



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

IN REPLY REFER TO:

BDO-400
ENV-7.00

DEC 08 2016



Mr. Mark Cowin
Director
Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street, P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Subject: Applicant Status under the Endangered Species Act for the Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Long-term Operation of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP)

Dear Mr. Cowin:

Thank you for your letter dated October 24, 2016, requesting applicant status under the Endangered Species Act for the reinitiation of Section 7 consultation regarding the effects of the coordinated long-term operation of the CVP and SWP (LTO).

On August 2, 2016, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) requested reinitiation of consultation on the LTO with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service. We agree with your assessment that DWR qualifies as an applicant under the Interagency Cooperation regulations, 50 Code of Federal Regulations Subpart 402. Reclamation and DWR oversee operation of the CVP and SWP in a coordinated manner. The Consulting Agencies are copied on this letter to notify them of DWR's status as an applicant.

As stated in the Endangered Species Consultation Handbook (March 1998), DWR as an applicant has the opportunity to submit information for consideration during the consultation and will be informed of any schedule changes. DWR is also entitled to review draft biological opinions and to provide comments to the action agency, Reclamation. DWR is also required to coordinate with Reclamation regarding comments or concerns in the consultation process. Reclamation's point of contact for this consultation is Ms. Janice Piñero; she can be reached at 916-414-2428 or jpinero@usbr.gov. Please contact Ms. Piñero for any additional assistance.

Sincerely,

David G. Murillo
Regional Director

cc: See next page.

ACTING FOR

cc: Mr. Paul Souza
Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way, W-2606
Sacramento, CA 95825

Mr. Barry Thom
Regional Administrator, West Coast Region
National Marine Fisheries Service
7600 Sand Point Way Northeast
Seattle, WA 98115