



Received May 15 at 9:18 AM

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Sacramento Area Office
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 8-300
Sacramento, California 95814-4706

MAY 15 2009

Chris Carr
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
Cal/EPA Headquarters
1001 "T" Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Carr:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) appreciates the opportunity presented by the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) to provide input on modeling approaches that the Board may use to develop San Joaquin River flow standards for beneficial fish and wildlife uses. NMFS encourages the Board to use available modeling tools in a broadly exploratory manner to develop a significant range of potential alternatives for consideration. In addition to the water management models like CalSim II, NMFS suggests that the Board apply models that evaluate fish response to instream conditions. The California Department of Fish and Game model is a tool to explore some of those relationships. As NMFS staff indicated during the April 20, 2009, Board workshop, we suggest that the Board consider using some of the newer generation of models that incorporate hydrological, ecological, geomorphic, and fish population attributes, such as: RIPPLE (<http://www.stillwatersci.com/tools.php?tid=24>), SHIRAZ (<http://rparticle.web.cisti.nrc.ca/rparticle/AbstractTemplateServlet?calyLang=eng&journal=cjfas&volume=63&year=2006&issue=7&msno=f06-056>), and/or EDT (www.mobrand.com/MBI/edt.html).

At this time NMFS is unable to contribute more to your process as we are heavily tasked with completion of the Biological Opinion for the Long-term Operations of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project. When this is completed in June, NMFS may be more available to assist the Board with this effort. Please contact Rhonda Reed at (916) 930-3609 or via email at rhonda.reed@noaa.gov if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,


for Maria Rea
Sacramento Area Office Supervisor

cc: Copy to file – ARN 151422SWR2004SA9238

