



moulton niguel water district

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MOULTON NIGUEL WATER DISTRICT

27500 La Paz Road, Laguna Niguel

March 16, 2017

6:00 PM

Approximate Meeting Time: 2 Hours

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Persons wishing to address the Board of Directors on matters not listed on the Agenda may do so at this time. "Request To Be Heard" forms are available at the entrance to the Board Room. Comments are limited to five minutes unless further time is granted by the Presiding Officer. Submit form to the Recording Secretary prior to the beginning of the meeting.

Those wishing to address the Board of Directors on any item listed on the Agenda should submit a "Request To Be Heard" form to the Recording Secretary before the Presiding Officer announces that agenda item. Your name will be called to speak at that time.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:(Items on the Consent Calendar have been discussed at the regularly scheduled Engineering/Operations and Finance/IT Board meetings)

Consent items: Unless the General Manager or the Board requests that an item be removed from the Consent Calendar, all items will be acted upon as a whole and by one vote. Requests for discussion of any specific item should be made to the Presiding Officer in conjunction with the discussion of the consent motion.

4. MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 8, 2017 SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

5. MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2017 REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING.

6. MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 17, 2017 SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

7. VALVE REPLACEMENT MATERIAL PURCHASE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-17

It is recommended that the Board of Directors authorize the purchase of new valves and associated materials from C. Wells Pipeline Materials, Inc. for an amount of \$200,078.

ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS MATTERS:

8. ON-CALL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENTS

It is recommended that the Board of Directors approve the Agreements for On-Call Professional Engineering Services with AKM Consulting Engineers, Inc., Dudek, LEE & RO, Inc., and Tetra

Tech, each with a total not-to-exceed value of \$1,000,000 and a 3-year contract term; and authorize the General Manager or designee to execute the agreements.

9. AMENDMENT TO THE ON-CALL ASPHALT AND CONCRETE REPAIR SERVICES AGREEMENT

It is recommended that the Board of Directors approve Amendment No. 1 to the On-Call Asphalt and Concrete Repair Services Agreement with A & Y Company, Inc. for an amount of \$500,000 for a total contract not-to-exceed value of \$2,000,000; and authorize the General Manager or designee to execute Amendment No. 1.

GENERAL MANAGER MATTERS:(Brief general updates on District matters and/or brief general updates from staff - Informational purposes only.)

10. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CALIFORNIA WATER FIX AND CALIFORNIA ECO RESTORE (RESOLUTION 17-)

It is recommended that the Board of Directors approve the resolution entitled, "Support of California Water Fix and California Eco Restore".

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

BOARD REPORTS:

CLOSED SESSION:

11. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9

Receipt of claim: MARK & CANDICE HARGAN

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (Any items added under this section are for discussion at future meetings only.):

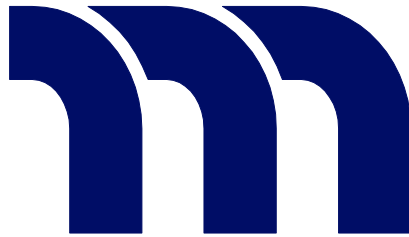
LATE ITEMS: (Appropriate Findings to be Made)

- a. Need to take immediate action; and
- b. Need for action came to District's attention after Agenda Posting. [Requires 2/3 vote (5 members) or unanimous vote if less than 2/3 are present]

ADJOURNMENT:

The Board of Directors' Meeting Room is wheelchair accessible. If you require any special disability related accommodations (i.e., access to an amplified sound system, etc.), please contact the Moulton Niguel Water District Secretary's office at (949) 831-2500 at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled meeting. This agenda can be obtained in alternate format upon written request to the Moulton Niguel Water District Secretary at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

Agenda exhibits and other writings that are disclosable public records distributed to all, or a majority of, the members of the Moulton Niguel Water District Board of Directors in connection with a matter subject to discussion or consideration at an open meeting of the Board of Directors are available for public inspection at the District Office, 27500 La Paz Road, Laguna Niguel, CA (“District Office”). If such writings are distributed to members of the Board less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting, they will be available in the reception area of the District Office at the same time as they are distributed except that, if such writings are distributed immediately prior to, or during the meeting, they will be available in the Board meeting room and on the District website at www.mnwd.com.



moulton niguel water district

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MOULTON NIGUEL WATER DISTRICT

February 8, 2017

A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Moulton Niguel Water District was held at the District offices, 26161 Gordon Road, Laguna Hills CA 92653, California, at 8:00 AM on February 8, 2017. There were present and participating:

DIRECTORS

Duane Cave	Director
Scott Colton	Vice President/Chair
Richard Fiore	Director
Donald Froelich	President
Gary Kurtz	Director
Larry Lizotte	Director

Also present and participating were:

STAFF MEMBERS, LEGAL COUNSEL, AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Matt Collings	Assistant General Manager
Marc Serna	Director of Engineering & Operations
Gina Hillary	Director of Human Resources
Jake Vollebregt	Director of Regional & Legal Affairs
Paige Gulck	Board Secretary
Trevor Agrelius	MNWD
Larry Ballew	MNWD
John Banoczi	MNWD
Malachi Berard	MNWD
Matthew Crowl	MNWD
Janice Cyprian	MNWD
Todd Dmytryshyn	MNWD
Jennifer Dooley	MNWD
Karen Flores	MNWD
James Glover	MNWD

#4.

