United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

San Francisco Bay-Delta Fish & Wildlife Office 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 8-300 Sacramento, California 95814-4700



Mr. David Mooney Manager, Bay-Delta Office Bureau of Reclamation 801 | St, Room 140 Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Technical Assistance Request for the February and March, 2023, Temporary Urgency Change

Petition (TUCP), BDO-100, 2.2.1.06

Dear Mr. Mooney:

We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are writing in response to the technical assistance request regarding the Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) filed by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) on February 13, 2023. With this response, we are providing technical assistance regarding processes to ensure coordination on operations and fish and wildlife considerations in February and March 2023.

On February 8 and 10, 2023, the Service was present at two meetings with Reclamation and DWR to discuss the proposed TUCP and biological review. On February 13, 2023, Reclamation provided a technical assistance request letter and TUCP package via email to the Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. The comments that the Service provided to Reclamation and DWR on February 10, 2023, were addressed in this package. The Service's involvement in the development of the TUCP and associated biological review has been relatively limited due to time and scope considerations.

We are committed to coordinating with Reclamation and DWR and other relevant agencies through the Water Operations Management Team (WOMT) during implementation of any adjustments to operations as a result of the TUCP process. The WOMT meets weekly to provide hydrology and operations updates and coordinate Project operations, and will discuss TUCP action, as appropriate. WOMT also has a defined mechanism to elevate unresolved operational matters to the Directors of the six agencies where necessary.

Please direct questions regarding this letter to Jana Affonso, Assistant Field Supervisor – Endangered Species, San Francisco Bay-Delta Fish and Wildlife Office at (916) 930-2664 or via e-mail at jana_affonso@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Donald Ratcliff Field Supervisor San Francisco Bay-Delta Fish and Wildlife Office