

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, March 20, 2018, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Reclamation, 801 I Street, Bay-Delta Conference Room

Attendees

Katrina Harrison, Luke Davis, Janice Piñero, Mario Manzo, Katherine McCalvin, Chris Wilkinson, Katherine Sun, Garwin Yip, Kim Squires, Ken Kundargi, Armin Halston, Ben Nelson, Mark Westbrook,

Meeting Purpose

To discuss the Track 1 and Track 2 Milestone Schedules, potential Track 1 and 2 ideas, the Technical Teams for Tracks 1 and 2, ROC Bands, and the Species list.

Technical Teams for Tracks 1 and 2

- For Track 1 ideas, Reclamation plans to complete a write-up on each idea, then have the technical groups meet on those subjects.
 - o Comment: This will be a big effort with the current timeline.
- Track 1 could potentially inform Tracks 2 and 3.

Track 1 and Track 2 Milestone Schedules

- There will be an April 26 workshop for Track 1 on “Alternatives”. An EA document is anticipated for Track 1. Some ideas generated during this workshop may be incorporated into Track 2.
 - o Question: How many actions has Reclamation decided to include in any of the Tracks?
Answer: It's undecided as of now, but the ideas will be developed over time.
- A Track 1 draft EA will be produced in September, 2018.
- Question: Has the mid-March NGO meeting already occurred? Answer: Yes.
- Question: On the Track 2 schedule, under June, 2019, it mentions the submittal of a Biological Assessment? Answer: It's unclear of what will be needed with regards to ESA for Track 2. It's likely that it will be programmatic.

Idea List

- Track 2 will be a programmatic NEPA document that will take 18 months from beginning (December 2017) to end (June 2019). Track 2 focuses on 4 components: process changes, maximizing water, optimizing power capability, and other stressors (status of listed species).
 - o An adaptive management framework would help manage the science and monitoring of Track 2, potentially moving forward for specific actions in Track 3.
 - Question: Is this adaptive management framework similar to the Adaptive Management Program of California WaterFix? Answer: Yes, Reclamation plans to use a similar framework with minor tweaks.

- Question: Since CVPIA costs are split between power and agriculture, has there been any thoughts on increasing the spending costs from agriculture? Answer: Yes, more funding would be good.
 - Comment: CVPIA costs should be increasing, not decreasing at this point in time.
 - Response: Track 2 is a planning analysis and won't directly impact funds, but could propose changes that would affect funds.
- On the Track 2's idea list, the expanding transfer windows may be moved to Track 1. Track 2 is focused on CVP.
 - Question: Where does the expanding transfer windows come from, would it be from reservoir storage or fallowed lands? Answer: This has not been developed yet.
 - Comment: This may be a concern for Giant Garter Snake.
- Question: What does the refined ideas section in the schedule entail? Answer: It will be a time in April when Reclamation is closer to finalizing the list of ideas.
 - Question: Is there a point in time where elaboration of ideas or new ideas can be provided? Answer: During any meetings of the technical workgroups, this Core Team, ROC Bands, etc. Reclamation is always seeking additional input. Earlier in the process is preferred. USFWS has already provided a list of ideas for Track 1, and other agencies should provide these ASAP if they also have ideas.
 - We will discuss the final set of ideas at one of the Core Team meetings. The April 26 workshop will also go through the (mostly) final set of ideas.
- Comment: Some ideas can be combined to improve flexibility of actions.
- Comment: NMFS has not considered rejecting any of the ideas and are awaiting further information on each idea.

ROC Bands

- Sacramento ROC Band will occur on April 5 and 6, and will focus on Sacramento River issues as well as any Trinity / Clear Creek issues that are integrated with the Sacramento (i.e. temperature management).
 - Question: Does this include water coming down from the Feather River? Answer: Yes, that will be included in the Sacramento ROC Band.
- There will be a follow-up American River ROC Band on March 29.
- Question: So there is no schedule for Track 3 yet? Only for the ROC Bands? Answer: 2018 will involve brainstorming for Track 3, while early 2019 will be the start of analysis.
 - Question: Does this brainstorming include ROC Bands and the stakeholder meetings? Answer: Yes.
- Question: Will there be a Stanislaus River ROC Band? Answer: Yes, it will be scheduled for late spring.
- Question: Was the Delta workshop part of Track 3? Answer: It was mainly for Track 1, but there could be a separate agency, Delta workshop in the future.
- Question: Any focus on getting either Track completed quickly? Answer: Reclamation's management has mainly focused on the schedules for Track 1 and 2 at this time, and not so much on Track 3. All 3 tracks are concurrent, we are unfortunately not able to prioritize one above another.

Species List

- The current species lists incorporates all three Tracks, with Tracks 1 and 2 focusing mostly on aquatic species due to the lack of construction activities.
 - o Comment: If Track 2 is discussing storage, then there will additional impacts aside from solely water.
 - Track 2 would discuss storage programmatically, and not propose any specific storage projects. Rather, it would identify the water supply benefits of theoretical storage projects, without the geographic location information needed to consult on terrestrial species. Some previous documents exist for storage projects and Reclamation will use this information to inform Track 2.