Ronin Goodall	MNWD
Mark Herron	MNWD
Gregg Hooper	MNWD
Tracy Ingebrigtsen	MNWD
Anna Lam	MNWD
Tim Land	MNWD
David Larsen	MNWD
Marco Lazaro	MNWD
Greg McDowell	MNWD
Stephen Merk	MNWD
Mark Mountford	MNWD
Jane Nguyen	MNWD
Todd Novacek	MNWD
James Sampson	MNWD
Lindsey Stuvick	MNWD
Adrian Tasso	MNWD
Carole Wayman-Piascik	MNWD
Daniel West	MNWD
Rodney Woods	MNWD
Douglas Zytkevicz	MNWD
Ruben Duran	Best, Best & Krieger
Joseph Ortiz	Best, Best & Krieger

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Don Froelich at 8:07 a.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

PRESENTATION ITEMS

3. AB 1825 Sexual Harassment Avoidance Training

4. AB 1234 Ethics Training

Ruben Duran and Joseph Ortiz from Best, Best & Krieger provided the Sexual Harassment Avoidance and Ethics training.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Gulck
Board Secretary

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moulton niguel water district

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MOULTON NIGUEL WATER DISTRICT

February 16, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Moulton Niguel Water District was held at the District offices, 27500 La Paz Road, Laguna Niguel, California, at 6:00 PM on February 16, 2017. There were present and participating:

DIRECTORS

Duane Cave	Director
Scott Colton	Vice President
Richard Fiore	Director
Donald Froelich	President
Gary Kurtz	Director
Larry Lizotte	Director
Brian Probolsky	Vice President (arrived at 6:30 p.m.)

Also present and participating were:

STAFF MEMBERS, LEGAL COUNSEL, AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Joone Lopez	General Manager
Matt Collings	Assistant General Manager
Marc Serna	Director of Engineering & Operations
Gina Hillary	Director of Human Resources
Drew Atwater	Director of Planning
Jake Vollebregt	Director of Regional & Legal Affairs
Jeff Ferre	Best, Best, & Krieger (General Counsel)
Paige Gulck	Board Secretary
Tim Bonita	Recording Secretary
Trevor Agrelius	MNWD
Johnathan Cruz	MNWD
Ian Morgan	MNWD
Medha Patel	MNWD
Lindsey Stuvick	MNWD

#5.

Rod Woods

MNWD

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Donald Froelich at 6:00 p.m.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:(Items on the Consent Calendar have been discussed at the regularly scheduled Engineering/Operations and Finance/IT Board meetings)

4. **MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 19, 2017 REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

5. **PALMS APARTMENTS WATERLINE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD**

It is recommended that the Board of Directors award the construction services contract to Kennedy Pipeline Construction in the amount of \$328,030; authorize the General Manager to execute the contract; and authorize the General Manager or designee to approve change orders up to 10% of the contract value.

6. **MINI-JETTER PURCHASE**

It is recommended that the Board of Directors approve the purchase of a Mongoose Jetter Model 184XL-TK Truck Mounted High Pressure Sewer Cleaner on an F-550 diesel truck chassis from Plumbers Depot for \$128,945.

7. **BOND AND DISCLOSURE COUNSEL SERVICES - JONES HALL**

It is recommended that the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to execute a three-year Professional Services Agreement with Jones Hall with the option to extend the agreement for two additional on-year terms, for bond and disclosure services.

8. **REBATE APPLICATION FOR TURF REMOVAL**

It is recommended that the Board of Directors consider the rebate application for the identified project without a limitation on the maximum allowable acreage for the project and direct staff accordingly.

MOTION DULY MADE BY SCOTT COLTON AND SECONDED BY DUANE CAVE, CONSENT ITEMS 4 THROUGH 8 WERE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. THE VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS WITH DIRECTORS DUANE CAVE, SCOTT COLTON, RICHARD

FIGURE, DONALD FROELICH, GARY KURTZ, AND LARRY LIZOTTE ALL VOTING 'AYE'. DIRECTOR BRIAN PROBOLSKY WAS ABSENT.

GENERAL MANAGER MATTERS:(Brief general updates on District matters and/or brief general updates from staff - Informational purposes only.)

9. WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN STAGE 1 IMPLEMENTATION (RESOLUTION 17-)

It is recommended that the Board of Directors approve the resolution entitled, "Implementing Water Shortage Stage 1."

Joone Lopez provided information on the item.

MOTION DULY MADE BY DUANE CAVE AND SECONDED BY SCOTT COLTON, ITEM #9 WAS APPROVED AS PRESENTED. THE VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS WITH DIRECTORS DUANE CAVE, SCOTT COLTON, RICHARD FIGURE, DONALD FROELICH, GARY KURTZ, AND LARRY LIZOTTE ALL VOTING 'AYE'. DIRECTOR BRIAN PROBOLSKY WAS ABSENT.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

No report.

BOARD REPORTS:

Duane Cave reported that he attended the ACC-OC City Leaders Reception, the Laguna Niguel Governmental Affairs meeting, the Frances Spivy-Weber retirement reception, and the ACWA Energy Committee meeting.

Richard Fiore reported that he and Larry Lizotte attended the memorial service for Bob Moore, former Director of South Coast Water District.

CLOSED SESSION:

10. A CLOSED SESSION WILL BE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.6 TO:

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS:

District representatives:

Joone Lopez, General Manager/Chief Negotiator

Employee organization:

Moulton Niguel Water District Employee Association (MNWDEA)

#5.

The Board entered closed session at 6:16 p.m. and exited in 7:52 p.m. Brian Probolsky arrived at 6:30 p.m. Jeff Ferre stated that there was no reportable action.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (Any items added under this section are for discussion at future meetings only.):

Staff will re-visit the Water Shortage Contingency Plan next month.

Director Probolsky requested that staff provide information on combining the 457b and 401a plans.

