



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

STATE WATER RESOURCES  
CONTROL BOARD

2012 APR -6 AM 9:51



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

APR - 2 2012

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
CVO-400  
WTR-4.00

Mr. Thomas Howard  
Executive Director  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Subject: Report of Exceedance of South Delta Water Quality Agricultural Objective

Dear Mr. Howard:

This letter is to notify you that on March 8, 2012, the 30-day average Electrical conductivity (EC) at Station P-12 (Old River at Tracy) reached 1.1 millisiemens per centimeter (mS/cm), exceeding the Water Rights Decision 1641 (D-1641) objective of 1.0 mS/cm. As of March 20, 2012, the 30-day average EC values at the other two interior south delta stations, C-6 and C-8, measure 1.0 mS/cm and 0.9 mS/cm respectively.

The exceedance at Station P-12 is largely due to dry hydrologic conditions in the Sacramento and San Joaquin basins this year as well as local degradation occurring downstream of Vernalis. The 30-day average EC at Vernalis is 0.9 mS/cm.

From March 1, 2012, to date, the San Joaquin River flow at Vernalis has been averaging approximately 1,600 cubic feet per second (cfs). The Bureau of Reclamation is currently releasing 300 cfs from Goodwin Dam to the Stanislaus River, a tributary of the San Joaquin River. Due to dry hydrologic conditions, releases from Goodwin Dam remained low and will average approximately 300 cfs, through March of this year.

Coincidentally; combined exports have been low over the last couple of months, averaging 4,330 cfs since the beginning of January 2012, and 3,100 cfs from March 1, 2012 to date. The low export rates have occurred due to a combination of dry conditions in the watershed and export restrictions imposed to protect Chinook salmon. Consequently, it stands to reason that high export pumping rates are not an attributable cause to the current water quality degradation that is being experienced at Station P-12. In fact, any adverse effects associated with export pumping are dubious as demonstrated in modeling simulations previously submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board. The modeling indicated that project operations have no

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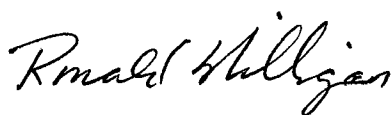
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significant adverse effect on interior South of Delta salinity levels at varying export rates.

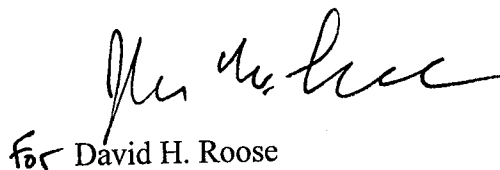
Absent significant precipitation in the San Joaquin River watershed and attendant increased reservoir releases to the San Joaquin River tributaries, exceedance conditions at Station P-12 are expected to continue. In fact, other objective locations may be affected if this year's dry San Joaquin Valley conditions continue into April.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Paul Fujitani at 916-979-2197, or Mr. John Leahigh at 916-574-2722.

Sincerely,



Ronald Milligan  
Operations Manager  
Bureau of Reclamation



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

cc: Mr. John Herrick, Esq.  
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Ms. Patricia Fernandez  
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Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. John Leahigh  
Department of Water Resources  
Division of Operations and Maintenance  
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3

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