

DRAFT Meeting Plan/Talking Points
May 2, 2017 Reclamation/NMFS RPA Amendment Process Workshop #2
2017 Operational Study and System-Wide Evaluations

May 1, 2017

Introduction

- <Introductions by attendees; Reclamation and NMFS>

Opening Statements by Reclamation (Pablo/Federico)

- Thanks everyone for taking time to join us today for the second of four workshops that we have planned during 2017, intended to provide transparency and seek stakeholder input on the effort to look at improvements to the RPA from the 2009 NMFS BiOp specific to the management of Shasta Dam and the Sacramento River.
- As most of you are aware, NMFS provided a draft proposed RPA amendment to Reclamation on January 19, 2017. Reclamation provided an initial response on January 25, and then a more detailed response on March 22.
- As outlined in these pieces of correspondence, the agencies are planning two primary activities for this year; the first is a temperature management study that will involve targeting specific water temperatures in the vicinity of the winter-run redds, and the second is a system-wide review of the feasibility and impacts of implementing the draft proposed amendment to the Shasta RPA actions.
- We intend today's meeting to focus on these two activities.
- As we will further outline, we believe that given the current hydrologic situation, we are well-poised to undertake a study to better understand the operational aspects of the temperature targeting strategies found in the draft proposed RPA amendments issued by NMFS.
- We look forward to any thoughts or concerns you may want to provide today on that study and the plans we have for temperature management in the Sacramento River this year.
- In addition, we intend to work with NMFS, the other state and federal agencies, and our collective stakeholders to further evaluate the feasibility and potential impacts of the draft proposed amendment.
- Today we'll provide a brief overview of our thoughts on how those evaluations can be conducted, and we would like to hear from all of you regarding your thoughts and ideas.
- We see today as an important opportunity for you to have your input heard as we embark on these processes, and we're encouraging a robust conversation on the best path forward.
- <Other comments and/or turn over to Maria if she's there at this point; alternatively note that due to scheduling conflicts, she will be arriving in just a bit, and that she'll provide thoughts upon her arrival.>

Opening Statements by NMFS (Maria)

- Thank you everyone for joining today.
- As all of you know, the biological opinion developed in 2009 for the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project contemplated the effects of drought. It did not,

however, anticipate the record-setting drought coupled with record-setting air temperatures we experienced in 2014 and 2015.

- Through management during these very difficult years, we came to realize that the portion of the RPA related to Shasta temperature management has not performed as we originally thought it would. The result has been a greater level of incidental take of listed species in 2014 and 2015 than we otherwise projected would occur.
- These multiple years of drought conditions, as well as new science and modeling, and data demonstrating low population levels of winter-run Chinook salmon and spring-run Chinook salmon is what led Reclamation to request using the adaptive management provision to revise the Shasta RPA back in August of 2016.
- We issued the proposed draft Shasta RPA amendment in January of this year to start a conversation with Reclamation and with all of you about how to better manage Shasta resources for water supply and species moving forward.
- As Pablo mentioned, we are here today to talk in more detail about the portion of the draft amendment related to this year's pilot study of a new temperature target for operations: 55° F 7-day average of the daily maximum water temperature at the most downstream redd, or 53° F daily average temperature as a surrogate.
- NMFS and Reclamation have agreed to undertake this pilot this year given our favorable hydrology and the need to examine if these new temperature targets, when implemented, perform as we intend. It is our goal to examine whether or not these targets allow us to realize increased survival of salmonids and do so in a way that does not cause significant unintended consequences throughout the rest of the system.
- That said, we are still actively working to develop the details of the pilot as we meet with you today. You are observing this pilot in a very real-time development stage, and we are excited to be able to work on it with you, to answer your questions to the extent we can at the moment, and to hear your ideas for concepts we should consider or details we should make sure we investigate.
- Science-based adaptive management allows for changes in response to new information, and we are collectively proceeding with the entirety of this draft RPA amendment in that spirit. I want to take a moment before we begin to thank you to all of you who have participated in meetings in multiple forums over the past three months to discuss some of our latest science and modeling tools.
- We are excited to have been able to share details about the Southwest Fisheries Science Center's new CVTemp website and the access that it will provide to monitoring and modeling data as well as new individual based models that the Center has developed to examine salmon behavior in the system.
- We also appreciate your time and the feedback that you have provided on these tools and studies. They will undoubtedly become better products based on the comments and input we have heard.
- Finally, I want to reaffirm that while temperature effects and flow are significant stressors on this species, we know they are not the only reason for species decline. We remain committed to working with all of you to advance an open, science-based investigation to determine the most effective set of strategies to get our listed species back towards recovery.

Meeting Purpose (Reclamation - CVO)

- As has been outlined, we'll now provide overviews of 2017 temperature management planning, and concepts on system-wide evaluations of the draft proposed amendment.
- We'll keep the overviews relatively brief, as the emphasis of this meeting is to receive your input as we continue our planning and formulation on these concepts.

Overview on 2017 Temperature Management Planning (Reclamation - CVO)

- <Reclamation CVO to provide a brief overview of 2017 temperature management planning and operational study, followed by discussion/Q&A.>

Overview of System-Wide Evaluations of Draft Proposed Shasta RPA (Reclamation - CVO)

- < Reclamation CVO to provide a brief overview of formulation of workplans for system-wide evaluations, followed by discussion/Q&A.>

Discussion/Q&A (All)

- <Open up to discussion/Q&A by stakeholders>