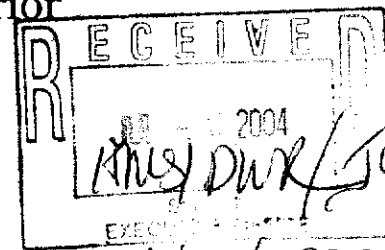


CT 2898



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Central Valley Operations Office  
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 300  
Sacramento, California 95821



IN REPLY  
REFER TO:

CVO-100  
WTR.1-10

JUL 01 2004

7/29

due 7/29/04

Ms. Celeste Cantú  
Executive Director  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, California 95812-2000

Dear Ms. Cantú:

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the California Department of Water Resources (Department) are submitting for your approval the Joint Point of Diversion (JPOD) Water Quality Response Plan (WQRP) for JPOD stages 1 and 2. The WQRP addresses the requirements of State Water Resources Control Board Water Rights Decision 1641 (D-1641) to develop and provide a response plan to ensure that water quality in the southern and central Delta will not be significantly degraded through operations of the JPOD to the injury of water users in the southern and central Delta.

To facilitate preparation of the WQRP, your staff clarified the requirements of the WQRP in a letter dated March 19, 2004. In the letter, you stated, "Significant degradation may occur in the absence of violations of water quality objectives in cases where degradation impairs a senior water right of water of a usable quality". To determine if such degradation (or salinity increase) occurs, you requested additional modeling analysis to demonstrate the likely effects to water quality by utilizing JPOD during periods when the Delta is in excess conditions. Enclosed with the WQRP is the requested analysis. It compares water quality conditions at key locations in the Delta resulting from operating to Decision 1485 to those conditions when operating to Decision 1641 with JPOD. In most cases, the analysis shows conditions to be as good or better than water quality conditions resulting from operating to D-1485. In the few instances where a rise in salinity occurs, it is either a slight rise or it does not raise the salinity to a level that makes it unusable to Contra Costa Water District. In either case, salinity remains well below the water quality standards for M&I use contained in D-1641. Any of the possible increases in salinity resulting from JPOD do not rise to the level of "injury" under the water code.

Reclamation and the Department have forwarded an electronic draft WQRP and supporting analysis materials to your staff and to Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) staff. CCWD staff reviewed the draft WQRP in a letter dated May 26, 2004 to Reclamation and the Department. Reclamation and the Department staff have reviewed CCWD comments and have incorporated some of their suggested changes to the final WQRP, however Reclamation and the Department.