LATE ITEMS: (Appropriate Findings to be Made)

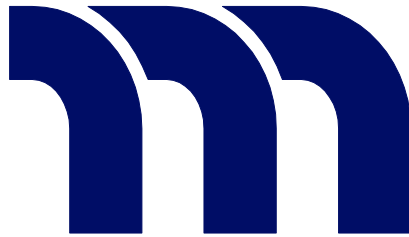
Staff has none.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Bonita
Recording Secretary



moulton niguel water district

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MOULTON NIGUEL WATER DISTRICT

February 17, 2017

A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Moulton Niguel Water District was held at the District offices, 23700 Clubhouse Dr., Laguna Niguel, 92677, California, at 9:00 AM on February 17, 2017. There were present and participating:

DIRECTORS

Duane Cave	Director
Scott Colton	Vice President
Richard Fiore	Director
Donald Froelich	President
Gary Kurtz	Director
Larry Lizotte	Director
Brian Probolsky	Vice President

Also present and participating were:

STAFF MEMBERS, LEGAL COUNSEL, AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Joone Lopez	General Manager
Matt Collings	Assistant General Manager
Marc Serna	Director of Engineering & Operations
Gina Hillary	Director of Human Resources
Drew Atwater	Director of Planning
Jake Vollebregt	Director of Regional & Legal Affairs
Jeff Ferre	Best, Best, & Krieger (General Counsel)
Paige Gulck	Board Secretary
Tim Bonita	Recording Secretary
Trevor Agrelius	MNWD
Johnathan Cruz	MNWD
Ian Morgan	MNWD
Todd Novacek	MNWD
Rod Woods	MNWD

#6.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Donald Froelich at 9:04 a.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Long Range Planning Session

The Board of Directors discussed the District's goals and objectives for Fiscal Year 2016-17 and 2017-18.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Bonita
Recording Secretary



moulton niguel water district

STAFF REPORT

TO: Board of Directors **MEETING DATE:** March 16, 2017

FROM: Jake Vollebregt, Director of Regional and Legal Affairs

SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution in Support of California Water Fix and California Eco Restore

DIVISION: District-wide

SUMMARY:

Issue: This item is a resolution in support of California WaterFix and California Eco Restore.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Directors approve the resolution entitled, "Support of California Water Fix and California Eco Restore".

Fiscal Impact: The attached resolution is an expression of support and does not bind the District to any decision or financial obligation. It will have no direct impact on District finances. However, if California Water Fix is eventually executed, it would provide a cost-effective and reliable source of imported water.

BACKGROUND:

In January 2017, the MNWD Board of Directors received a report on legislative and regulatory issues that are expected to be addressed in 2017, including California WaterFix. The Board directed staff to return with a formal action to express support.

The California Water Fix is a \$15 billion upgrade to the state's 50-year-old water infrastructure that will support water supply reliability and ecosystem protection in the San Joaquin Delta. The project is expected to secure additional supplies to the State Water Project, protect ecological habitats and fisheries in the Delta, and help mitigate flood risks.

The Delta's current system includes aging levees that are at risk of failure in the event of earthquake, flooding, or sea level rise. Part of Water Fix includes constructing two

#10.

Adoption of Resolution in Support of California Water Fix and California Eco Restore

March 16, 2017

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40-foot diameter tunnels to transport water 30 miles from the Delta to the State Water Project's pumping station at the Clifton Court Forebay near Byron, California. The tunnels, which are designed to carry up to 9,000 cubic feet of water per second, would have capacity to divert up to 4.9 million acre feet per year to the Central Valley and Southern California. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the Municipal Water District of Orange County have formally endorsed Water Fix because it is a cost-effective way to increase the reliability of Southern California's supply of imported water.

CURRENT PROCEDURAL POSTURE:

In order to construct and operate the twin tunnels, and to modify the operations of the State Water Project, the Department of Water Resources ("DWR") intends to obtain California Endangered Species Act authorization under the Fish and Game Code for incidental take. DWR submitted a permit application to California Department of Fish and Wildlife on October 5, 2016. This application includes analyses of the effects of the proposed action on endangered species. Biological opinions that form the technical analyses in support of the applications are currently under expedited review by state and federal agencies. California Fish & Wildlife and the U.S. Department of the Interior (through the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) are reviewing the analyses of perceived impacts on protected species and may issue a permit if conditions are met.

DISCUSSION:

California Water Fix and Eco Restore have a broad base of support at every level.

- On December 7, 2016, the MWDOC Board of Directors adopted a formal resolution in support of California Water Fix and Eco Restore. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California ("MWD") has been a key proponent of the project, since it would revitalize the State Water Project as a reliable source of imported water.
- On December 22, 2016, MWD General Manager Jeff Kightlinger and Governor Jerry Brown published statements supporting California Water Fix and highlighting the publication of the Final Environmental Impact Report.
- On January 4, 2017, Secretary Sally Jewell of the U.S. Department of Interior announced her department's intent to review of the project's compliance with the Endangered Species Act and other regulatory hurdles on an expedited basis.

Adoption of Resolution in Support of California Water Fix and California Eco Restore
March 16, 2017
Page 3 of 3

Attachments:

1. Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Moulton Niguel Water District In Support of California Water Fix and California Eco Restore.
2. Metropolitan Water District Press Release - Metropolitan General Manager Issues Statement on Release of Final California Waterfix Environmental Documents.
3. U.S. Secretary of the Interior Order No. 3343 – Actions to Address Effects of Drought and Climate Change on California’s Water Supply and Listed Species.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-___

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE MOULTON NIGUEL WATER DISTRICT
IN SUPPORT OF CALIFORNIA WATER FIX AND CALIFORNIA ECO RESTORE**

WHEREAS, the Delta, formed by the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers as they come together and flow into San Francisco Bay, is a major water hub for California's water supply system for the majority of the State, including 30% of the supplies for Southern California, and therefore underpins the overall economy of California, which stands equivalent to the 6th largest Country in the world; and,

WHEREAS, the Delta historically was a complex and dynamic natural system driven by tidal fluctuations and natural marsh flooding that has been highly altered over the last 100 years, with many of the levees and islands reclaimed from former marshlands for development or farming. The Delta was never intended to be a water conveyance facility. The scientific consensus is that the Delta is not sustainable as it exists today and that changes must be made in order to stabilize conditions; and,

WHEREAS, from a fisheries, farming and water management perspective, the Delta will continue to worsen and decline, at an ever increasing rate as sea levels rise and continuing subsidence caused by farming result in salinity intrusion, artesian conditions and levee related failures, which will become more frequent and more expensive to mitigate or repair as time passes; and,

WHEREAS, 25 million residents in California rely on water from the Delta, and local conservation efforts will not be able to replace the water that the Delta has historically supplied to Southern California even though the amount exported is only 4% of the overall Delta average annual flows; and,

WHEREAS, there is no practicable and economically efficient way to construct, heighten and reinforce the existing levees to keep pace with sea level rise or prevent the levees from collapsing during a large seismic earthquake. The consequences to the Bay Delta ecosystem, the water supply, and the California economy would be immediate, severe and negative when these events occur; and,

WHEREAS, it has been about 55 years since voter approval of the State Water Project (SWP), which was never completed as originally envisioned to include an independent conveyance facility which would allow increased capture and storage of water during periods of high flows and would also minimize conflicts with fisheries; and,

WHEREAS, as the result of federal court decisions, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service Biological Opinions, as well as other regulatory constraints to protect native species in the Delta, the SWP has not been able to collect, store, and deliver an estimated volume of 3.6 million acre-feet of water since 2008; and,

#10.

