

Worth, Daniel@Waterboards

From: Wilcox, Carl@Wildlife
Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2014 12:08 PM
To: Howard, Tom
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Subject: RE: Bureau of Reclamation Request for Modification to October Vernalis flow requirement

The Department of Fish and Wildlife has reviewed the request by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to modify the Water Rights Decision 1641 Vernalis Flow requirement for the month of October from an minimum daily average of 1,000 cfs for 31 days, to a minimum daily average of 800 cfs for 31 consecutive days spanning October and November for 2014.

The Bureau has worked closely with the Real Time Drought Operations Management Team (RTDOT) and the Stanislaus Operations Group (SOG) to develop a fall pulse flow program for the Stanislaus River that will provide attraction flows consistent with the 2009 NMFS BiOp critically dry year criteria for a fall pulse flow. The Department has participated as a part of the RTDOT and the SOG. Given the current critical drought conditions, limited reservoir storage and the need to prepare for possible dry conditions in 2015, the Department concurs with the requested modification to the Vernalis Flow requirement. We believe the proposed operations are consistent with the state endangered species act determinations related to the Drought Operations Plan.

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