December 16, 2016

Submitted via email: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

Ms. Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Subject: Supplemental Comment Letter – Bay-Delta Phase II Working Draft Science Report

Dear Ms. Townsend:

The State Water Contractors (“SWC”) appreciate this opportunity to provide additional input regarding the Working Draft Scientific Basis Report for New and Revised Flow Requirements on the Sacramento River and Tributaries, Eastside Tributaries to the Delta, Delta Outflow, and Interior Delta Operations (“Phase II Report”). The SWC submit these comments on their own behalf and on behalf of the SWC’s 27 member agencies. The comments contained herein supplement the comments previously supplied to the State Water Resources Control Board (“Water Board”) on December 15, 2016.

Comments

The statement is made on page 2-57 that “The barriers can also create areas of null flows (flows with no upstream or downstream motion) in the interior sections of the channels.” The SWC have worked with the Department of Water Resources in analyzing this issue and have previously provided information on this topic to Water Board staff. The hydrodynamic modeling analysis indicates that for the most part, the barriers result in moving the location of null zones, but do not cause the null zones. The null zones are caused by the fact that high south Delta irrigation demands often exceed the amount of inflow from the San Joaquin River. It is only during limited periods when the Head of Old River barrier reduces San Joaquin River inflow into the south Delta that the barriers could be said to cause areas of null flow.

Sincerely,

Terry L. Erlewine
General Manager