



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southwest Region

650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100

Sacramento, CA 95814-4700

JUL 2 2012

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942826
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

Ms. Hoffman-Floerke:

It has come to my attention that NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has not responded to your May 1, 2011, request for an extension of the deadline required in NMFS' biological and conference opinion on the long-term operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, reasonable and prudent alternative Action IV.4.2. Specifically, Action IV.4.2 requires the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to "[i]mmediately commence studies to develop predator control methods for Clifton Court Forebay that will reduce salmon and steelhead pre-screen loss in Clifton Court Forebay to no more than 40 percent." Specifically, predator control methods shall be improved on or before March 31, 2011, with full compliance by March 31, 2014. Through your May 1, 2011, letter and enclosures, DWR proposes to comply with Action IV.4.2 by implementing improved predator control methods in Clifton court Forebay by December 2014 and achieving full compliance by December 2017. The 2014 deadline would correspond to the time construction of facilities to improve fishing access, and the 2017 deadline would allow for monitoring and completion of the related report. Despite not having NMFS' official concurrence, I understand through various discussions and forums over the past year that DWR is proceeding with implementing its proposal, and that this delay in NMFS concurrence has not resulted in a delay in the implementation of the proposal.

With this letter, NMFS concurs with DWR's proposal and timeline with regard to the implementation of Action IV.4.2 subpart 2.a.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Garwin Yip at (916) 930-3611, or via e-mail at garwin.yip@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

for

Maria C. Rea

Supervisor, Central Valley Office



Cc: ARN #151422SWR2006SA00268
Don Glaser - Reclamation
Mike Chotkowski - USFWS
Carl Wilcox - CDFG