



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
West Coast Region
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
Sacramento, California 95814-4700

February 14, 2023

Mr. David Mooney
Manager, Bay Delta Office
United States Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
801 I Street, Room 140
Sacramento, California 95814
Dmmooney@usbr.gov

Re: Technical assistance for the February and March, 2023 Temporary Urgency Change Petition

Dear Mr. Mooney:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is writing in regards to your request for technical assistance regarding the Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) filed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) on February 13, 2023, with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Reclamation and DWR are requesting the SWRCB to modify certain terms of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) water rights permits from what is currently provided in Water Rights Decision 1641 (D-1641) during the period from February through March, 2023.

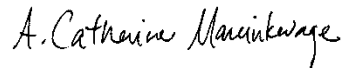
Reclamation and DWR prepared a biological review of TUCP and hosted technical assistance meetings where NMFS staff evaluated and provided comments on the draft biological review on February 8th and 10th, 2023. Based on our review, red-flag comments that NMFS provided on February 10, 2023, were considered in the February 13, 2023, TUCP package submitted to the SWRCB.

We are committed to coordinating with Reclamation, DWR and other relevant agencies through the Water Operations Management Team (WOMT) during TUCP implementation. The WOMT meets weekly to discuss and coordinate CVP and SWP operations, and will discuss TUCP actions and other drought actions, as appropriate. The WOMT has a structured governance process to elevate unresolved operational matters to the Directors of the six agencies where necessary.



NMFS appreciates the opportunity to provide input on the TUCP process. Please direct questions regarding this letter to Howard Brown, Policy Advisor, NMFS California Central Valley Office, at (916) 930-3608 or via e-mail at Howard.Brown@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,



Cathy Marcinkevage
Assistant Regional Administrator
California Central Valley Area Office

cc: to the file ARN: 151422-WCR2022-SA00015

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