



DEPARTMENT OF WATER
RESOURCES
Division of Operations and Maintenance
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 300
Sacramento, California 95821



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Central Valley Operations Office
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 300
Sacramento, California 95821

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APR 25 2016



Thomas Howard
Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Report of Potential Exceedance of South Delta Water Quality Agricultural Objective

Dear Mr. Howard:

Pursuant to Condition A.9 of the State Water Resources Control Board's Order WR 2010-0002 (Order), the Department of Water Resources and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation are hereby notifying the Board of the likelihood that the 30-day average electrical conductivity (EC) South Delta Water Quality Objective at one or more of the three interior south Delta compliance locations (San Joaquin River at Brandt Bridge, Old River near Middle River, and Old River at Tracy Road Bridge) will exceed 0.7 milliSiemens per centimeter (mS/cm) beginning on or around April 30, 2016.

Current conditions in the south Delta are as follows (data as of 4/24/16):

Gage Location	Mean Daily EC (mS/cm)	30-Day Average EC (mS/cm)
SJR at Brandt Bridge (C-6)	0.31	0.81
Old River near Middle River (C-8)	0.31	0.81
Old River at Tracy Road Bridge (P-12)	0.89	1.09
SJR at Vernalis (C-10)	0.32	0.81

DWR and Reclamation are certain that one or more of the South Delta agricultural objective will be exceeded as of April 30 or soon thereafter, and may continue to be exceeded throughout the

late spring and summer months. DWR and Reclamation have observed significant improvement in south Delta water quality as the Stanislaus River spring pulse flows, required under Action III.1.3 of the NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion, and other upstream releases reach the Delta. However, these improvements will be short-lived, and EC values will increase once the San Joaquin River flows return to the pre-pulse conditions.

As of the date of this letter, the status of the south Delta barriers is as follows:

- Middle River – barrier closed (March 9), all six culvert flap gates tidally operating.
- Old River near Tracy – barrier closed (March 25), all nine culvert flap gates tidally operating.
- Spring Head of Old River – barrier closed (April 1), all eight culvert slide-gates are open.
- Grant Line Canal barrier – barrier partially closed on April 15, center weir section open, and all six culvert flap gates are open.

DWR and Reclamation will continue to undertake all practicable measures to improve water quality in the south Delta, including intermittently altering the operation of the culvert flap gates in the barriers. Specifically, when the agricultural barriers are installed this year, the flap gates at the Old River near Tracy barrier will be tied open from time to time throughout the summer to balance water levels with water quality.

If you have any questions regarding this notification, please contact Mr. John Leahigh of DWR at (916) 574-2722 or Ms. Elizabeth Kiteck of Reclamation at (916) 979-2684.

Sincerely,



Joel Ledesma, Chief
Assistant Division Chief 2
Division of Operations and Maintenance
Department of Water Resources



Ronald Milligan, Operations Manager
Central Valley Operations Office
Bureau of Reclamation

Attachment

cc: Michael George, Delta Watermaster
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95812

Amy L. Aufdemberge
Assistant Regional Solicitor
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1712
Sacramento, California 95825

Christine Rico
Office of the Delta Watermaster
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95812

John Herrick, Esq.
South Delta Water Agency
4255 Pacific Avenue, Suite
Stockton, California 95207

Carolee Krieger
808 Romero Canyon Road
Santa Barbara, California 93108

Michael Jackson
P.O. Box 207
Quincy, California 95971

Patricia D. Fernandez
Division of Water Rights
1001 I Street, 14th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Dante John Nomellini, Esq.
Nomellini, Grilli and McDaniel
P.O. Box 1461
Stockton, California 95201

Stefanie Morris, General Counsel
State Water Contractors
1121 L Street, Suite 1050
Sacramento, California 95814

Carl P. A. Nelson
Bold, Polisner, Maddow, Nelson and
Judson
500 Ygnacio Valley Road, Suite 325
Walnut Creek, California 94596-3840

Tim O'Laughlin
O'Laughlin and Paris LLP
117 Meyers Street, Suite 110
Chico, California 95928

Carl Wilcox
California Department of Fish and Game
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Daniel Sodergren, City Attorney
City of Tracy
333 Civic Center Plaza
Tracy, California 95376

Jon D. Rubin
San Luis-Delta Mendota Water Authority
1415 L Street, Suite 800
Sacramento, California 95814

Thomas J. Shephard, Sr.
P.O. Box 20
Stockton, California 95201