
State Water Resources Control Board

August 4, 2020

Kristin White
Central Valley Project Operations Manager
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
knwhite@usbr.gov

ORDER 90-5 SACRAMENTO RIVER TEMPERATURE MANAGEMENT

Dear Ms. White:

This letter responds to your July 31, 2020 submittal of an addendum to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) May 2020 Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan (TMP) prepared pursuant to State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) Order 90-5. The July 31 addendum indicates that there have been improvements in temperature conditions this year compared to projected conditions under the May TMP. Given these improved conditions, Reclamation requests that the State Water Board reconsider its June objection to the TMP. Relevant to this issue, failure to approve the TMP would result in Reclamation's inability to use Stage 2 Joint Points of Diversion (JPOD) to provide water this fall to CVP contractors south of the Delta, including to wildlife refuges. Reclamation has indicated that the proposed Stage 2 JPOD operations will not affect temperature management or reservoir releases. Given the improved conditions this year and the unintended consequences of not approving the TMP to refuges and other CVP contractors, the State Water Board has reconsidered its objection to the TMP.

The State Water Board's June objection to the TMP this year was centered around Reclamation's failure to provide timely information regarding possible alternative operations that could improve temperature management and inform the Board's consideration of the TMP. The Board has requested a protocol for temperature management planning to address these issues in the future. Specifically, the Board has requested a process to consider potential operational adjustments earlier in the year that includes evaluation of scenarios for improved temperature management in drier years. For example, the operational scenarios the Board has requested include reduced releases from Shasta Reservoir, alternative power supply operations, different timing and volume of imports from the Trinity River system, and physical facilities

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improvements. Reclamation has indicated that it will work with the Board on such a protocol.

Given the improved conditions, the Bureau's agreement to prepare a protocol for future temperature planning efforts, and to facilitate use of Stage 2 JPOD for water transfers this year, the Board approves the TMP subject to the following conditions:

- JPOD diversions shall not adversely affect Sacramento River temperature management or Shasta Reservoir storage conditions;
- Reclamation shall develop a draft protocol by September 30, 2020, that meets the criteria identified by the State Water Board;
- By September 15, 2020, Reclamation shall provide additional information concerning fall operations, including the volume and timing of releases and deliveries each month through December.

After receiving the information requested, the Board may revisit its approval of the TMP. In the event that Reclamation does not submit an adequate draft protocol and the information requested concerning fall operations, the State Water Board's approval of the TMP will no longer be effective, and the Board will consider other options, including updates to Order 90-5 to clarify needed temperature management planning, evaluation, and implementation actions. The Board reserves continuing authority to modify this approval based on new information or changed conditions. The Board agrees with Reclamation's suggestion for a workshop to discuss Sacramento River temperature management technical issues and further suggests that this be a joint workshop with the State Water Board in which to receive public input on the draft protocol.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Diane Riddle at diane.riddle@waterboards.ca.gov. Please be aware that due to the public health concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus and the resulting pandemic, many State Water Board staff are telecommuting; therefore, the best avenue of communication at this time is via email.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Eileen Sobek
Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board

¹ The State Water Board will follow with additional information regarding issues that should be addressed in the protocol.