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**From:** Laputz, Adam@Waterboards  
**Sent:** Monday, June 29, 2015 4:07 PM  
**To:** Riddle, Diane@Waterboards  
**Cc:** Chilcott, Jeanne@Waterboards; Foe, Chris@Waterboards; Creedon, Pamela@Waterboards; Grober, Les@Waterboards  
**Subject:** Consultation on changes to the Department of Water Resources and US Bureau of Reclamation Temporary Urgency Change Petition of 24 March 2015

Hello Diane,

Thank you for reaching out to consult with us regarding the subject temporary urgency change petition. I appreciate that we are being brought into the process and look forward to working with you in the future. Our comments are provided below.

On 21 May 2015, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) requested a change to an earlier Temporary Urgency Change Petition submitted on 24 March 2015 to the State Water Resources Control Board. The May 21 request seeks modifications to D-1641 to: (1) change the minimum monthly average Net Delta Outflow Index (NDOI) from 4,000 to 3,000-cfs for July, with a seven-day running average of no less than 2,000-cfs; (2) change the minimum Sacramento River Flow requirements at Rio Vista for the months of September, October, and November to a monthly average of no less than 2,500-cfs on average, with a seven-day running average of no less than 2,000-cfs; and (3) extend the change of the Western Delta agricultural salinity requirement at Emmaton to a compliance location at Threemile Slough on the Sacramento River from June through August 15.

Based on our discussion with you last week, it is our understanding that the proposed changes were the optimal balance for managing reservoir releases during the fourth year of the drought to conserve upstream storage for fish and wildlife protection and downstream Delta salinity control while providing critical water supply needs. Regional Board staff has several reservations due to the fact that estuarine fish and anadromous salmon population levels are at record low levels after 4 years of drought and that climate change modeling suggests that the frequency and severity of droughts may increase in the future. The proposed TUCP is likely to have a significant negative effect on fishery resources and impact other beneficial uses through degraded water quality. Additional drought related water quality and fish monitoring should occur to document the effect of implementing the TUCP and to recommend future actions to mitigate the impact.

Managing water releases and diversions in and around the Delta affect water quality and while some of these effects are readily measurable directly downstream, others are cumulative and may be seen in other areas of the Delta. Reducing water supply can magnify the effect of pollutants by reducing the amount of water for dilution and could also lead to warmer water, resulting in increased risk of harmful algal blooms. These cumulative effects are difficult to measure and cannot be discerned by evaluating each action by itself, but must be considered in a coordinated manner as part of a regional monitoring program.

The Delta Regional Monitoring Program is a stakeholder lead effort and requires the support of dischargers and others that affect water quality in the Delta. One of the objectives of the Delta Regional Monitoring Program is to monitor regional water quality conditions and trends. We request that you require DWR and USBR to support the Delta Regional Monitoring Program as a condition for approving this petition. More information on the Delta Regional Monitoring Program is available at the following website.

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/delta\\_water\\_quality/comprehensive\\_monitoring\\_program/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/delta_water_quality/comprehensive_monitoring_program/)

In addition, with increased frequency and severity of droughts anticipated in the future, DWR and USBR should be required to conduct additional drought related and climate change planning and be prepared to implement their drought plans earlier in drought cycles to avoid having to request changes in water quality objectives in the Delta. We appreciate your consideration of these comments and look forward to working with you. If you have any questions please contact Chris Foe at (916)-464-4713 or [chris.foe@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:chris.foe@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

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