Summary of Process
Proposal for SRTTG in 2016

The SRTTG was formalized in 1990 in SWRCB Order 90-5. Its broad purpose is to provide technical assistance to USBR on managing water temperatures downstream of Shasta and Keswick reservoirs. This assistance supports USBR in reporting on Sacramento River temperature requirements specified in Order 90-5 and in carrying out required actions described in the NMFS 2009 BiOp RPA with 2011 amendments.

For 2016, USBR proposes some modifications to the SRTTG process, subject matter, and structure that have developed in recent years in order to promote focus and efficiency while maintaining the value of multi-agency technical review and input.

SRTTG: The SRTTG would have a technical perspective and focus solely on technical matters related to the 2016 TCP, including: operational updates from USBR, hydrology updates, monthly water outlook; and relevant fishery updates including life cycle and fish locations in the Sacramento River. The SRTTG calendar would have two periods: January – May (Period I) and July – October (Period II). During Period I, the initial SRTTG meeting would occur in late April or early May. Information would be provided as follows:

1. Prior to each SRTTG meeting, USBR Central Valley Operations (CVO) would post links to real time online data on the CVO website.
2. Prior to each SRTTG meeting, CVO would provide DWR's Bulletin 120 information after it is received from DWR.
3. Prior to each SRTTG meeting, CVO would provide Temperature Forecast model outputs to SRTTG participants.
4. If requested by a SRTTG participant, and if feasible, CVO would provide a summary of inputs to the CVP Forecast model for both the 50% and 90% exceedance forecasts, and a summary of inputs to the Temperature Forecast model.
5. Prior to each SRTTG meeting, CVO would prepare and circulate a monthly technical report.
6. A meeting summary would be prepared and circulated to SRTTG participants for comment following each meeting. Final versions would be posted online (NMFS web page).

During Period I, CVO would provide Items 1-5 promptly after the monthly Temperature Model forecast is approved internally, ideally at least 24 hours ahead of the SRTTG meeting. During Period II, CVO would provide these items five days ahead of the next SRTTG meeting.[1] CVO's summary report would be the primary focus of discussion for each SRTTG meeting. Fish

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[1] The reason for this difference is the need to update temperature profiles during Period I; updates are not needed during Period II.

biologists with relevant data to inform the SRTTG would similarly circulate those data one week in advance of each SRTTG meeting.

One broad goal would be to standardize SRTTG meetings, including the pre-meeting report/information package described above from CVO, biological information, and a written summary of the previous meeting.

SRTTG meetings would be scheduled monthly – not weekly – with the option of adding meetings as needed to respond to conditions. Meetings would be held the fourth Thursday of each month at 1 pm. Meetings could be in person or via conference call, and their location would be open for discussion. Participants would agree to explicit meeting guidelines intended to promote constructive dialog and focus. As noted, written summaries of each meeting would be prepared and circulated for review and comments, and ultimately posted and maintained by NMFS staff on the NMFS website.

The SRTTG would begin meeting after the TCP for 2016 has been constructed, potentially in late April or early May for the first time. Meetings would continue through the water year, ending in October 2016.

SRTTG membership would be expanded to include technical representatives of the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors.

Sacramento River Temperature Agencies Group: A separate group comprised of representatives from five agencies would meet as need to address issues outside the scope of the SRTTG or requiring resolution based on SRTTG review. This group would include: NMFS, USBR, SWRCB, CDFW, and USFWS, and would also address issues involving possible changes to the 2016 TCP as well as any ESA-related issues. This same group would report out to WOMT and RTDOT.