

DWR



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



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

AUG 12 2016



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

Report of Exceedance of Western Delta Agricultural Objective at San Joaquin River at Jersey Point Station

Dear Mr. Howard:

The 14-day average Electrical Conductivity (EC) at the San Joaquin River at Jersey Point compliance location (Station D-15) was 0.75 millisiemens per centimeter (mS/cm) on July 17 through July 19, 2016, exceeding the State Water Resources Control Board Water Rights Decision 1641 (D-1641) objective of 0.74 mS/cm.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) attribute this exceedance to significantly higher-than-projected tidal elevations, which were produced by strong westerly winds and a low barometric pressure system that occurred a few days prior to July 17. Despite the best efforts of the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project to avoid the exceedance, this sudden and sizable tidal stage increase was enough to increase EC above the objective by 0.01 mS/cm over the three-day period. Figure 1 below shows forecasted and actual high and mean half tide elevations at Antioch. In the days leading up to the exceedance, the actual mean half tide elevation increased 0.9 of a foot over the course of six days, as opposed to the forecasted 0.2 of a foot over the course of ten days.

State of California - Department of Water Resources - Division of Operations & Maintenance - Operations Control Office

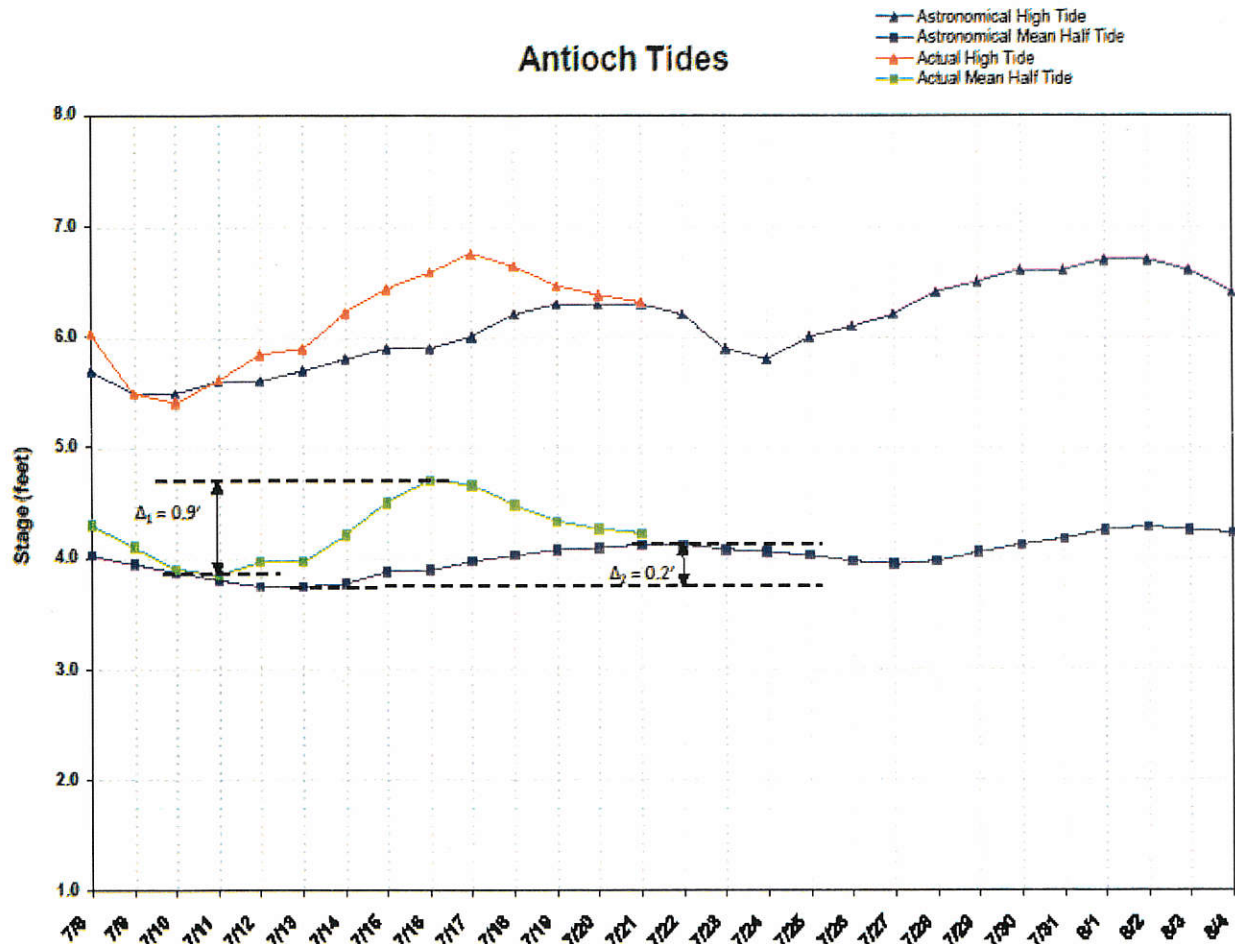


Figure 1

Prior to the exceedance DWR and Reclamation were operating at export and Delta outflow levels that are typically sufficient to meet the operative salinity requirement. Once it was recognized that the sudden change in conditions posed a significant risk of exceeding the objective, export pumping was immediately and severely reduced - from a combined export of 8,800 cfs on Friday, July 15 to 1,500 cfs on Monday, July 18. DWR and Reclamation held this export level through Wednesday, July 20 – after which we determined salinity conditions had improved enough to increase exports to a moderate level and still maintain the objective. Conditions in the western Delta have since improved. Figure 2 shows the 14-day EC values prior to and through the exceedance period.

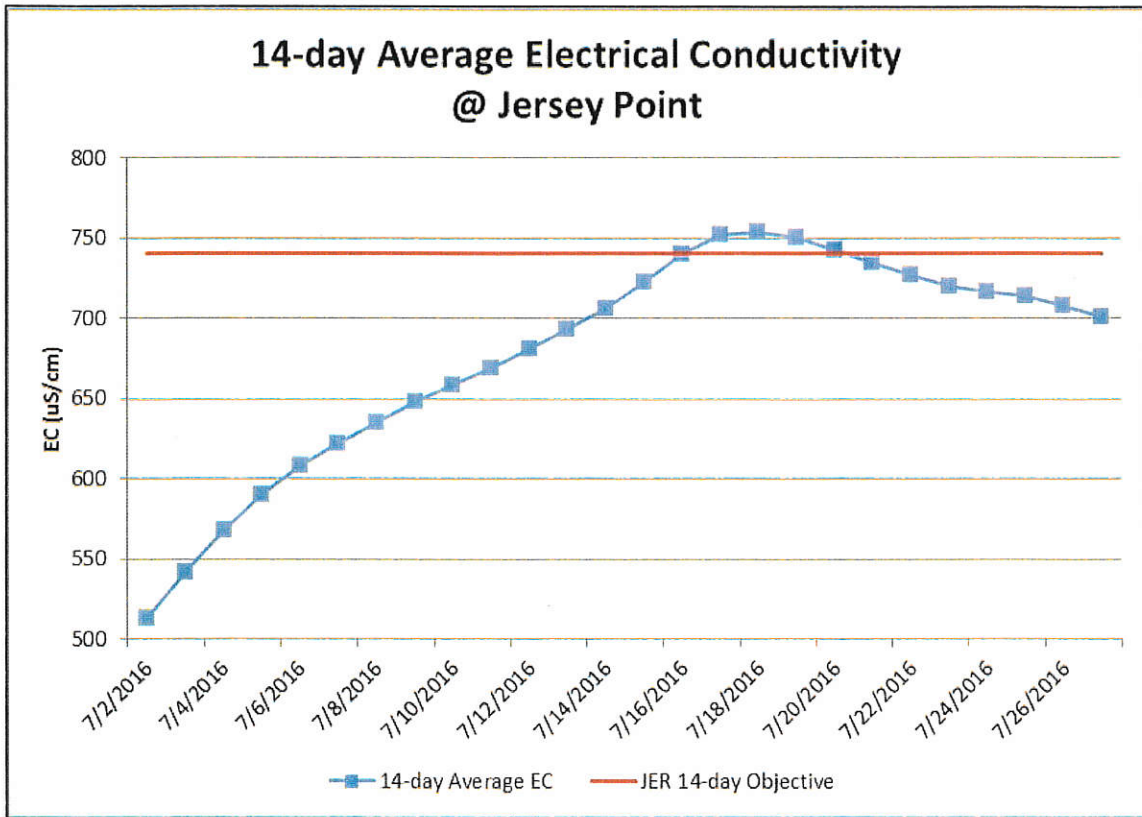
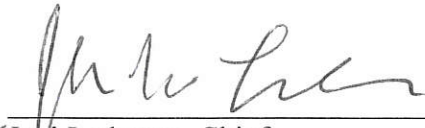
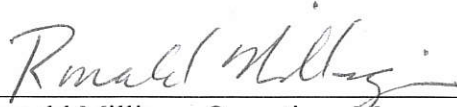


Figure 2

DWR and Reclamation will continue to closely monitor water quality in the Delta and make additional operational adjustments as needed. If you have any questions or would like more information regarding this notification, please contact Mr. John Leahigh of DWR at (916) 574-2722 or Ms. Elizabeth Kiteck of Reclamation at (916) 979-2684.

Sincerely,


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