

Meeting Notes

Reinitiation of Consultation (ROC) on the Coordinated Long-term Operation (LTO) of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP): Agency Core Team Meeting

Tuesday, December 19, 2017, 1:30pm – 3:30pm

Room 106, 3500 Industrial Blvd, West Sacramento

Attendees

Katrina Harrison, Ben Nelson, Luke Davis, Armin Halston, Chris Wilkinson, Katherine Sun, Mike Ford, Garwin Yip, Kim Squires, Ken Kundargi, Harry Spanglet, You Chen Chao

Meeting Purpose

To discuss the current ROC on LTO Approach, ideas for Track 1, the upcoming Delta Brainstorming workshop, the upcoming Trinity River ROC Band, the decision support papers on CWF inclusion and duration of the ROC, and any rolling agenda items, such as Friant, in relation to the ROC on LTO.

Track 1 Ideas

- Question: How close does water supply gain need to be connected with some of the Track 1 ideas? Answer: Reclamation management is looking for some unquantified amount of water supply gain through these ideas.
 - o Question: These are short-term water supply wins, correct? Answer: Yes.
- Question: The legal risk is understood by DC, is it as important to the regional office? Answer: DC and the regional office both understand the legal risks involved. Regional office, due to locality, likely understands the risks to a greater extent.
- Comment: The list generated from the last meeting includes more than enough ideas for Track 1.
- Some ideas could be discrete actions for discrete Section 7 consultation.
 - o Ideas could be discrete but related to RPA actions (e.g. Yolo Bypass, Shasta Fish Passage)
- Fall X2 in winter could be looked at. Specifically the December releases based on November storage language and the related 2011 clarification memo.
 - o Language could be clarified/tightened to how it is actually implemented.
 - o 2011 was the first wet year where Fall X2 could be implemented, hence the memo.

Delta Brainstorming Workshop

- The workshop will likely occur on January 19 or February 22 at the Lodi USFWS Office.
- Question: The workshop is not a ROC Band? Answer: No, there will be multiple agencies and stakeholders.
- Question: Is this just brainstorming for Track 1 or Track 3? Answer: No, this is brainstorming for all Tracks.

Trinity River ROC Band

- The ROC Band will likely occur on January 4 and 5, at the Trinity Restoration Office in Weaverville.
- Question: Will there be a site visit included in the agenda? Answer: Unsure at the time, but would be a good idea.
 - o Katrina to schedule a site visit to Trinity and Lewiston Dams during the ROC Band.
- This ROC Band will include additional members such as; the Yurok Tribe, Hoopa Tribe, and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA).
- Question: With the tribes' inclusion, would there be any issues with idea generation? Or discussion of potentially sensitive topics? Answer: Ground rules will be set at the beginning of the ROC Band. Attendees will be informed to be open-minded and considerate of all ideas. Kearns & West will also be facilitating (note: they may not be actually, we found out after the meeting).
 - o Attendees will also be briefed to focus only on the Trinity system.

ROC on LTO Approach

- A draft schedule on the Tracks' processes has been developed.
 - o All the Tracks start at the same time.
 - o Track 1 would take a year, Track 2 would take 18 months, and Track 3's timeline is still to be decided.
 - o The schedule only focuses on Reclamation timelines and not DWR's or USFWS / NMFS.
 - o Important to note that due to the timeline constraints, Reclamation can fulfill WIIN Act obligations, but cannot go beyond those obligations in terms of meetings.
 - o Now until March is when Track 1 initial actions will be determined, including analysis.
 - o Now until May is when Track 2 initial actions will be determined.
 - The Track 2 NOI was sent to DC today. It may be published sometime next week. Public scoping is until February 16 (note: it now ends February 1, changed 12/20) and is stated in the NOI.
 - Public meeting dates and venues were not included in the NOI.
- Question: Has a contractor been selected to help prepare the EIS for Track 2? Answer: No, due to some confusion from the Acquisitions Office, there is no contractor setup.
 - o Would a bid have to be put out again? And what's the timeline for that? Answer: Yes, a bid would need to go out again. Acquisitions Office usually takes a year.
 - Reclamation is pushing to have assistance by the summer of 2018. Assistance will be available by September 30, 2018.
 - We do not expect any support on Track 1 workload based on the current timeline.

Decision Support Papers

- Comments from the agencies' Solicitors/Counselors are still expected by late January.
 - o Important to note the duration and CWF inclusion briefing papers only applies to Track 3.

- Water users question why we need NEPA and ESA on the entire term of their long-term water contracts. Reclamation's solicitors believe both are needed.
 - There are roughly 17 long-term water contracts up for renewal in the next few years.
- Comment: The briefing papers help show the thought process to the agencies. Only one briefing paper showed that it was Reclamation's decision, however.
 - The decisions are ultimately Reclamation's, but it is valuable to have the agencies' input for the decision papers.
 - USFWS and NMFS also have a decision to make about the environmental baseline. Therefore, Reclamation would like to have a joint recommendation regarding what is in the environmental baseline.
 - The agencies should add any further disadvantages to the briefing papers, even if they are specific to Reclamation.

Rolling Agenda Items: Friant

- Friant's inclusion in the ROC.
 - Some water users want to consult on Friant operations in the ROC.
 - Question: Has there been discussions within Reclamation on including Friant in the ROC proposed action? Answer: Yes, there has been some preliminary discussions.
 - Question: Will we need a San Joaquin ROC Band? Answer: This will be decided in the future.
 - Question: Would there be analysis on green sturgeon and spring-run Chinook in the San Joaquin? Answer: Reclamation was assuming the same species from the previous consultations would be consulted on. There's some uncertainty on which specific rivers, however. Please prepare information so we can start this discussion at the next Core Team meeting.

Action Items

- Reclamation will share a list of ideas we have brainstormed thus far, related to Track 1.
- Agencies will forward the Delta ROC workshop email onto their appropriate staff members.
- Katrina will work on setting up a site visit trip for the Trinity ROC Band.
- Katrina will email the draft schedule for the current Track processes to all the agencies.
- Luke will add Brooke and Ken to the list of emails for future correspondence.
- Luke will provide Brooke and Ken with the previous meeting notes, as well the current versions of the two briefing papers.
- Katrina will send out an updated Friant table.
- Reclamation will send a list of species covered in previous consultations/projects prior to the next Agency Core team meeting.
- Agencies should prepare any new information /studies related to species occurrence for the next Agency Core team meeting.