

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 for Barry (See below for Pablo's opening remarks. The other agencies will follow):

- Thanks, Pablo. NOAA Fisheries agrees with your opening remarks.
- At the end of December, 2016, the Directors of the 5 agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding that included various objectives and commitments towards the reinitiation of consultation that you will hear about later.
- NOAA Fisheries appreciates the opportunity to work with Reclamation and DWR in the development of the proposed action and biological assessment.
- As Pablo said, the reinitiation of consultation will be a substantial undertaking, but I believe that in the end, we will have a better project and consultation document when we work together. We will strive to develop a proposed action that will ultimately result in the issuance of "no jeopardy" and "no adverse modification" biological opinion from the Services.
- We also see the value of stakeholder engagement, and hope that you will take those opportunities to help inform the development of the proposed action and best available science.
- In the end, as one of the objectives stated in the Memorandum of Understanding, the Services strive towards issuing a single, joint biological opinion. A single biological opinion would be better to manage, and within it, we would be able to better understand and analyze tradeoffs between species.

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.