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Subject: RTDOT discussion on Delta outflow and conservation of storage

Dear RTDOT –

I appreciate the discussion at RTDOT on Monday regarding our shared interest in balancing releases for Delta outflows and conservation of storage in Oroville and Folsom for use later this summer. As we discussed, the Projects recognize the value of the Delta outflows to protect the pelagic species as outlined in our current TUC Order, and we also believe the various SWRCB actions in the central and south Delta to promote conservation and curtailment of diversions is helping to achieve that goal. Given the extreme drought conditions, the current methodology as outlined in D-1641 to compute Net Delta Outflow Index (NDOI) does not include an accurate estimate of the net in-Delta depletions. Especially when considering all of the actions occurring with this year's SWRCB Delta program.

Given that current Delta outflows are adequately maintaining water quality, and net channel velocities at key locations suggest a more outward net flow than this time last year; the Projects recommend, for this summer and during the fourth year of drought, a slight adjustment to the in-Delta consumptive use value used to compute the NDOI. The current daily consumptive use value used in the NDOI calculation is 4,100 cfs (the value for 22 June). An downward monthly modification of this value by 5% this summer (starting 1 June) would allow the Projects to maintain the current outflow and meet the agreed to 4,000 cfs monthly objective for June, while staying with the current river releases of 2,750 cfs at Oroville and Nimbus.

If this proposed change is acceptable to the RTDOT members, the Projects request concurrence from the fishery agencies and approval from the Executive Director of the SWRCB. If approved, the Projects agree to maintain the current Delta operations, and Oroville and Nimbus releases at 2,750 cfs, unless needed to maintain Delta salinity conditions, for the remainder of June.