
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY URGENCY CHANGE PETITION FILED BY THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION TO CHANGE TERMS OF WATER RIGHT PERMITS¹ OF THE NEW MELONES PROJECT REQUIRING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DISSOLVED OXYGEN OBJECTIVE ON THE STANISLAUS RIVER

The United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) filed a Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Water Rights on June 17, 2015, pursuant to California Water Code section 1435 et seq. in order to temporarily change terms of Reclamation's permits for the New Melones Project on the Stanislaus River requiring implementation of the dissolved oxygen objective on the Stanislaus River. Specifically, the TUCP requests temporary changes to permit conditions included in State Water Board Decisions 1422 and 1641, requiring that Reclamation attain the minimum dissolved oxygen objective on the Stanislaus River below Goodwin Dam as specified in the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins. The TUCP requests the changes be in effect through November 30, 2015.

This notice, Reclamation's TUCP, and other related documents may be viewed at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/transfers_tu_notices/index.shtml.

The TUCP seeks modifications to the subject permits that, if approved, will change the minimum dissolved oxygen concentration on the Stanislaus River below Goodwin Dam that Reclamation is required to meet from 7.0 milligrams per liter (mg/l) to 5.0 mg/l through November 30, 2015. According to Reclamation, the proposed change would allow more flexibility in the operation of New Melones Reservoir, in coordination with fishery agencies² and the State Water Board. According to Reclamation, the combination of inflow to New Melones Reservoir and storage within the reservoir is no longer sufficient to meet existing permit term conditions through the remainder of this year. Reclamation states that it cannot meet the dissolved oxygen objective and retain enough water for more critical fishery resource needs later in the year.

For email notification of actions on this TUCP, and any other related project information, interested persons or entities should subscribe to the State Water Board's Drought Updates

¹ The petition was filed for Permits 16597, 16598, 16599, and 16600 (Applications 14858A, 14859, 19303, and 19304).

² The Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

email subscription list (appears in the "Water Rights Topics" section) at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml#dwr.

Pursuant to California Water Code section 1438(d), any interested person may file an objection to the temporary urgency change requested. In order to be fully considered, **objections filed in response to this notice should be submitted by July 13, 2015**. Pursuant to Water Code section 1438(a), the State Water Board may issue a TUCP order in advance of the public notice. Regardless, the Board will give prompt consideration to any comments or objections, and may revise any TUCP order issued before the end of the comment period. Copies of comments or objections should be provided to Reclamation when they are submitted to the State Water Board. Please file objections using the petition protest form, which can be obtained at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/publications_forms/forms/docs/pet_protest.pdf.

Send comments, objections, or any other correspondence, to the following: 1) State Water Resources Control Board, c/o Chris Carr, P.O. Box 2000 Sacramento, CA 95812-2000 or via email at Chris.Carr@Waterboards.ca.gov; and 2) U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Regional Office, c/o Lisa Holm, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825-1898, or via email at lholm@usbr.gov.

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Chris Carr at (916) 341-5305 or Chris.Carr@waterboards.ca.gov.

DATE OF NOTICE: JUNE 23, 2015