

November 2, 2007

Mr. Jason Phillips
Program Manager
San Joaquin River Restoration Program
Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-2710
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Phillips,

As the Restoration Administrator for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program, I have the pleasure of submitting a report prepared by the Program's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which sets forth recommendations for interim and long term population targets, goals and milestones for restoration of spring-run Chinook salmon, as well as recommendations on stock selection and strategies for reintroduction. The enclosed report prepared by the TAC is titled ***Recommendations on Restoring Spring-run Chinook Salmon to the Upper San Joaquin River*** (see enclosure).

In accordance with provisions of the Stipulation of Settlement in NRDC v. Rodgers (CIV-S- 88-1658-LKK/GGH) (Settlement) signed by the Settling Parties in October of 2006, the TAC prepared recommendations for submittal to the RA. My responsibility as the RA was to review the TAC report and, based on my review, to transmit my recommendations to you for your consideration and action.

The TAC began meeting twice a month in early June of this year. It should be noted that, in addition to representatives of the two state agencies represented on the TAC, the California Department of Fish and Game and Department of Water Resources, several federal liaisons participated in the TAC meetings in keeping with the terms of the Settlement. Federal liaisons to the meetings were from the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fishery Service. While only the TAC is responsible for this report, and I am responsible for the recommendations now being submitted for your consideration, it is important to acknowledge the participation and technical support provided by both federal and state agency staff.

Recommendations for Spring-run Chinook Salmon

Due to logistical and organizational issues that delayed convening of the TAC, there was not sufficient time to prepare recommendations on both the spring-run and fall-run Chinook salmon. Therefore, as required by the Settlement, the TAC will prepare a follow up report for transmittal to the RA in the near future that will contain the same range of recommendations for interim and long-term population targets, goals and milestones for restoration of fall-run Chinook salmon. The subsequent TAC report also will provide recommendations required under the Settlement for coordinating releases from Friant Dam with fishery restoration actions on the Merced, Tuolumne and Stanislaus Rivers.

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I have served as Moderator of the TAC during the past 5 months of meetings. Based on my role as Moderator and my review of this final report, I am pleased to declare that I concur with the twenty-five recommendations relating to spring-run Chinook salmon prepared by the TAC as part of the enclosed report. The twenty-five recommendations include: eleven (11) recommendations relating to population targets, goals and milestones; seven (7) recommendations relating to stock selection; and seven (7) recommendations relating to reintroduction strategies. I am pleased to transmit each of the twenty-five (25) recommendations contained in the enclosed TAC report as my recommendations to you.

Next Steps for the Technical Advisory Committee and Restoration Administrator

In the near future, the TAC will complete its reports on two topics that are closely related to and supplementing its report on spring-run Chinook salmon. The forthcoming TAC reports to the RA will address recommendations for:

1. interim and long term population targets, goals and milestones for restoration of fall-run Chinook salmon, as well as recommendations on stock selection and strategies for reintroduction; and
2. coordination of water releases from Friant Dam with fishery restoration actions on the Merced, Tuolumne and Stanislaus rivers.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations and for your continuing support of efforts to restore spring-run and fall-run Chinook salmon to the San Joaquin River and to address water management issues in a manner consistent with the Settlement. Please contact me if you have questions or suggestions and thank you for distributing copies of this transmittal and enclosure to federal agency liaisons.

Sincerely,

Roderick J. Meade
President

5 Enclosures

cc: Paula Landis, Chief San Joaquin District, DWR
Bill Loudermilk Regional Manager, CDFG
Dale Mitchell, Program Manager, CDFG
Monty Schmitt, San Joaquin River Restoration Program Manager, NRDC
William Luce, Resources Manager, Friant water Authority