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, February 27, 2018, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

USFWS, 650 Capitol Mall, Leopold Room

Attendees

Katrina Harrison, Luke Davis, Harry Spanglet, Janice Piñero, Carolyn Bragg, Chris Wilkinson, Katherine Sun, Mike Ford, Garwin Yip, Kim Squires, Jana Affonso, Ken Kundargi, Brooke Jacobs, Armin Halston, Ben Nelson, Mark Westbrook

Meeting Purpose

To discuss the Track 1 and Track 2 Milestone Schedules, potential Track 1 ideas, the water users' Track 1 ideas, Track 1 technical idea development, species list, the decision support papers (CWF inclusion and duration), and any rolling agenda items (e.g. MOU and status).

Track 1 and Track 2 Milestone Schedules

- A draft version of the schedule was distributed to the water and power users.
- Friday, March 2nd will be a meeting between the Resource agencies and water users to discuss the initial ideas for Track 1.
    - Comment: An agenda should be sent out prior to this meeting.
        - Katrina will work on this.
    - Question: Will we be discussing one group's list during this meeting? Answer: We will be discussing any concerns the agencies may have with the water users' list.
        - Reclamation has already stated that some ideas are not compatible with the 1 year timeframe.
    - Question: Is there a list from the North-of-Delta contractors? Answer No, nothing so far, but there may be some new ideas generated this Friday.
    - Comment: It's difficult to consider these ideas in depth without further analysis. With further analysis, some ideas may be dropped from the list.
        - This will be mentioned during the meeting.
            - We also do not anticipate adding any additional ideas to the list following April.
    - Question: Did the water users develop their list independently of Reclamation? Answer: Yes, although some ideas were from our workshops.
    - Question: For Track 1, is the objective to improve water supply through south of the Delta exports? Answer: Yes.
    - Question: What will the level of staff need to be for the March 27 meeting? Answer: Core team staff and maybe one level higher. The meeting is important as it is both a Track 1 and 2 meeting. The duration of the meeting may be extended beyond 2 hours.
    - Question: Since Track 2 is state-wide, has there been coordination with the area offices / other regional offices? Answer: Reclamation has been in coordinating with their

Redding office, but there will be additional opportunities for area offices to provide input.
        - Comment: It is difficult coordinating with other offices without a set list of specific actions/ideas. Response: Coordination will be vital in all the Tracks, but especially with Track 3. Track 2 is mainly a planning document. Any additional ideas that don't fit Track 1 may be bumped to Track 2 and/or 3. Ideas that are site-specific will be in Tracks 1 and 3 primarily.
        - Comment: The fact that Track 2 is a planning document should be emphasized prior to the meeting.
    - Question: With regards to ESA, will the Fish agencies have a chance to review the draft BA? Answer: Yes, in the Fall, 2018 for Track 1 and the spring, 2019 for Track 2.
    - Comment: Some of the language on the draft milestones schedules needs to be updated.
        - Katrina will update the specific language.

Potential Track 1 Ideas

- Comment: Reclamation should provide a few sentences describing each Track 1 idea.
    - Garwin will provide some comments from NMFS on Reclamation's Track 1 idea list.
- Reclamation is having their modelers conduct a preliminary look at some of the listed ideas.
- Question: Did any of the water users have any comments on Reclamation's pilot program ideas? Answer: No, but they provided some habitat related ideas that Reclamation did not identify.
- Comment: Would be good to identify which ideas are NMFS or USFWS focused.
    - Katrina will work on this.

Water Users Track 1 Ideas

- The water users provided similar ideas to Reclamation, but further information on each list is still needed.
- Question: Is number three on the list specific to Delta smelt? Answer: Yes, Reclamation was thinking of incidental take methodology revisions as referring to Delta smelt take methodology specifically. However, the water users have ideas for NMFS salmonid salvage calculations as well.
- Question: Where do we draw the line on ongoing or new things to add to Track 1? Answer: This depends on management and the direction from the current administration.
- Question: If ideas take more than a year to implement, can they still be considered? Answer: Yes, only the NEPA documentation and BA need to be done within a year timeframe.

Species List

- Comment: Green sturgeon should be added to the Feather River.
- Comment: Some streams should not be in Track 3, based on Reclamation's jurisdiction.
- Question: No state listed species? Answer: No, not on this list.
- Comment: Long fin smelt should be added to the list.
- Comment: More rivers will need to be added if Track 2 is to be state-wide.
- Question: If desalination becomes part of Track 2, would that bring the Pacific Ocean into consideration, and its associated species? Answer: Maybe. As Track 2 is programmatic and

won't include any construction actions, it may not have many species even though it is state-wide.

- Spring-run and Green Sturgeon may/may not be determined to be on the Stanislaus.
    - Comment: It's difficult to come up with a species list without knowing the project actions.
    - Green sturgeon probably doesn't need to be consulted on in the Stanislaus, as 1 individual does not mean they are spawning on the Stanislaus – it was likely a sturgeon passing through.
    - Garwin will look into the populations of spring-run on other San Joaquin tributaries and whether we need to consult on SJRRP experimental population strays in other tributaries.
- Question: Would winter-run chinook be considered for consultation on battle and deer creeks? Answer: Yes, it looks likely.
- Comment: NMFS put in the Federal Register a petition to consider the upper Klamath Trinity River spring-run for listing. Within 90 days, a decision will be made to determine if the petition should move forward.

Misc.

- Question: Should there be separate technical meetings in the future, or should the technical staff join the Core team meetings?
    - The agencies are open to having technical staff attend, but may be limited by availability and timing of meetings.
        - Technical topics could potentially be at the end of the meeting.
- Katrina sent out a doodle poll for the Sacramento River ROC Band workshop.
    - Agencies will respond to the doodle poll.
    - Question: How broad is the geographic reach of the Sacramento River ROC Band? Answer: It will be Sacramento, Trinity, Clear Creek, and the Feather River, all the way down to the Delta.
- MOU comments have been received from the State Water Contractors.
    - The MOU should be made specific to Track 3.
    - San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority wants to make the MOU invalid.
- Next ROC Core team meeting will be on March 20th

Action Items

- Luke will add Harry and Mike to the meeting invite for March 2nd.
- Katrina will develop and send out an agenda prior to the March 2nd meeting.
- Katrina should update any specific Track meetings' titles to include which Track number is involved.
- Luke will update Reclamation's ROC website with past scoping and workshop presentations and materials.
- Katrina will update some of the language mentioned in the Milestones Schedule handouts, as well as date each version as it is updated.
- Agencies from the Core team should provide any edits on the Milestone Schedule handout to Katrina by March 6th.

- Katrina will identify which Track 1 ideas are specific to NMFS and USFWS.
- Armin will update the species list to include specific rivers and additional species.
- Garwin will check on the status of spring-run within the San Joaquin tributaries.
- The Core team will respond to Katrina's doodle poll regarding the Sacramento River ROC Band.
- Garwin will continue to have NMFS' solicitor review the decision support papers.