WHEREAS, although total restoration of the Delta to the conditions of the historical past is not possible, much has been learned through science studies about what is needed to improve the management and utilization of the Delta that can enhance fish, wildlife and water management for the future; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Brown's California Water Fix and California Eco Restore proposal provides a framework of how best to approach the management of the Delta's combined water and land resources in a manner that will realistically achieve improvements in both water supply reliability and ecosystem protection for the Delta as an evolving place by balancing the many competing demands; and,

WHEREAS, the California WaterFix and Eco-Restore proposal will help with water supply reliability by improving essential ecosystem functions so that populations of endangered or threatened aquatic species will be strengthened; and,

WHEREAS, the California Eco Restore will pursue more than 30,000 acres of critical Delta restoration over the next 5 years, including the improvements of habitat conditions for fisheries migration, restoring tidal and non-tidal wetland habitat for native wildlife, and improving connectivity among existing grassland and other natural habitats; and,

WHEREAS, the California Water Fix includes the construction of three intakes north of the Delta, a 35-mile 9,000 cfs underground diversion facility, and modification of Clifton Court forebay that will provide operational pumping flexibility and protect against water supply disruption due to sea-level rise, earthquakes and flood events; and,

WHEREAS, the three new intakes north of the Delta will improve existing environmental conditions in the Delta by reducing the current reverse flow conditions, minimizing the trapping of migrating fish and reducing diversions during critical fish migration periods, which will provide for more operational flexibility to enhance water deliveries, especially during wet periods; and,

WHEREAS, the California Water Fix conveyance project includes proposed operations to meet the State Water Control Board's Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan regulatory requirements for "in-Delta" water quality to protect the designated beneficial uses. The new conveyance operations would also provide water moving through the south Delta channels to reduce salinity levels; and,

WHEREAS, improving the SWP system can increase regional storage reserve levels. These storage reserves are used to protect the region from devastating effects of drought and other emergencies. The California WaterFix will help ensure that Orange County will have sufficient supplies at critical times when we need them; and,

WHEREAS, California Water Fix and Eco Restore represents the most cost-effective large-scale reliability solution to improving regional water supply reliability for Southern California; and,

WHEREAS, Moulton Niguel customers, through the Municipal Water District of Orange County and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, have made significant investments in the State Water Project system in Northern California as well as portions of Metropolitan’s regional storage, distribution, and treatment systems that convey SWP supplies. Modernizing the system through the California WaterFix will help protect this investment for decades to come; and,

WHEREAS, moving forward with the California Water Fix will not be an inexpensive endeavor; however, it is the most cost-effective investment of the ratepayers’ dollars to maintain and continue our economic vitality for the region. Furthermore, all of the costs for California Water Fix will be paid for exclusively by water agencies benefiting from the project; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Moulton Niguel Water District that the Board of Directors does hereby support the California Eco Restore and California Water Fix Preferred Alternative (No.4A) as described in the environmental documents with reasonable adherence to the current, public operating criteria and cost allocation principles and assumptions.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of March, 2017.

President
MOULTON NIGUEL WATER DISTRICT

Secretary
MOULTON NIGUEL WATER DISTRICT

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

12/22/2016 | Press release

Metropolitan General Manager Issues Statement On Release Of Final California Waterfix Environmental Documents

Contact: Armando Acuña, (213) 217-6853; (530) 574-3111, mobile

Dec. 22, 2016

METROPOLITAN GENERAL MANAGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON RELEASE OF FINAL CALIFORNIA WATERFIX ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS

Jeffrey Kightlinger, general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, issues the following statement on today's release of the final environmental impact report/statement for the ongoing California WaterFix process.

"This historic milestone completes the process of identifying the preferred project to modernize the state water system, reduce environmental conflicts and increase water supply reliability for California. After more than 10 years of planning, analysis and debate, the time for decisions is finally in sight. The pending transmittal of draft biological opinions to the state Independent Science Board will start the review process to produce state and federal permits detailing how California WaterFix will operate in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

"We need a future water system that can capture sufficient supplies when storms reach Northern California. This critical mission cannot be performed by anything smaller than what is proposed. This final proposal reflects a project downsizing of 40 percent from what public water agencies had originally identified, a tough but necessary compromise with the wildlife regulatory agencies.

"Once we have more information about proposed operations and financial cost sharing among the participating agencies in hand, Metropolitan next year will be ready to make an investment decision on California WaterFix. We are grateful for all the efforts by Gov. Brown's administration to get to this critical junction. We look forward to continuing to work with top career staffers of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service, who are making progress on the permit applications for the incoming federal administration."

###

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IS A COOPERATIVE OF 26 CITIES AND WATER AGENCIES SERVING NEARLY

19 MILLION PEOPLE IN SIX COUNTIES. THE DISTRICT IMPORTS WATER FROM THE COLORADO RIVER AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA TO SUPPLEMENT LOCAL SUPPLIES, AND HELPS ITS MEMBERS TO DEVELOP INCREASED WATER CONSERVATION, RECYCLING, STORAGE AND OTHER RESOURCE- MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

ORDER NO. 3343

Subject: Actions to Address Effects of Drought and Climate Change on California's Water Supply and Listed Species

Sec. 1 Purpose. The Department of the Interior (Department), through the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and informed by the science of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), has many responsibilities for managing the State of California's (State) water resources and aquatic ecosystems. Long-term drought, fueled by climate change, has adversely affected the State's water supplies, exacerbated effects of water operations on imperiled species, impacted water quality, and added to the stressors affecting the health of California's unique ecosystems, particularly the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Bay-Delta).

