

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

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**Date:** May 31, 2016

**To:** Thomas Howard, Executive Director  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Paul A. Marshall, Chief  
Bay-Delta Office

**From:** Department of Water Resources

**Subject:** Quarterly Status Report, May 2016, State Water Resources Control Board  
Order WR 2010-0002

Pursuant to Condition 11 of State Water Resources Control Board (Board) Order WR 2010-0002 (Order), the Department of Water Resources (DWR), in coordination with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), is submitting this report to apprise the Board of the activities undertaken to comply with the conditions listed in paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 of the Order's Part A.

Condition A.3 – DWR has no new information to report this quarter regarding the June 25, 2010 work plan to improve the accuracy of the delta models in the South Delta. We are awaiting direction from the Board on whether or not to proceed with the work plan as proposed.

DWR submitted a report in early April 2016 on methods to estimate Net Delta Outflow as requested by the Board. The report is entitled *On Estimating Net Delta Outflow (NDO), Approaches to Estimating NDO in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta*. The report discusses consumptive use estimates, the NDO index, direct measurement of Delta outflow, and determining outflow from salinity measurements. It is available for download and review at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/bay\\_delta/deltaflow/docs/nd\\_o\\_report\\_march2016.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/deltaflow/docs/nd_o_report_march2016.pdf).

Condition A.4 – DWR and Reclamation continue to implement activities described in the Compliance Plan for Station C-6 (Plan). These activities include monitoring within the south Delta, reviewing prior data and analyses, modeling and developing salt balances, working with wetland managers to improve wetland discharges, and continuing to support and facilitate real-time water quality monitoring programs. In addition, the Plan includes a section titled *San Joaquin Salinity Management Plan* describing programs and activities to control the volume and concentrations of saline discharges to the San Joaquin River upstream of Vernalis.

As reported in the February 2016 status report, the first annual Management Agency Agreement (MAA) report between the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and Reclamation was submitted in January 2016. The yearly status of some activities supporting implementation of the Plan, including those activities to improve wetland discharges and manage real time water quality monitoring programs, are included.

Reclamation is currently reviewing 2016 water conservation grant proposals.

Condition A.5 – DWR received all necessary permits to begin the construction of the 2016 rock barriers in late February. The construction of Middle River and Old River near Tracy barriers began on March 2, 2016 and March 3, 2016, respectively. It took seven days to complete the Middle River barrier and closure was obtained on March 9, 2016. The closure of the Old River near Tracy barrier was achieved on March 25, 2016. The construction crew started the Spring Head of Old River installation on March 10, 2016 and closure was achieved on April 1, 2016. All culvert slide gates have remained open. Upon closure of the Head of Old River barrier, all flap gates at the Middle River and Old River near Tracy barriers were untied into tidal operating position.

DWR is planning for the removal of the Head of Old River barrier and complete closure of the Grant Line Canal barrier. The removal will accommodate and maximize the San Joaquin pulse flow schedule and benefits. Breaching of the Head of Old River barrier will occur on May 31, 2016 or June 1, 2016. Closure of the Grant Line Canal barrier is scheduled for June 9, 2016 and all culvert flap gates will remain tied open until Delta smelt concerns pass and local diverters express water level concerns. DWR will continue to work with the regulatory agencies to determine timing of the full operation of the agricultural barriers and the weir raising of the Middle River barrier. The raising of the weir by one foot at the Middle River barrier will help further improve water levels for diverters on Middle River.

Condition A.6 – Reclamation has no new information to report this quarter regarding the Delta-Mendota Canal Recirculation Plan Formulation Report, which remains available for download and review at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/dmcrecirc/docs/final/index.html>. The related Delta-Mendota Canal Recirculation Project Feasibility Study also remains available for download.

Condition A.7 – DWR continues to work closely with the Delta Water Master and the South Delta Water Agency (SDWA) in formulating and evaluating options to reduce local sources of water quality degradation.

As reported in the February 2016 Quarterly Status Report, a south Delta salinity study and draft report has been completed and submitted to the Delta Water Master and SDWA in January 2016 for review and comment. The report presents field data that clearly identifies the presence of high saline water originating in and along specific south Delta reaches which migrates into Old River and by Station C-6, and several conceptual alternatives to improve salinity at C-6. DWR has received the Delta Water Master and SDWA comments and will finalize the report for submission to the Board after further consideration.

Consistent with the order and amendments resulting from the drought Temporary Urgency Change Petition that the Board approved, DWR and Reclamation continue to closely monitor water quality conditions. DWR has continued planning and working on permitting for a potential 2018 temporary West False River drought salinity barrier. Decision to install a barrier is contingent upon hydrology. Hydrologic conditions may preclude the need for this barrier, and DWR will continue to monitor hydrologic conditions and plan for a 2018 barrier. As reported in the November 2015 status report, a 2015 emergency drought barrier effects analysis report is planned for completion by January 2017.

Reclamation continues to await comments from the Board regarding the report titled *Special Study: Evaluation of Dilution Flow to Meet Interior South Delta Water Quality Objectives* submitted April 11, 2011.

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Condition A.8 – No additional salinity control measures have been required by the Executive Director. DWR and Reclamation continue to take action based on the approval of the Compliance Plan for Station C-6 as described under Condition A.4. Additionally, DWR is completing construction of the 2016 Temporary Barriers Project as described above under Condition A.5. DWR is also planning for a potential 2018 West False River temporary drought salinity barrier project as described under Condition A.7 and DWR and Reclamation are continuing to evaluate other potential drought response actions.

If you or your staff wishes to discuss this report further, please contact Mark Holderman, Chief of the South Delta Branch, at 916-653-7247 or [Mark.Holderman@water.ca.gov](mailto:Mark.Holderman@water.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Paul A. Marshall, Chief  
Bay-Delta Office

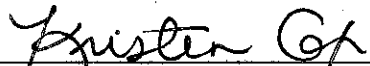
ec: (see attached list)

PROOF OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am over the age of eighteen (18) years of age and an employee of the State of California Department of Water Resources, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California 95814.

On May 31, 2016, I served true and correct copies of the attached Department of Water Resources "Quarterly Status Report" electronically to the office of Division of Water Rights of the State Water Resources Control Board on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor of the California Environmental Protection Agency Building at 1001 I Street in Sacramento. I also served true and correct copies of this document by electronically transmitting the report to the parties listed on the attached Mailing List.

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By:   
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