



IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Central Valley Operations  
3310 El Camino Ave #300  
Sacramento, California 95821



CVO-400  
2.2.4.21

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Mr. Erik Ekdahl  
Deputy Director, Division of Water Rights  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Subject: Water Rights Order No. 90-5 Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan (2024)

Dear Mr. Ekdahl:

The following is in response to the June 14, 2024, State Water Resources Control Board (Board) letter regarding the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Final Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan (TMP) which was submitted on June 4, 2024. The TMP was implemented successfully during Water Year 2024 as reported during monthly Shasta River Technical Team Group (SRTTG) meetings and documented in subsequent publicly available notes<sup>1</sup>. The more detailed Water Year 2024 Sacramento Operations Seasonal Report is also being finalized and will also be made publicly available soon. Reclamation appreciates the active engagement by Board staff in the SRTTG meetings, as well as in other important governance groups such as the Shasta Planning Group (SPG) where Shasta Operational updates are provided, and feedback is sought to help inform CVP operations. Specifically, Reclamation appreciates the constructive feedback Board staff was able to provide on the draft Temperature Management Plan that was submitted April 25, 2024. This collaborative approach helps ensure Reclamation is meeting both the Endangered Species Act requirements per the Biological Opinions for the Long-Term Operations of the CVP and SWP, and Order 90-5 requirements.

Addressing specific topics raised in your letter:

1. *Reclamation notification within 72-hours if real-time condition indicate that daily average water temperatures of 56 degrees F will not be achieved at Balls Ferry.*  
Reclamation has and will continue to provide daily updated Northern CVP Temperature Reports (publicly available online) that include, among other data, daily temperatures at Balls Ferry. Further, Reclamation will continue to provide monthly updates with supporting temperature management data for the Northern CVP system.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/bdo/water-year-2024-rivertask.html>

2. *Reclamation shall take actions to increase the spatial resolution of the array of temperature monitoring stations to provide additional potential temperature compliance points consistent with historical practices.* The Jelly's Ferry Bridge Replacement project (2022) rendered it an infeasible location to maintain a water temperature gage (previously installed on the bridge pier). Reclamation has explored the possibility of reinstalling the Jelly's Ferry gage but currently does not have the funding or resources to build a new gage house. Reclamation will continue to utilize existing established temperature gaging stations to develop and implement TMPs and may utilize interpolation techniques between stations when necessary. The existing temperature monitoring station array did not change the Final 2024 TMP or Reclamation's ability to implement it.
3. *Reclamation shall prioritize implementation of the updated Water Temperature Modeling platform to be used for seasonal temperature planning for the Sacramento River system and shall provide updates on progress as part of its monthly reporting on compliance with Order 90-5.* Reclamation made significant strides in the WTMP efforts during water year 2024 and provided updates on this progress in several forums including SRRTG meetings. Further, Reclamation is gearing up for facilitated adoption of the WTMP in Water Year 2025 on the Sacramento and will continue to engage agencies, including the Board, through existing governance structures.
4. *Reclamation to submit outstanding annual water diversion and use reports for water rights for its Shasta Division.* This is not relevant to Sacramento River temperature management. This is being coordinated between Board staff and Reclamation water rights professionals.
5. *Reclamation shall continue to evaluate observed conditions and consult with fisheries agencies and State Water Board.* Reclamation provided monthly updates to the Board per Order 90-5 and also provided updates and engaged with fishery agencies and state Board through exiting governance structures (SRTTG and SPG).
6. *Reclamation shall report to the Board and fisheries agencies on improvements to tools to manage conditions for fall and spring-run Chinook salmon.* See attached report from Reclamation's Bay Delta Office on development of new tools to help manage and estimated fall-run Chinook salmon mortality.

Thank you again for the continued collaboration on critical temperature management operations on the Sacramento River.

Sincerely,

Randi Field  
Chief, Water Operations

cc:

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