

**Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project**

Stakeholder Kickoff Meeting - Tuesday, February 14, 2017

10:00 am - 12:00 noon

**Talking Points**

**Opening Remarks – Pablo Arroyave**

- Thank you all for coming to this kickoff meeting today.
- We wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some basics on the Reinitiation of Consultation on the Long-term Operation of the CVP and SWP: Why we are here, what this is all about, and what we will be doing next.
- As most of you know, Reclamation and DWR elected to reinitiate consultation on the coordinated long-term operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project because of:
  - new information and changed circumstances following multiple years of drought,
  - recent data on Delta smelt and winter-run Chinook salmon population levels, and
  - new information available and expected to become available as a result of ongoing work through collaborative science processes.
- As you will learn today, this effort is a substantial undertaking. We believe that we can create the best prospect for sustainable operations of the State and Federal water projects and for continued conservation of sensitive species through stakeholder inclusion, collaboration, and transparent engagement.
- The purpose of this meeting is to communicate what we see as the project objectives, scope, and process and to begin to solicit your input on the engagement process.
- We are joined by our State and Federal agency partners here today and will explain more about what all of this means and how we can work to best define your engagement.

**Opening Remarks - USFWS (Paul Souza), NMFS (Barry Thom), DWR (Bill Croyle or Cindy Messer) and DFW (Chuck Bonham or Carl Wilcox)**

- One Biological Opinion (BO): Our goal is to strive towards a joint non jeopardy and no adverse modification Biological Opinion or two closely-coordinated non-jeopardy and no adverse modification Biological Opinions, to better understand and analyze tradeoffs between species.

**ROC on LTO Status – Michelle Banonis**

- On August 2, 2016, Reclamation as the lead Federal agency for Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, along with DWR as the anticipated applicant, sent letters to USFWS and NMFS requesting the ROC on LTO.
- All agencies committed to an open and transparent process for reviewing the existing Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives outlined in the 2009 NMFS Biological Opinion and the 2008 USFWS Biological Opinion.
- December 30, 2016: Memorandum of Understanding signed by Reclamation, USFWS, NMFS, DWR and DFW outlining tasks, processes and schedules to complete the new BA and BO
- Reclamation is working to hire a contractor to start the NEPA scoping process and preliminary analysis.

- Reclamation will be concurrently coordinating with the agencies, and planning upcoming analyses
- We are also developing our stakeholder engagement strategy, which we would like to receive input on today

### **Consultation Goal and Objectives – Michelle Banonis**

- One Biological Opinion (BO): Our goal is to strive towards a joint non jeopardy and no adverse modification Biological Opinion or two closely-coordinated non-jeopardy and no adverse modification Biological Opinions, to better understand and analyze tradeoffs between species.
- “Fresh Look Concept”: We hope to analyze revising operation of the CVP and SWP, including appurtenant facilities, hatcheries, and inclusion of possible restoration, to account for new science and recent information.
- Biological objectives: We hope to focus the Proposed Action on meeting biological objectives, such as food or temperature, rather than solely on operational ones.
- Best available science: We will use the best available science and set appropriate biological objectives to attain water use and species conservation goals.
- Science-based adaptive management: The Proposed Action is anticipated to include adaptive management for adjustments over time based on new science.
- Transparency: We will have an expanded stakeholder engagement process, and will include a broad range of stakeholders.
- Peer review: Peer review and/or Independent review of new tools used and specific analysis is an important objective of this consultation

### **CVP and SWP Overview – Ben Nelson / Mike Ford**

- Presentation of existing CVP facilities and constraints
- SWP facilities and constraints

### **Scope – Katrina Harrison**

- Facilities and Geographic Scope: Reclamation is considering including all the facilities of the CVP and SWP, from Trinity to Millerton for the CVP, and including reservoirs in the CVP and SWP service areas that store CVP and/or SWP water.
- Climate change: Proposed Action hydrology will include climate change. We will include an expanded study period - likely a 2070 Level of Analysis, although we are still determining how this will be done. We will be exploring different possibilities to incorporate triggering mechanisms, adaptive management and programmatic components into the study period for climate change.
- Components: Operations, habitat, and construction will all be included. Operations will be done at a project level. Habitat restoration and construction actions may be covered programmatically.
- New components not previously consulted on with the whole CVP (Friant, Trinity) will be considered for inclusion. Future components yet to be constructed (WaterFix) will be included. Improvements on existing facilities will also be considered.

### **Regulatory Process – Janice Piñero / Jana Affonso / Garwin Yip**

- Schedule: This is expected to be a 3-5 year process.
- Concurrent environmental processes: The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) processes will be concurrent, with NEPA slightly ahead, in order to provide meaningful input into the ESA consultation.
- Development of updated California Endangered Species Act (CESA) authorization for the SWP in light of the ROC will be coordinated with the ESA consultation.

### **Stakeholder Engagement – Janice Piñero / Katrina Harrison**

- We will hold meetings with all stakeholders at least quarterly
- We will also meet with stakeholders in smaller meetings
- Stakeholders will receive NEPA and ESA schedules, when developed
- We expect to coordinate with collaborative science processes.
- NEPA: Stakeholders will review the project description, provide input for the EIS, and review the public draft EIS. Cooperating agencies and fishing organizations and environmental NGOs will review the admin draft EIS.
- ESA: Stakeholders will review the proposed action, and review the admin draft BA during peer review. Designated Non-Federal Representatives will review the admin draft BA. Please see our stakeholder engagement chart in the information stations portion of this meeting for more information. We are in the process of developing a stakeholder involvement plan and hope to share it in March.

### **Input and Questions**

- We would like to hear your thoughts – particularly on the stakeholder engagement process - and address questions you may have.