The purpose of this Order is to document and continue a Department-wide approach and range of actions that, in coordination with the State's implementation of the 2009 Delta Reform Act and the 2014 California Water Action Plan, addresses the effects of drought and climate change on the State's water resources over both the short term and the long term. The Order seeks to facilitate the integration of State and Federal efforts to optimize the many interests in the Bay-Delta, including the needs of agriculture and municipalities, while simultaneously fostering conservation of species found throughout the ecosystem.

A number of collaborative water resource initiatives involving the State, the Department, and other agencies and stakeholders are currently being carried out in California. The initiatives include the California WaterFix; California EcoRestore; Implementation of a Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy; Implementation of the Sacramento Winter-Run Chinook Salmon Action Plan; Reinitiation of Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Consultation on the Coordinated Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP); and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Process to Update the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan (Bay-Delta Plan).

This Order provides direction for the Department, and particularly Reclamation and FWS, with scientific support and technical advice from USGS, to complete the technical, scientific, and analytical work necessary to make permitting, regulatory, and other decisions associated with these initiatives. While many of these initiatives are targeted to benefit specific species and increase water supply reliability, it is anticipated that the restoration actions will also improve habitat conditions for other at-risk species.

Sec. 2 Authorities. This Order is issued under statutory authority that includes, but is not limited to, the Reclamation Laws (Act of June 17, 1902, and all acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto); the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (P.L. 102-575, Title XXXIV); the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1631, et seq.); the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 1661, et seq.); the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 1201, et seq.); and authority provided by Section 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262), as amended.

Sec. 3 **Background.**

a. Recent Operations, Water Supply Trends, and Status of Species.

(1) Reclamation's CVP and California's SWP are among the largest water conveyance systems in the world, delivering about 9-10 million acre-feet of water in non-drought years to farms, cities, and ecosystems throughout the State. Since most precipitation falls in the northern part of the State, and most water use is in the southern part, the combined systems must convey vast amounts of water each year through the Bay-Delta into State and Federal canals that carry the water to the agricultural Central Valley, and metropolitan areas in the San Francisco Bay area and southern California. Over time, many factors, including water operations have caused a serious decline in the world-renowned Bay-Delta ecosystem and the salmon and other fish populations dependent on it. In recent years, a scientific consensus has developed, particularly in view of projected sea level rise and other climate impacts affecting water supplies, that a broad set of actions is necessary, including upgrading or modifying the Federal and State water conveyance system through the Bay-Delta to improve the ability to provide reliable water supplies and help restore a healthy Bay-Delta ecosystem.

(2) The last decade has been dominated by periods of severely reduced snowpack, reduced precipitation, and significant groundwater withdrawals. Estimates indicate Water Year (WY) 2016 was the ninth of 10 years with below-average runoff.

(3) Entering WY 2016, CVP carryover reservoir storage was only 2.9 million acre-feet, which was just 24 percent of capacity and 47 percent of the 15-year average. Conditions have slightly improved over the last year, as the CVP entered WY 2017 with 4.9 million acre-feet of water in the 6 key CVP reservoirs, which is 82 percent of the 15-year average annual carryover of 6.0 million acre-feet. Storage in State facilities continues to be similarly impacted by drought, with current storage in the Oroville Reservoir and in the State portion of San Luis Reservoir at roughly 60 percent of average entering WY 2017.

(4) Impacts to fish species have also been significant over this time period. The population of Delta Smelt, an annual species found only in the Delta, is at an all-time low. The Spring Kodiak Trawl Index for Delta Smelt has continued a downward slide and is 90 percent lower in 2016 than the previous historic low.

(5) Winter-run Chinook salmon populations are also at very low levels. Over the last 10 years of available data (2003-2013), the abundance of spawning Winter-run Chinook salmon adults ranged from a low of 738 in 2011 to a high of 17,197 in 2007, with an average of 6,298. This is in stark contrast to an average abundance of 87,000 spawning adults in the late 1960s.

(6) Even after the current drought has abated, water availability is unlikely to bounce back to historical levels. Long-term forecasts show clear effects on water supply from climate change. In 2016, Reclamation released the "Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers Basin Study" (Basin Study) assessing the potential impacts from climate change. (See "Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers Basin Study Executive Summary," Bureau of Reclamation (March 2016)). The Basin Study's conclusion clearly warns of the potential for future shortages. Three of the key findings are:

(i) Temperatures are projected to increase steadily during the century, with changes generally increasing from about 1.6 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) in the early 21st century to almost 4.8 °F in the Sierra Nevada Mountains late in the 21st century.

(ii) Snowpack will likely decline considerably due to warming, particularly in the lower elevations of the mountains surrounding the Central Valley. Runoff will increase during fall and winter months. Peak runoff may shift more than a month earlier in some watersheds. Spring runoff will decrease due to reduced winter snowpack.

(iii) Sea levels are expected to increase. However, there is considerable uncertainty about the magnitude of increase, which may range from as little as 20 inches to more than 55 inches in the Bay-Delta by the end of the century.

(7) Even apart from the drought, increasing population, land-use changes, and new environmental water needs have all contributed to an increasing imbalance between water supplies and demands. The Basin Study shows that this imbalance will continue to increase unless actions are taken to address it. For the CVP service area over the course of the 21st century, average annual unmet water demands are expected to range from 2.7 to 8.2 million acre-feet per year, with most of the unmet demands occurring south of the Bay-Delta.

b. Current Initiatives in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins.

(1) California WaterFix.

