



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
West Coast Region  
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4700

FEB 7 2014

Mr. Paul Fujitani  
Deputy Operations Manager  
Central Valley Project  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 300  
Sacramento, California 95821

Dear Mr. Fujitani:

This is in response to your February 4, 2014, letter, where the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) proposes to establish a Vernalis flow-to-combined export (I:E) ratio of 1:1 for April 1-May 31, 2014. Reasonable and prudent alternative (RPA) Action IV.2.1 in NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) biological and conference opinion on the long-term operation of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP, page 70 of the 2009 RPA with 2011 amendments at CVP/SWP Opinion) limits the I:E ratio from April 1-May 31, depending on the San Joaquin Valley Classification of water year type.

NMFS acknowledges the current dry hydrology in the San Joaquin River Basin, and unlikelihood that it will change considerably in the coming months. NMFS understands that it is prudent to plan in advance and provide certainty in hydrology to accommodate water transfers. NMFS expects that the water transfers, to the extent that they increase flows down the San Joaquin River, will be beneficial to outmigrating salmonids. In consideration of the rationale you provided, NMFS agrees that early determination of the I:E ratio is warranted for this year. We appreciate your statement that you will coordinate further with us in coming months in the unlikely event that hydrologic conditions and runoff forecasts change substantially.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, or if NMFS can provide further assistance, please contact Ms. Barbara Byrne at (916) 930-5612, or via email at [barbara.byrne@noaa.gov](mailto:barbara.byrne@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

Maria Rea  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
California Central Valley Office



Cc: Copy to file: ARN151422SWR2006SA00268  
Mr. David Murillo, Regional Director, Reclamation's MP Regional Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825  
Mr. Mark Cowin, Director, DWR, 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1115-9, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Mr. Mike Chotkowski, Field Supervisor, USFWS, San Francisco Bay-Delta Fish and Wildlife Office, 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 8-300, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Mr. Chuck Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, 4001 North Wilson Way, Stockton, CA 95205