

Attachment 2

Draft Mitigation and Monitoring Plan

Introduction

This Mitigation and Monitoring Program (MMP) is for the amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan) that establish water quality objectives the lower San Joaquin River and its three salmon-bearing eastside tributaries, revise the southern Delta salinity water quality objectives, and establish an associated program of implementation for the objectives (Plan Amendments). This MMP has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, which requires a public agency to adopt a program for monitoring or reporting on project changes it has required or mitigation measures it has adopted to mitigate significant environmental impacts. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15097.) This MMP sets forth mitigation measures the State Water Board has adopted to avoid or reduce significant environmental impacts of the Plan Amendments disclosed in the Final Substitute Environmental Document (Final SED). It also includes monitoring to ensure implementation of the mitigation measures. As the lead agency, the State Water Board is responsible for ensuring that implementation of adopted mitigation measures occurs in accordance with this MMP. There are no required changes to the Plan Amendments that need monitoring. The State Water Board adopted changes to the Plan Amendments to reduce the likelihood of significant impacts from new, upgraded or expanded facilities and infrastructure at wastewater treatment plants when it approved the Plan Amendments.

Mitigation and Monitoring

The State Water Board will implement the following mitigation measure to reduce significant impacts on aquatic biological resources, terrestrial biological resources, including wetlands and sensitive plant species, recreation and aesthetics, and hydropower and greenhouse gases identified in the Final SED (Chapters 7, 8, 10, and 14).

- When considering carryover storage and other requirements to implement the flow water quality objectives in a water right proceeding, the State Water Board will ensure that reservoir levels upstream of the rim dams do not cause significant impacts on aquatic biological resources, terrestrial biological resources (wildlife, wetlands and sensitive plant species), recreation and aesthetics, and hydropower and greenhouse gases, unless doing so would be inconsistent with applicable laws.

The Plan Amendments state that when implementing the flow objectives, the State Water Board will include minimum reservoir carryover storage targets or other requirements to help ensure that providing flows to meet the flow objectives will not have significant adverse temperature or other impacts on fish and wildlife or, if feasible, on other beneficial uses. When the State Water Board considers including these requirements, it will also implement the above mitigation.

The State Water Board will also implement the following mitigation measure when considering water transfer petitions for transfers that occur in response to the Plan Amendments and that result in significant recreation and aesthetics impacts from lower reservoir levels, as identified in the Final SED (Chapter 16):

- When considering water transfer petitions, the State Water Board will ensure that reservoir levels in the upper watersheds do not cause significant recreation and aesthetic impacts, unless doing so would be inconsistent with applicable laws.

The State Water Board will monitor the implementation of the above mitigation measures until they have been implemented.