

Memorandum

Date: MAY 25 2007

To: James Pedri, P. E., Assistant Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
415 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 100
Redding, California 96002

From: Department of Water Resources

Subject: California Department of Fish and Game Pike Eradication Project National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) strongly supports the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) efforts to eradicate northern pike from Lake Davis. The existence of northern pike in Lake Davis has adversely affected the trout fishery there and the potential for escape continues to be a significant threat to the biological resources downstream of Lake Davis. This includes the ecologically sensitive Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta, home to numerous aquatic species currently threatened or endangered. The purpose of the project is to re-establish the trout fishery in Lake Davis and to prevent pike from escaping the reservoir. This is consistent with the CALFED Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration Program strategic objectives of halting the unauthorized introduction and spread of potentially harmful non-native introduced species of fish, such as the pike in Lake Davis, in the Bay-Delta and Central Valley.

DWR has made every effort to operate Lake Davis to the extent possible to accommodate DFG's pike management measures since the discovery of northern pike in Lake Davis and the initial chemical treatment by DFG in 1997. DWR activities to date have included, in part, careful monitoring of lake levels to avoid uncontrolled releases over the spillway, installation of fish graters, and most recently the installation of high volume strainers at the outlet of the lake. However, the control measures currently available cannot assure pike will not escape and establish populations downstream.

DWR has agreed to operate Lake Davis during the pike eradication project to accommodate any of the four authorized neutralization options approved by the Regional Water Quality Control Board or the State Water Resources Control Board. DWR will be filing a Petition for Temporary Urgency Change with the State Water Resources Control Board to authorize the reduction or cessation of releases to Big Grizzly Creek necessary to implement each of the neutralization options. It is essential that the project proceed this year, and that DFG have the flexibility to employ the most effective alternatives. DWR supports approval of the NPDES permit for this important project.

James Pedri, P. E., Assistant Executive Officer

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If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Mr. Robert B. Cooke, Acting Chief of the State Water Project Analysis Office at (916) 653-5945 or Nancy Quan of his staff at (916) 653-0190.



Raphael A. Torres
Deputy Director
(916) 653-8043

cc: Ed Pert
Lake Davis Project Manager
California Department of Fish and Game
1416 Ninth Street, 12th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

