



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR

Pacific Southwest Region

2800 Cottage Way

Room E-1712

Sacramento, California 95825-1890

IN REPLY  
REFER TO:

January 11, 2008

Ms. Isabel Baer  
Environmental Scientist  
Bay Delta/Special Projects Unit  
P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Subject: Pelagic Organism Decline Workshop

Dear Ms. Baer:

Enclosed please find fifteen (15) copies of comments by the U.S. Department of the Interior (Interior) for the State Resources Control Board's January 22, 2008 workshop regarding pelagic organism decline in the Bay-Delta. The comments were drafted in coordination with both the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), and the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). Attached to the comments is a copy of the December 14, 2007 federal district court Judge Wanger order.

Through the workshop, the Board is seeking, among others, proposals for short and long-term Board actions for the benefit of delta smelt. Given the obligations currently imposed on Reclamation by the court and the pending status of the federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultations over Central Valley Project and State Water Project operations, Interior believes that any Board action at this time is premature. As such, Interior makes no specific recommendations for any short or long-term Board actions at this time. However, Interior respectfully requests that the Board carefully consider whether any proposals for short or long-term Board actions would impair Reclamation or the Service's ability to comply with the Judge Wanger order, or impair or obstruct their ability to fully evaluate the impacts of the CVP operations on listed species.

Should you have any questions, or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact either Kevin Tanaka, (916) 978-6134 or Amy Aufdemberge, (916) 978-5688.

Sincerely,

Clementine Berger  
Acting Regional Solicitor