



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Sacramento Area Office
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 8-300
Sacramento, California 95814-4706

June 1, 2009 In response refer to:
2008/09022

Dr. Clifford Dahm
Lead Scientist
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
650 Capitol Mall, 5th floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Dr. Dahm:

This document transmits NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) response (Response, Enclosure 1) to the CALFED panel review of our December 11, 2008, draft biological opinion (Opinion) on the Bureau of Reclamation's Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project (which we have previously referred to as OCAP). NMFS prepared the draft Opinion to evaluate the effects of project operations on listed anadromous fish species, and designated and proposed critical habitats, in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

As previously discussed, we request that the CALFED Science Program post the Panel's final review report on the Science Program's website, with this response to the review, when the Opinion is final. NMFS will notify you when the Opinion is released so that you may proceed with posting these review documents.

I would like to express my appreciation to the CALFED Science Program and the individual panelists for conducting this review on behalf of NMFS. The CALFED panelists, through the review workshops and reports, provided valuable information and insight to our team of Federal biologists and hydrologists responsible for drafting the Opinion. We have revised our final Opinion significantly to reflect the Panel's input. In this respect, the peer review has been an essential component to developing a well-considered Opinion based on a best available science.

If you have any questions regarding this consultation, please contact Ms. Rhonda Reed at (916) 930-3609, or via e-mail at rhonda.reed@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Maria Rea
Supervisor, Sacramento Area Office

Enclosures (1)



cc: Copy to file ARN: 151422SWR2004SA9116
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