(i) Over the past decade, a broad scientific consensus has developed that continuation of status quo water and ecosystem management in the Bay-Delta is unsustainable, and that the only way to avoid greatly diminishing Delta water exports would be to construct an alternate water conveyance structure through the Delta. (See e.g., “Delta Vision,” Governor’s Blue Ribbon Task Force (2007); “Managing California’s Water – From Conflict to Reconciliation,” Public Policy Institute of California (2011); “Sustainable Water and Environmental Management in the California Bay-Delta,” National Research Council of the National Academies (2012)). In 2006, the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) planning process began to address the myriad issues affecting the Bay-Delta by evaluating new infrastructure and habitat improvement measures. Central to the BDCP was a proposed new conveyance facility for the SWP and CVP that would divert water from north of the Delta, together with a plan to restore 100,000 acres of Bay-Delta habitat. The BDCP was a combined Habitat Conservation Plan under Section 10 of the Federal ESA and a Natural Community Conservation Plan under the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act. In April 2015, the State revised the proposed project, separating the conveyance facility from the habitat restoration measures to form two separate efforts: California WaterFix (CWF) and California EcoRestore. The CWF is now being evaluated pursuant to Section 7 of the Federal ESA.

(ii) The five State and Federal agencies analyzing CWF (Reclamation, FWS, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)) are working to complete all

environmental analyses and legal requirements in order to make a final decision on CWF implementation.

(iii) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance. Reclamation and DWR completed and released a Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIR/EIS) for CWF on December 22, 2016. Prior to that, a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) was released to the public in December 2013. In response to public comments, a joint Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/SDEIS) was released in July 2015; it included three alternatives that describe conveyance options that do not contain all of the elements of a Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan.

(iv) ESA Section 7 Compliance. Reclamation, as the lead agency for ESA Section 7 consultation, coordinated with DWR, as the CWF project applicant, to prepare a Biological Assessment on CWF. Reclamation delivered the Final Biological Assessment to FWS and NMFS in August 2016, and formal consultation began in September 2016. An independent peer review of FWS and NOAA Biological Opinions' analyses of the CWF effects on aquatic species and designated critical habitats will be completed prior to finalization of these documents. The NMFS and FWS Biological Opinions are expected to be completed by April 2017. Upon receipt of the Biological Opinions, and coupled with the issuance of the Final EIR/EIS for the CWF on December 22, 2016, the Department will be in a position to issue a Record of Decision (ROD) on the project and DWR intends to issue its Notice of Determination.

(v) Petition for Change in Point of Diversion. Reclamation and DWR submitted to the SWRCB a joint petition for a change in water rights permits for the CVP and SWP in order to operate the CWF diversion and conveyance project. Part 1 of the SWRCB hearing, focused on potential injury to legal users of water, commenced in July 2016. Part 2 of the hearing, focused on effects to fish and wildlife, is expected to begin in the first half of 2017.

(2) California EcoRestore. In April 2015, the State launched California EcoRestore. The purpose of EcoRestore is to accelerate the restoration of tidal, riparian, and floodplain habitat in the Delta, targeting 30,000 acres of new habitat by the end of 2018. Since that launch, EcoRestore has achieved concrete results and expects to complete or have under construction over 7,370 acres of tidal and floodplain restoration, 2,680 feet of riparian habitat restoration, and 3 fish passage projects by 2017. There is scientific consensus about the need for and the benefit of habitat restoration in the Delta. Restoration in the Delta pursuant to EcoRestore will assist each of the five State and Federal agencies with their individual and collective responsibilities.

(3) Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy.

(i) In July 2016, in response to significant population declines, the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) issued the Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy (Strategy). The Strategy consists of 13 actions that include augmenting outflow, enhancing the food web, reducing nonnative invasive aquatic weeds and predatory fish, and restoring habitat in key Delta Smelt areas. The proposed actions are intended to address the near-term needs of Delta Smelt

and to promote their resiliency to adverse and varied habitat conditions.

(ii) The Strategy includes an Outflow Augmentation element aimed at improving an understanding of the effects of Delta outflow and the location of the salt and freshwater interface in the estuary on Delta Smelt populations. This flow-augmentation effort will occur in 2017 and subsequent years and will inform possible actions under a new Biological Opinion for Delta Smelt (see below). Pursuant to the Strategy, Reclamation and DWR will provide up to an additional 250,000 acre-feet per year of outflow above current SWRCB requirements.

(iii) Other elements within the Strategy will focus on additional stressors affecting the environmental health of the Bay-Delta. For example, enhancing the Delta's food web and in turn, providing more food resources for Delta Smelt is the focus of one project. Another element planned for 2017 is aimed at reducing invasive weeds which impact Delta Smelt. The Strategy also highlights several restoration projects with high potential to benefit Delta Smelt that are currently being implemented or due to be implemented in the near future.

(4) Sacramento Winter-Run Chinook Salmon Species in the Spotlight Action Plan.

(i) In 2014, NOAA Fisheries adopted a plan to recover ESA-listed salmon and steelhead in the Central Valley. The recovery plan is voluntary and, thus, the success of efforts depends on partnerships and cooperation to ensure implementation is proceeding on actions that will result in long-term species' recovery. The 2016 NMFS Action Plan for Sacramento River Winter-run Chinook Salmon (Action Plan) focuses on five keys actions to be taken by 2020 to accelerate recovery. Three actions focus on improving management of Shasta reservoir cold water storage, restoring and providing access to Battle Creek Habitat, and managing winter and early spring Delta conditions to improve juvenile survival.

(ii) Of particular importance for both California and the United States are the Action Plan's two other proposed actions: to improve Yolo Bypass fish habitat and fish passage, and to reintroduce Winter-run Chinook above Shasta Reservoir. A Draft EIS/EIR on the Yolo Bypass, is anticipated in 2017. Improving fish habitat and passage in the bypass is also a focus of California EcoRestore.

