

**Appendix 5.G, Projects to Be Included in Cumulative Effects Analysis for the Conveyance  
Section 7 Biological Assessment**

## 5.G Projects to Be Included in Cumulative Effects Analysis for the Conveyance Section 7 Biological Assessment

The cumulative effects are discussed in Chapter 5. To identify potential projects to be considered in the Cumulative Effects, the following description of criteria was developed.

Cumulative effects of future State, Tribal, local government or private activities, not involving Federal activities, that are reasonably certain to occur within the action area of the Federal action subject to consultation (50 CFR §402.2) These actions include, but are not necessarily limited to, water diversions for agriculture, municipal and industrial use and managed wetlands in the Central Valley; changes in land and water use resulting from agricultural practices such as increased siltation and land conversion; changes in stream flow and pesticide and herbicide runoff; increasing urbanization and human population in the action area which will result in habitat loss and alter stormwater inflow; increased wastewater treatment and discharge effects; and increased recreational use of natural areas. The cumulative effects analysis may also include an analysis of actions in nearshore marine areas under state jurisdiction, including fishery management policies. The cumulative impacts will be evaluated qualitatively in a narrative format for each species. The effects of urbanization associated with approved Habitat Conservation Programs (HCPs) are not considered cumulative effects because those HCPs are associated with federal actions and therefore considered in the environmental baseline.

Under Part 402 of 50 CFR, entitled *Interagency Cooperation—Endangered Species Act of 1973* as amended, Subpart B, Consultation Procedures, for the purpose of preparation of the biological assessment, Federal actions either would be included in the environmental baseline or would have separate environmental documentation and Federal consultation.

The following types of projects are likely to be fully or partially implemented without Federal consultation; and therefore for the purposes of this biological assessment, the State, tribal, local government or private actions to be analyzed in the Cumulative Effects shall include:

- Water quality effects associated with ongoing agricultural practices;
- Changes in location, volume, timing, and method of delivery for non-Central Valley Project and non-State Water Project diversions not previously included in the Section 7 Effects Analysis of the 2008 biological assessment for the Coordinated Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, including:
  - Changes due to implementation of the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act that requires development and implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans;
  - Changes due to implementation of the California Senate Bill X7 7 provisions which require the state to achieve a 20% reduction in urban per capita water use by December 31, 2020;
  - Changes due to implementation of the California 2009 Delta Reform Act (implementation of portions of the Delta Reform Act also is part of the California Water Action Plan);

- Changes due to implementation of the California Water Action Plan released by Governor Jerry Brown in January 2014, specifically, for provisions of the plan that would not necessarily require separate environmental documentation and consultation for related Federal actions or are not included in other items in this list, including:
  - “Make conservation a California way of life,”
  - “Increase regional self-reliance and integrated water management across all levels of government,”
  - “Manage and Prepare for Dry Periods,”
  - “Expand Water Storage Capacity and Improve Groundwater Management” (may include actions that will require separate Federal consultation, especially for expansion of surface water storage),
  - “Provide Safe Water for All Communities,”
  - “Increase Flood Protection” (may include actions that will require separate Federal consultation, especially for levee management),
  - “Increase Operational and Regulatory Efficiency;” and Addition of, or changes to, existing wildlife areas, or their habitat management, conservation, preservation, and restoration plans and strategies;
  - Addition or modification to invasive species management, watercraft inspection, levee improvement, flood control flows, groundwater banking, off stream storage, and storm water management programs;
  - Changes to riparian and wetland habitat conditions due to wave actions caused by boats;
  - Alterations in tidal velocities
  - Alterations in surface/subsurface hydrologic processes on vernal pools;
  - Changes in habitat conditions in the Pacific Ocean related to the Southern Resident Killer Whales and salmonids, including contaminants and disturbances from marine construction and discharge of contaminants outside of the United States maritime boundary; and
  - Unauthorized dumping of contaminants or other sediment or debris loads to waterways.