWRCB of an exceedance of the 30-day average 0.7 millimhos per centimeter (mmhos/cm) electrical conductivity (EC) South Delta Water Quality Objective at Old River at Tracy Road Bridge (Station P-12) on August 6, 2012.

The attached table (Attachment 1) shows that the 30 day running average EC at Station P-12 was 0.8 on August 6, exceeding the 0.7 objective. The date of exceedance was determined by rounding the 30-day average values to the nearest one-tenth EC value. The objective continues to be exceeded at the present time. In contrast the EC readings at the other two Interagency Stations, San Joaquin River at Brandt Bridge (Station C-6) and Old River near Middle River (Station C-8), are 0.6 EC and continue to be below the objective salinity level. The Vernalis station (C-10) also has been reading low salinity levels on par with Stations C-6 and C-8. This anomaly at Station P-12 has been noted in several correspondences in the past and continues to be a problem for all agencies involved.

In April 2008, DWR and Reclamation provided evidence demonstrating that the significant salinity degradation that occurs in the south Delta is beyond the control of, and not attributable to, water project operations. DWR and Reclamation have also demonstrated that the response of

the water quality at Station P-12, in particular, to improved flow conditions is much different than the response at the other interior south Delta stations. In the exceedance letter provided earlier this year (dated April 23, 2012), DWR and Reclamation further demonstrated that there is a severe degradation in water quality from Vernalis to the south Delta stations. As such, we concluded that additional actions, other than those already in place and described below, would not be implemented as they would unlikely be sufficient to avoid continued exceedance of the water quality objective at Station P-12.


As you know, DWR and Reclamation continue to coordinate several actions to help improve overall salinity conditions in the south Delta. The actions being implemented are as follows:

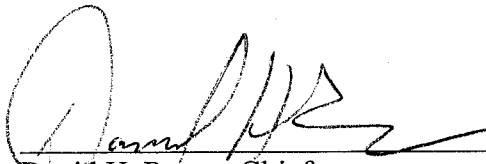
1. Continued operation of the temporary agricultural barriers, which includes intermittently tying open the flapgates at the Old River near Tracy barrier from time to time during the summer to provide additional water quality benefits while balancing the effect upon water levels. Attached modeling (Attachment 2) shows the effect of flapgate operations on water levels and water quality in graphical form.
2. Tidally operating the flapgates on the Grant Line Canal barrier and raising the weir of the Middle River Barrier by one foot to improve circulation in the south Delta. These actions were completed on June 29 and July 3, respectively.

Lastly, Condition A.10 requires DWR and Reclamation to identify the amount of water project supplies remaining for beneficial uses following corrective actions. Since no additional corrective actions are being contemplated by DWR or Reclamation, project supplies are estimated as those needed to meet applicable D-1641 requirements, Endangered Species Act needs for 2012, requirements of the NMFS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinions and the Department of Fish and Game's Incidental Take Permit, and contractual obligations to water project users.

If you have any questions or would like more information regarding the above notification, please contact Mr. Paul Fujitani of Reclamation at 916-979-2197 or Mr. John Leahigh at 916-574-2722.

Sincerely,


for Ronald Milligan, Operations Manager
Central Valley Operations Office
Bureau of Reclamation


David H. Roose, Chief
SWP Operations Control Office
Department of Water Resources

Attachments - 2

cc: See next page.

Subject: Report of Exceedance

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