(5) Reinitiation of Section 7 Consultation on Coordinated Long-Term Operation (LTO) of the CVP and SWP. On August 2, 2016, Reclamation and DWR requested reinitiation of Section 7 consultation with FWS and NMFS on the LTO of the CVP and the SWP due to new information related to the ongoing drought and recent data showing low population levels of Delta Smelt and Winter-run Chinook salmon. New information is also available based on the ongoing work of collaborative science processes. As part of this reevaluation, Reclamation and DWR will consider new information developed since the issuance of FWS and NMFS Biological Opinions issued in 2008 and 2009, respectively, including new and planned CVP and SWP facilities, updated drought conditions and operations, ecosystem and climate conditions, and other information as appropriate.

(6) Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan.

(i) The SWRCB is currently updating its 2006 Bay-Delta Plan and flow objectives for priority tributaries to the Delta to protect beneficial uses in the Bay-Delta watershed, including fish and wildlife. The Bay-Delta Plan is being updated in four phases. Phase 1 focuses on flow requirements in the San Joaquin River watershed—specifically the three main tributaries of the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers—and salinity in the southern Delta. Phase 2 addresses new inflow requirements for the Sacramento River, its tributaries, and eastside tributaries to the Delta, changes to Delta outflow requirements, new and modified interior Delta flow requirements, and new requirements for cold water habitat. Recently, SWRCB staff released a draft proposal for Phase 1 of the update. The SWRCB's schedule for the Phase 2 update runs from the fall of 2016 to the spring of 2018. On October 19, 2016, the SWRCB staff released a Draft Scientific Report for Sacramento River and Delta Flow Requirements to identify new flow regimes that could help improve the aquatic ecosystems in these areas.

(ii) The SWRCB will update its implementation program to achieve these objectives in Phase 3. Implementation will include monitoring and special studies to fill information needs and to evaluate the effectiveness of the new objectives and their impacts. Responsibility for implementing flow objectives will be assigned through water right actions and water quality actions, including Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hydropower licensing processes. Phase 4 will involve developing and implementing flow objectives for priority Delta tributaries not included in earlier phases.

(iii) The CNRA and CDFW have begun discussions with key stakeholders in the San Joaquin River basin to explore the potential for agreement on plans to meet SWRCB flow objectives, and have asked Reclamation to join the discussions concerning CVP water and contractors.

Sec. 4 Direction to Complete California Water Resource Actions. As the preceding discussion makes clear, there are a number of extremely important California water resource issues where the Department has critical responsibilities. Action on these issues is essential to implementing a comprehensive strategy in California that provides for greater drought resiliency, safeguards communities against the long-term effects of climate change, and achieves the State's co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the environmental quality of the Bay-Delta. In some cases, the actions are necessary to ensure compliance with applicable Federal and State environmental laws. Given the importance of these actions and the need for continuity, stability, and the avoidance of protracted litigation, relevant bureaus within the Department are directed to carry out the following actions:

a. CWF Environmental Review. Reclamation and FWS will allocate available resources, as necessary, to complete the Section 7 Biological Opinions and a ROD for the EIR/EIS on CWF as set forth below.

(1) EIR/EIS. Reclamation, as the lead Federal agency for NEPA, along with DWR as the California Environmental Quality Act lead agency, completed the Final EIR/EIS for CWF and published a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register on December 30, 2016. The Department, working with the State and NMFS, will review and consider any information received

after publication of the Final EIR/EIS and upon receipt of the necessary Biological Opinions (timing set forth below), and after considering all relevant information, will be prepared to sign a ROD for CWF. During this period, Reclamation will continue to work with DWR and other appropriate entities on a range of strategies and options to appropriately split the costs of CWF between the SWP and CVP water users and to determine an appropriate role for the Federal Government in participating in CWF given the projected public benefits.

(2) Section 7. The FWS, in coordination with NMFS and the CDFW, will, upon consideration of all relevant information received from Reclamation and DWR, issue an initial Draft Biological Opinion for CWF in January 2017 and a final Biological Opinion by April 2017.

(i) Peer Review. Prior to providing Reclamation and DWR its Draft Biological Opinion, FWS will make available for peer review through a rigorous scientific evaluation the analysis of the effects to aquatic species that it intends to include in the Draft Biological Opinion. The FWS will incorporate such revisions as it deems appropriate in light of the peer review into a final Draft Biological Opinion that it will complete by March 2017.

(ii) Change in Point of Diversion on CVP Water Rights. The Department will seek negotiated resolution of disputes arising before the SWRCB over the proposed change in point of diversion for CVP water rights. Reclamation, working with the Office of the Solicitor, will coordinate settlements with DWR and/or CNRA where appropriate.

b. Collaborative Delta Science Engagement Process. Reclamation, FWS, and USGS will work collaboratively with NMFS, DWR, and CDFW to utilize the Adaptive Management Framework (AMF) developed as part of CWF to help guide scientific studies and monitoring, assist with CVP and SWP operations, and achieve the co-equal goals for the Bay-Delta. New science proposals shall be subject to review under existing science review processes such as the Collaborative Science Adaptive Management Process (CSAMP), Interagency Ecological Program (IEP), and the Structured Decision Making framework used in connection with the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

(1) As part of Collaborative Delta Science Engagement, the Department will coordinate internally and with the State and NMFS to develop priorities for funding. In order to ensure effective implementation of the AMF, State and Department bureaus will collaborate prior to release of the President's budget for each fiscal year to establish appropriate resource needs for the upcoming year and future years.

(2) Implementation of the AMF shall include an annual review process that reviews objectives, successes, and areas to be improved. The annual review shall include development of innovative approaches to refine monitoring and restoration activities that measure species populations. The process shall include collaboration among agencies to explore potential efficiencies in funding, expenditures, and organizational structure(s). The annual review results shall be made available to the public.

c. Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy. Implementation of the Strategy during the next several years is an essential step in addressing near-term and long-term risk to the species and water

supplies. Reclamation and FWS will closely coordinate with DWR, CDFW, NMFS, and others in implementing all facets of the Strategy.

