Meeting Notes

Reinitiation of Consultation (ROC) on the Coordinated Long-term Operation (LTO) of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP): Agency Core Team Meeting

Tuesday, January 9, 2018, 9:30am – 11:30am

USFWS, 650 Capitol Mall, Leopold Conference Room

Attendees

Katrina Harrison, Luke Davis, Marianne Kirkland, Chris Wilkinson, Katherine Sun, Mike Ford, Garwin Yip, Kim Squires, Jana Affonso, Ken Kundargi, Brooke Jacobs, Harry Spanglet, Carl Wilcox, Janice Piñero

Meeting Purpose

To discuss the current ROC on LTO Approach, the upcoming Delta Brainstorming workshop, a Trinity River ROC Band debrief, the ideas matrix, the decision support papers on CWF inclusion and duration of the ROC, and any rolling agenda items, such as Friant and species to consult on, in relation to the ROC on LTO.

ROC on LTO Approach

- The NOI for Track 2 was published on December 29, while comments are accepted until February 1.
- There are currently two scoping meetings for Track 2; one is in Los Banos and the other is in Sacramento.
    - There have been comments requesting a third scoping meeting in Chico.
        - Reclamation will setup a third meeting in either Chico or Redding.
    - The five agencies are welcome to attend, but it is not mandatory.
        - Comment: DWR will attend the scoping meetings and have no plans to provide any opening remarks at this time.
    - Question: Do these scoping meetings start the 1 year timeline? Answer: Track 1 will be a 1 year timeline, while Track 2 is an 18 month timeline (which started once the NOI was published). No commitment on a timeline has been made for Track 3, although Reclamation management will likely push for a 2 to 3 year timeframe.

Delta Brainstorming Workshop

- The brainstorming workshop will mainly focus on Track 1, with the potential to focus on issues such as OMR, San Joaquin I:E, Georgiana Slough Fish Barrier, Flow for Food, etc. We will accept ideas for any of the tracks.
- The workshop will occur on January 19, 10am-4pm. An invitation has been sent out. Please forward to appropriate staff.
- Any ideas generated outside the scope of Track 1 could potentially be utilized in the other Tracks.
- Question: Who will be invited to this workshop? Answer: Representatives from the five agencies, water users, NGOs, WAPA, tribes, and other relevant stakeholders.

- The setup and direction of this workshop will be similar to the previous American River Workshop.
- A Delta ROC Band will occur at a later date and will primarily focus on Track 3.

Trinity River ROC Band

- The Trinity River ROC Band appeared to be successful and a number of ideas were generated.
- Agency representatives, the Yurok and Hoopa tribes, as well as WAPA were in attendance.

Ideas Matrix

- A draft matrix of all the ideas generated thus far (from ROC Bands, workshops, previous LTO comments) was provided by Katrina.
- Comment: USFWS can also provide their ongoing list of ideas to this matrix.
- Eventually these ideas may be developed into alternatives for each specific Track.
- Question: What is this referenced Bender, 2012 document? Answer: It's a technical report relating to the Stanislaus River.
    - Katrina will develop a list of reference documents associated with the matrix and will send them to the agencies.
- Question: Related to the ideas, has there been any mention of land use changes, such as non-irrigated crops? Answer: No, very few land use ideas have been generated.
- Question: What's the prioritization process for these ideas? Answer: Many ideas interact/conflict with one another. The future integration workshops will look at these ideas from a broader perspective. Reclamation plans to develop screening criteria to help prioritize ideas, as well.
    - This will be added to the Rolling Agenda Items for future discussion.

Decision Support Papers

- Solicitors/Counsel are still expected to review the decision support papers when possible (originally late January).
    - USFWS is anticipating delays in their review process and will likely not make this deadline.

Species to Consult On

- Luke provided a summary of the consulted on species from the LTO remand BOs and the draft Yolo BA.
- Comment: It's more beneficial to know the proposed action prior to generating a species list.
- Question: Can NEPA cover additional species aside from those federally and state listed? Answer: Yes.
- Important to note the Federal ESA 2019 candidate status on longfin smelt.
    - Reclamation anticipates conducting analysis on longfin smelt in NEPA for Track 3.
- Are these potential listed species to be consulted on for all Tracks? Answer: This is mostly for Track 3. We are unsure with regards to Track 1 and 2 currently.
- Further help is needed in determining the potential range/area of these species with regards to consultations (e.g. Winter-run Chinook range including the American River).

- Since 2008, some additional species may have been listed (e.g. Yellow Billed Cuckoo).
- Western Pond Turtle is another species that may be proposed for listing.
- Comment: Would be beneficial to have a list of the consulted species (LTO Remand BOs, Yolo Ba) in hard copy. May be useful to include which Track the species would factor into, as well as which would be considered in NEPA documents or ESA documents.
- Comment: The Incidental Take Limit for 2018 has been set at 16 Delta smelt now. USFWS is working to redo the take methodology for Delta smelt. This methodology will likely be heavily reliant on EDSM data. This may not be done for this water year, but may factor into Track 1 or Track 3.

Friant

- Friant operations are currently considered for inclusion in the ROC.

Action Items

- Katrina will develop a list of reference materials (from previous idea generation) and will send to the agencies.
- The agencies should continue to have their solicitors/counsel review the two ROC briefing papers (duration and CWF).
- Katrina will email the current draft schedule for Track 3 of the ROC to the agencies.
- Katrina will email out a revised Friant table.
- Katrina will develop a list of the species previously consulted on, with rough suggestions on which Track they may factor into, and which would be considered in NEPA documents vs. ESA documents.