be implemented as part of Alternative 4A; instead, they would be assumed to occur as part of the No Action Alternative because they are required by the existing BiOps (see below). For a detailed characterization of operational criteria, please refer to Table 4.1-2.[14]

Implementation of the proposed project will include operations of both new and existing water conveyance facilities once the new north Delta facilities are completed and become operational, thereby enabling joint management of north and south Delta diversions. Operational limits included in this proposed project for south Delta export facilities would supplement the south Delta operational limits currently implemented in compliance with the USFWS (2008) and NMFS (2009) BiOps. The proposed project also incorporates existing criteria from the 2008 and 2009 BiOps (including Fall X2), and adds additional criteria for spring outflow and new minimum flow criteria at Rio Vista from January through August. The North Delta Diversions and the head of Old River barrier are new facilities for the CVP and SWP and will be operated consistent with the proposed operating criteria for each of these facilities. All other criteria included in the USFWS (2008) and NMFS (2009) BiOps and D-1641will continue to be complied with, subject to adjustments made pursuant to the adaptive management process as already described in the 2008 and 2009 BiOps, as part of the continued operations of the CVP and SWP. The proposed project includes modified or new operations of only the following:

- North Delta bypass flows
- South Delta export operations (including export rates and OMR flows)
- Head of Old River barrier operations
- Spring Delta outflow
- Rio Vista minimum flow standard in January through August

The proposed criteria are further described in the following subsections and in Table 4.1-2. The proposed project operations include a preference for south Delta pumping in July through September to provide limited flushing for improving general water quality conditions and reduced residence times.

The Longfin Smelt is a species listed under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). Therefore, it will be necessary to meet CESA permit issuance criteria for this species. To avoid a reduction in overall abundance for this species, the proposed project includes spring outflow criteria, which are intended to be provided through the acquisition of water from willing sellers. If sufficient water cannot be acquired for this purpose, the spring outflow criteria will be accomplished through operations of the SWP and CVP to the extent an obligation is imposed on either the SWP or CVP under federal or applicable state law. Best available science, including that developed through a collaborative science program, will be used to analyze and make recommendations on the role of such flow in supporting Longfin Smelt abundance to DFW, who will determine if it is necessary to meet CESA permitting criteria.

As described in Section 4.1.2.4, *Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program*, for Alternative 4A will be used to consider and address scientific uncertainty regarding the Delta ecosystem and to inform implementation of the operational criteria in the existing BiOps for the

[14] Note that these proposed operational criteria would only take effect after the proposed conveyance facilities are operational. Until that time, operations would occur as described in the USFWS 2008 and NMFS 2009 BiOps or as modified by the outcome of ongoing ESA compliance processes pertaining to operation of the existing facilities.

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