Central Valley Project
Operations Criteria and Plan
and Biological Assessment

Bureau of Reclamation
September 9, 2004
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
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
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