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## State Water Resources Control Board

APR 20 2012

David H. Roose, Chief  
SWP Operations Control Office  
Department of Water Resources  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Ms. Amy L. Aufdemberg  
Assistant Regional Solicitor  
Room E-1712  
2800 Cottage Way,  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
Rep: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Dear Mr. Roose and Ms. Aufdemberg:

RE: REQUEST TO PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING EXCEEDANCES OF SOUTH DELTA WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES, STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORDER WR 2010-0002

By way of introduction, my name is Craig Wilson. I serve as the State's Delta Watermaster. The Delta Watermaster position was created in 2009 and is charged with exercising the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) authority to require monitoring and enforcement of State Water Board orders and license and permit terms and conditions in the Delta. Water Code sec. 85230.

I have reviewed a letter dated April 6, 2012 to the State Water Board from the South Delta Water Agency (copy attached) regarding the above-entitled topic. Both the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) were provided copies of this letter. This letter contains information regarding DWR's and USBR's responsibility to inform the State Water Board of anticipated exceedances of certain water quality standards and to take feasible and reasonable corrective actions.

Specifically, Order WR 2010-0002 contains the following requirement:

In the event that DWR and/or USBR projects a potential exceedance of the 0.7 EC objective at Interagency Station C-6, C-8, or P-12 ... DWR and/or USBR shall immediately inform the State Water Board of the potential exceedance and shall describe the corrective actions they are initialing to avoid or reduce the exceedance (A.9).

Based on data contained in the attached letter from the South Delta Water Agency, it was apparent in early March that violations of the 0.7 EC objective (which went into effect on April 1, 2012) will occur. Accordingly, you should have already notified the State Water Board of this anticipated event and described appropriate corrective action(s).

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In reporting a past exceedance of the prior 1.0 EC objective in a letter dated April 2, 2012, DWR and USBR made the following statement:

Absent significant precipitation in the San Joaquin River watershed and attendant increased reservoir releases to the San Joaquin River tributaries, exceedance conditions at Station P-12 are expected to continue. In fact, other objective locations may be affected if this year's dry San Joaquin Valley conditions continue into April.

This statement is insufficient to meet the requirements of Order WR 2010-0002 cited above because it is too vague as to the extent and probability of the future exceedances and fails to identify any corrective actions that are being initiated to avoid or reduce such exceedances. In addition, the April 2, 2012 letter which reports an exceedance of the 30-day average EC objective of 1.0 is similarly deficient because it does not report that any corrective actions were taken or even considered to curtail the exceedance.

In a letter dated April 10, 2012, DWR indicates that DWR and USBR are preparing a letter to notify the State Water Board of the potential exceedance of the 0.7 EC objective. This letter is deficient for the same reasons specified above.

To avoid my consideration of enforcement actions for violation of this provision, I am requesting a letter from you no later than May 15, 2012 to address the following items:

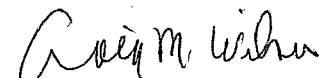
- 1) Descriptions of a strategy that will enable DWR and USBR to project potential exceedances of southern Delta salinity objectives and to timely inform the State Water Board. Part of that strategy could include web posting in a prominent manner of the full continuous record of daily and 30-day running average EC levels at the three monitoring stations.
- 2) A description of corrective actions that can be taken this year. These actions should go beyond those listed in DWR's February 2012 Quarterly Status Report.

One corrective action option, which appears to be feasible and reasonable, is the improvement of circulation in Old River downstream of monitoring Station P-12 and upstream of the Tracy temporary barrier, a part of the existing Temporary Barriers Project. Implementation of low cost corrective actions, such as culverts and/or a portable low head pump(s) could be considered a pilot of options presented in DWR's Low Head Pump Salinity Control Study (Study) which was provided to the State Water Board on April 13, 2011. The study concluded that operation of such pumps would act to lower EC levels. I am aware that a State Water Board staff letter dated August 5, 2011 (copy attached) indicated implementation of low head pumps should await the completion of the State Water Board's re-evaluation of southern Delta water quality objectives. However, until this process is completed, the 0.7 EC objective remains. An effort to address anticipated violations is appropriate. Use of culverts and/or a portable pump at the Tracy barrier downstream of Station P-12 or equivalent corrective action is feasible and reasonable.

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I look forward to your response to these two requests. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (916) 445-5962.

Sincerely,



Craig M. Wilson  
Delta Watermaster

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