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

Wednesday, June 6, 2018, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

NMFS, 650 Capitol Mall, Delta Conference Room

Attendees

Ben Nelson, Katrina Harrison, Armin Halston, Garwin Yip, Jana Affonso, Kim Squires, Katherine Sun, Mike Ford, Carl Wilcox, Chris Wilkinson, Catherine McCalvin, Anna Allison, Dan Cordova, Katie Flahive, Luke Davis

Meeting Purpose

To discuss the schedule, Near-term action science, Near-term actions, technical teams, Near-term action related to ESA, and the adaptive management framework as related to the ROC.

Schedule

- Updates include:
    - ESA compliance for the Near-term actions will now need to be completed by the end of 2018, according to Reclamation's schedule.
        - Reclamation will update the terminology of "ESA compliance" in the schedule.
- Q: Will the agencies see the Near-term Actions Proposed Action at the upcoming workshop?
    - A: Yes, they will be provided at the workshop, if not before.
- Q: Will the Services have to review the Draft BA for the Programmatic component during the same period of time allocated for doing the ESA compliance for the Near-term Actions?
    - A. Yes.
    - Comment: Any mention of "Services" or "Co-Op agencies" mentioned in the draft schedule also includes all of the agencies in the Core team.
- Katrina will update the milestones schedules with the correct dates and terminology.
- Q: Is there a priority between ROC and other Reclamation projects? A: This is for upper management to decide
- Agencies should provide any additional comments on the schedule.
- Reclamation will schedule the OMR technical team meeting.
    - Agencies will provide more science for the Near-term actions.

Near-Term Actions

- CVO believes the proposed averaging period change related to Fall X2 operation would not be beneficial.
- Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates action will still be looked at.
- The recent I:E tech team meeting provided updates to that action.
- Q: Will there be more technical team calls?
    - A: Yes, with OMR.

- Q: Will Reclamation describe alternatives considered but eliminated?
    - A. Yes. This will be a section in the EA for Near-term Actions.
- Q: What's the next step after brainstorming?
    - A. The first draft of the proposed action is coming soon. In the schedule, a draft BA will go to the Services in August.
- Comment: There will be a CEQA document on long-fin smelt ITP, which may require the SJR I:E ratio or other methods of obtaining spring outflow for long-fin smelt, and may conflict with any Reclamation proposed I:E action.
    - 2008 BO assumption is that the Head of Old River Barrier will be in.
- Q: With regards to OMR and density based triggers, is Reclamation proposing to change the densities of triggers?
    - A: Reclamation is proposing to change the window that density triggers apply.
        - Reclamation will update terminology in action.
- Storm event flexibility action is still in development.
    - Comment: Look at effects in existing BOs as criteria.
    - Term "precipitation" could provide a lot of false starts.
        - Operations should define type of "precipitation."
- PWA proposal will look similar to the proposed action
    - Upper management will decide which proposal to choose
    - Q: What is the PWA proposal?
        - A. An operations plan developed, which may be on Reclamation's website.
        - Katrina to send the PWA proposal to the OMR tech team.
- Expanded transfer window
    - What if we expanded the transfer window from April to November, in order to incorporate the current window (July to September), the WIIN Act requirements (April to May), and the refuges (October to November)?
        - Comment: OMR Action 3 triggers around March (vulnerable for delta smelt)
        - Comment: This may be better suited for Track 3.

Near-term Actions Science

- Comment: If the list of science changes in the near future, D.C. may not be up to speed on those changes immediately.
    - Reclamation will mention to D.C. that the science may change over time.

Adaptive Management Framework

- Comment: Don't stray too far from the California WaterFix Adaptive Management Framework.
- Comment: The Programmatic is a planning effort and does not require NEPA and ESA
    - D.C. strongly wants this to be a NEPA document
- Comment: The Programmatic is duplicative to CSAMP efforts.
- Comment: If the Programmatic was an actual Federal action then the Services would have to conduct a jeopardy analysis.
- Comment: Consider the guiding principles described in CWF to protect delta smelt. Perhaps in the programmatic we could programmatically consult on guiding principles to inform Track 3.

Action Items

- Katrina will look into the new science developed by CSAMP/CAMT.
- Reclamation will send the PWA proposal to the OMR tech team.
- Katrina will update the schedule/milestones schedule with appropriate terminology and dates.
- Agencies will provide any additional comments on the schedules to Katrina.
- Reclamation will schedule the OMR technical team.
- Agencies will provide any further science for the Near-term Actions document.