

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Central Valley Project Operations Criteria and Plan and Biological Assessment

Bureau of Reclamation

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U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Definition of OCAP

- Describes process and coordination of project operations
- Identifies factors influencing physical and institutional conditions
- Regulatory and legal requirements explained
- First done in 1992 for the Winter-run Chinook Salmon BA

Operations and Criteria Plan Document

- Detailed project description of CVP and SWP
- Project Operations Constraints and Objectives
- Historic modeling (past to present)
- Forecasting process

OCAP and BA

- ESA consultation
- OCAP and BA are not decision documents
- Make assumptions for the modeling of operations for the effects analyses in the BA

Consultation Documents

- Operations Criteria and Plan
 - Detailed analysis and explanation of criteria and procedures for CVP/SWP operations
- Biological Assessment
 - Identification of proposed actions (continuing operation) of CVP/SWP – present through a future level of development
 - Analyses of effects on listed species from CVP/SWP operations

ESA Consultation

- Section 7(a)(2) consultation (FWS/NOAA Fisheries)
- Addresses combined major hydrologic operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project
- Reclamation lead Federal agency
- Dept. Water Resources lead State agency

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History of OCAP ESA

- Winter-run Chinook Salmon, NOAA Fisheries listed as threatened in 1990, endangered in 1994
- Delta Smelt, FWS listed as threatened 1993
- Coho Salmon, listed by NOAA Fisheries threatened 1997 (in the Trinity River)
- Steelhead, NOAA Fisheries listed as threatened 1998
- Spring-run Chinook Salmon, NOAA Fisheries listed as threatened in 1999

Reason for Consultation

- CVP/SWP affect listed species
 - Primarily coho salmon, winter-run and spring-run Chinook salmon, steelhead, and delta smelt
- Long-term BOs date from 1993 and 1995
- Short-term BO on spring-run/steelhead

Why Update Now?

- Long-term water supply contract renewals
- Long-term opinions on the listed species
- Many things have changed, new projects also changing CVP/SWP operations
- Bring consultations on all the listed species to a common point

Biological Assessment

- Description of Action
- Biology of listed species
- Modeling present and future conditions
- Effects analyses
- Ongoing actions to reduce effects

Formal and Early Consultation

- Formal consultation will result in Biological Opinions
- Early consultation will result in Preliminary Biological Opinions

Major Actions for Formal Consultation

- Existing coordinated CVP/SWP operations (State Pumping Plant, Banks 6680 cfs)
- Trinity flows 368,600-815,000 acre-feet down the river
- Freeport Project –diversion to Sacramento County and EBMUD
- Intertie – DMC to CA aqueduct

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Early Consultation Items

- Operations of Banks at 8500 cfs and Permanent Barriers
- CVP/SWP Integration
- Long-term EWA

Schedule

- Informal consultation – February 13, 2004
- Initiate consultation – March 15, 2004
- Public Release of BA – March 22, 2004
- Revised BA and OCAP in June 2004
- FWS B.O. July 30, 2004
- NOAA Fisheries B.O. September 2004

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