(1) Delta Smelt Outflow Augmentation. Reclamation, in coordination with DWR, will prioritize resources to acquire or otherwise make available up to 250,000 acre-feet per year of outflow above current SWRCB requirements. This additional outflow may include using water transfers, changes in exports from the Bay-Delta, releases from upstream storage, or other measures. In order to implement this Strategy, the following shall occur:

(i) The FWS, in coordination with CDFW and NMFS, and working through appropriate collaborative science processes, will annually, until the completion of the reinitiated LTO consultation, provide to Reclamation and DWR a detailed description of specific physical and biological objectives and species needs for Delta Smelt during the spring and summer. This work has already started, and the first iteration is expected in early 2017. The objectives will be provided based on the best available science and will provide specific physical and biological goals and species benefits that are anticipated to be achieved during the water year as a result of outflow augmentation. The objectives will be provided to Reclamation and DWR by December 31 of each year.

(ii) Reclamation, in coordination with DWR, will annually, until the completion of the re-initiated consultation, provide a Draft Delta Smelt Outflow Augmentation Plan (Plan) by March 1 to FWS. (As stated above, the work on the first iteration of objectives for this effort has been started and is expected in the early part of 2017. As a result, the agencies may not be able to complete the work by March 1 in 2017). The March 1 target is expected to be met in subsequent years when FWS, in coordination with CDFW and NMFS, provides objectives by December 31). The Plan will address strategies for meeting FWS and NMFS objectives for the water year, including, but not limited to, mechanisms for monitoring the effect of outflow actions on Delta Smelt and providing operational targets to meet the physical and biological objectives.

(iii) Reclamation shall complete a NEPA review of the Delta Smelt Outflow Action and shall initiate ESA Section 7 consultation, if necessary. The review and consultation must be completed prior to the implementation of actions identified in the Plan.

(iv) In developing strategies for obtaining water for additional outflows through purchase or otherwise, Reclamation and FWS will, to the extent practicable, coordinate with Federal and State water contractors in identifying and acquiring any additional outflows. Such coordination may include combining resources to make joint purchases to achieve the greatest benefit on cost.

(2) Rio Vista Estuarine Research Station and Fish Technology Center. The environmental review for the Rio Vista Estuarine Research Station and Fish Technology Center (FTC) is nearly complete. Reclamation and FWS will work collaboratively with the State and NMFS to pursue this facility and to develop a funding strategy with a goal of completing the construction of the facility by 2019. The new Delta field station will consolidate existing IEP Delta Smelt monitoring and research activities, as well as additional salmonid research activities. Construction of a facility to research Delta Smelt life history and develop captive propagation tools is necessary to ensure persistence of the species between the present and future achievement of

environmental conditions that will allow the species to persist in the wild. The FTC will maintain a refugial population of Delta Smelt that is genetically representative of the population in the wild. This genetic refugia population will serve as a source of fish for reintroduction, should they become extirpated in the wild, or as a source of fish for supplementation, should supplementation be deemed necessary for recovery.

d. Completion of Reinitiation of Consultation on Coordinated Long-Term Operations of the CVP and the SWP.

(1) Consultation Agreement. Reclamation, FWS, NMFS, DWR, and CDFW recently executed a Memorandum of Understanding that commits to the respective roles and responsibilities of each agency in implementing development, analysis, and completion of the new LTO Biological Opinions. Reclamation will secure contract support for the consultation as soon as possible.

(2) Project Synopsis. The bureau heads from Reclamation and FWS will meet regularly with their counterparts at NMFS, DWR, and CDFW and confer on potential activities including, but not limited to, water operations, facility modifications, restoration, and monitoring, that could be addressed in the reinitiated consultation and that may be analyzed under both NEPA and the ESA.

(3) NEPA. Reclamation shall work to develop alternatives, perform analyses, and provide an impact analysis on different ways to achieve CVP objectives, including managing for water supply and natural resources. The NEPA process shall include an expansive stakeholder engagement process.

(4) ESA. Reclamation shall work collaboratively with DWR, FWS, NMFS, and CDFW to perform analyses on a Proposed Action for the operation of the CVP and SWP to address impacts to ESA-listed species. The FWS shall provide technical information to inform the Biological Assessment development process, as needed. Upon receiving a complete Biological Assessment, FWS will prepare a Biological Opinion in coordination with NMFS for the LTO.

(5) Transparent Collaborative Science. Reclamation and FWS, consistent with P.L. 114-322, sec. 4004, will work with independent scientist and stakeholder groups throughout the LTO development process to review scientific information and determine whether physical and biological objectives would be achieved by the proposals under consideration. The scientist and stakeholder groups may include USGS, CSAMP, IEP, or others. Reclamation and FWS will also consider the effects of other interrelated actions that affect Delta habitat conditions, particularly the SWRCB's Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan.

e. Active Engagement in Development of Voluntary Agreements for Flow Requirements and Coordination on Flows with ESA Requirements. Reclamation and FWS shall work with the SWRCB, CDFW, and CNRA to provide information to SWRCB as part of its Bay-Delta Plan initiative. This shall include coordination with CNRA in at least the following areas:

(1) Engagement with key stakeholders to develop voluntary agreements to increase flows and integrate flow and non-flow measures.

(2) Providing information necessary for the SWRCB to establish water quality standards to meet fish, wildlife, and ecosystem goals.

(3) Ensuring that requirements developed through the Bay-Delta Plan process are considered in assessing requirements.

(4) Compliance under the CVP and SWP LTO Biological Opinions.

f. Winter-Run Chinook Species in the Spotlight Action Plan. Implementation of the Species in the Spotlight Action Plan is an essential element for reducing near-term and long-term risks to this species. The Plan was developed by NMFS in 2016 as a high-priority action plan to guide allocation of NMFS internal resources, as well as attract funding from partner agencies and stakeholders. Reclamation and FWS will work with NMFS to incorporate spotlight actions into priorities developed under the AMF.

Sec. 5 Implementation. The Assistant Secretary – Water and Science and the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks are responsible for ensuring implementation of this Order.

Sec. 6 Expiration Date. This Order is effective immediately. It shall remain in effect until its provisions are completed, amended, superseded, or revoked, whichever comes first. The termination of the Order will not nullify the requirements effected herein.



Secretary of the Interior

Date: **JAN 03 2017**