
From: Garwin Yip - NOAA Federal <garwin.yip@noaa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 1, 2018 11:49 PM
To: Barry Thom; 'Maria.rea@noaa.gov'
Cc: Howard Brown; Barbara Byrne
Subject: Updates on ROC on LTO

Barry and Maria,

The last ROC on LTO core team meeting was on July 12.

NMFS submitted comments on the initial actions environmental assessment on July 16.

During the July 20 Directors' meeting, Maria walked through NMFS' alternatives to the I:E ratio, but also mentioned that we were hoping the initial actions would be limited to truly low-hanging fruit, for example, !:! transfers on top of the I:E ratio, and an OMR storm flexibility proposal that includes "more" details and sideboards. Then we can spend more time and focus on developing the proposed action for "track 3."

On July 25, Reclamation convened an initial actions analysis meeting that included stakeholders, in order to "learn what additional representations of data or modeling results stakeholders and agencies would be interested / need to see in order to assess water supply and fisheries impacts." During the meeting, Katrina Harrison [Reclamation-Bay Delta Office (BDO) ROC on LTO lead] mentioned that the number and description of Reclamation's interim actions was pretty set. I reiterated some of the higher elevation, red flag, comments that were submitted, including:

- the uncertainty that many of the proposed interim action will meet the "no additional adverse effects" threshold that Reclamation was striving for, or conversely, equally or more protective than the RPA actions they were intended to replace;
- OMR Flow Management Action IV.2.3 was not explicitly intended to protect against population effects;
- need for more details in some of the initial actions, for example, OMR storm flexibility; and
- absence of definitive science should not be the reason to propose actions more aggressive towards water supply.

Also on July 25, I met with Katrina and other Reclamation-BDO staff to walk through each of NMFS' alternatives to the I:E ratio, answer questions, and to ensure Reclamation understands each of them. I reiterated to Katrina that Reclamation should propose initial actions that would be limited to truly low-hanging fruit, for example, !:! transfers on top of the I:E ratio, an OMR storm flexibility proposal that includes "more" details and sideboards, and maybe OMR index.

Next steps: Reclamation indicated that:

- a revised EA, incorporating or addressing all comments would be distributed on July 27 or 30 (I haven't seen it yet).
- they would reconvene the technical teams to help identify the newer and best available science supporting the interim actions (none scheduled yet).

-Garwin-

Garwin Yip
Water Operations and Delta Consultations Branch Chief
NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region

U.S. Department of Commerce
California Central Valley Office
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
Sacramento, CA 95814
Office: 916-930-3611
Cell: 916-716-6558
FAX: 916-930-3629
www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov

