Term 91

Explanation

Permit and license holders having Term 91 as a condition of their water right must cease diversions under the permit or license when the State Water Board issues notice that Term 91 is in effect. Term 91 prohibits diversion under such permits or licenses when (i) the Delta is in “Balanced Condition,” and (ii) the satisfaction of inbasin entitlements including maintenance of Delta water quality and flow requirements require releases of Supplemental Project Water (SPW) by the Central Valley Project (CVP) or the State Water Project (together, the Projects). The Delta is referred to as in Balanced Condition when the Projects are being operated to meet water quality and flow requirements in the Delta. Inbasin entitlements include (i) priority rights to divert water from the Delta Watershed for use within the basins of origin, (ii) natural losses (e.g., surface evaporation, consumption by riparian vegetation and contributions to groundwater), and (iii) flows required for maintenance of water quality and the needs of fish and wildlife. SPW is calculated as the net storage releases from Shasta, Folsom, and Oroville reservoirs, plus water imported to the Delta Watershed from the Trinity River CVP facilities, minus the sum of the Projects’ Delta exports and Carriage Water calculated from the Delta Export Index.

The graph shown below plots a daily calculation of SPW and depicts Delta conditions (with the previous water year’s daily calculation of SPW plotted as a reference). For permits and licenses with Term 91, water is generally available to divert when the plotted value is negative. Diversion may be curtailed pursuant to Term 91 when the plotted value is positive and is expected to remain positive for the near future.
A Portion of Project Storage Releases is Needed to Maintain Delta Water Quality and Flow Requirements (cfs)

Natural Flow is Sufficient to Meet Water Quality and Flow Requirements and/or Inbasin Demands (cfs)

Term 91
Not in Effect

Water Year 2019 (October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019)

Delta Condition Status:
"Balanced" ☒
"Excess" ☐

Updated October 1, 2019