

Department of Water Resources
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Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1098
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March 25, 2003

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

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Regional Solicitor
Pacific Southwest Region

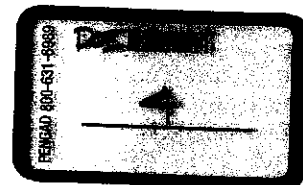
Dear Ms. Cantú:

By this letter, the California Department of Water Resources and US Bureau of Reclamation (DWR/USBR) submit the attached "2001-2002 Review of the Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) in compliance with Water Right Decision 1641, Condition 11" and request modification of the monitoring program pursuant to Water Right Decision 1641 (D-1641), Condition 11.

DWR/USBR fund and maintain, in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the US Geological Survey (USGS), a water quality compliance and baseline monitoring program (henceforth referred to as the "Environmental Monitoring Program" or EMP) for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta). D-1641 specifies three goals for this monitoring program: (1) to ensure compliance with Bay-Delta water quality objectives; (2) to identify meaningful changes in any significant water quality parameters potentially related to operation of the State Water Project (SWP) or the Central Valley Project (CVP); and (3) to reveal trends in ecological changes potentially related to SWP/CVP operations. Condition 11 (e) requires DWR/USBR to evaluate the EMP and report their conclusions to the Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board every three years. This condition also provides DWR/USBR with the opportunity to propose appropriate modifications to the EMP for your concurrence.

DWR/USBR staff worked with DFG, USGS, and your staff to complete a comprehensive technical review of the EMP during 2001-2002 and prepared a detailed report of review findings and recommendations. Implementation of some of these recommendations will proceed under D-1641. Implementing other recommendations requires your agreement for several modifications to D-1641 Table 5 and Figure 4, and for the addition of a Table 6. The attached materials specify these modifications and briefly describe the reasons for them. The review report provides more detailed information regarding the rationale and recommended plans for the overall monitoring program revisions and associated special studies.

The modified program would be functionally equivalent to the existing program. However, it would improve monitoring efficiency and products.



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DWR/USBR will proceed to implement the following recommendations under the existing D-1641:

- Produce a more informative annual status and trends report augmented by improved web-based reporting of data and information;
- Shift program emphasis from discrete to continuous monitoring of several variables;
- Compare data from ten neighboring continuous and discrete station pairs to evaluate if these stations could be consolidated at the continuous station site. This will lead to recommendations about station consolidation in the next triennial review;
- Update methods for sample analysis.

Upon your concurrence with the modifications to Table 5 and Figure 4, we will:

- Add, reestablish, and/or better integrate stations and monitoring elements where needed for more comprehensive, integrative data analyses and modeling;
- Consolidate two neighboring continuous and discrete stations;
- Change discrete sampling frequency from monthly to near-monthly according to the tides.

DWR/USBR staff would be happy to present and discuss the review findings and recommendations at a staff workshop or informational meeting at your convenience. If you or your staff have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Erwin Van Nieuwenhuyse at USBR (916) 978-5213 or Anke Mueller-Solger at DWR (916) 227-2194.

Thank you for consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Susan Ramos
Assistant Regional Director
Bureau of Reclamation

Stephen Verigin
Acting Chief Deputy Director
Department of Water Resources

Cc: Barbara McDonnell, DWR
Phil Wendt, DWR
Steve Ford, DWR
Anke Mueller-Solger, DWR
Zach Hymanson, CA Bay-Delta Authority

Ken Lentz, USBR
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