
From: Brianne Szczepanek - NOAA Federal <Brianne.Szczepanek@noaa.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2019 5:51 PM
To: Chris Oliver - NOAA Federal; Kate Naughten; Samuel Rauch
Cc: Alesia Read; Emma Htun; Samantha Guidon - NOAA Affiliate
Subject: Draft Effects Analysis Holding Statement

Chris, Sam, and Kate—

Below is a draft holding statement that WCR worked on with BOR and FWS. The intent is for this holding statement to be used by all 3 agencies after WCR sends the draft effects analysis to BOR and FWS on Monday morning.

Apparently, there was a call this afternoon with BOR, FWS and NOAA/DOC staff to discuss the Public Affairs and Congressional Outreach Plan for the NOAA Fisheries Effects Analysis.

The holding statement will be sent to key Congressional offices on Monday as well. NOAA will send the statement to its oversight committees and indicate that the effects analysis will be sent to them Tuesday. BOR asked that the state water contractors get 24 hours with the effects analysis before it is released to the media and Congressional offices. While the water districts will likely share with the Hill right away, BOR wanted to wait until Tuesday to share with the Hill. So, on Tuesday morning NOAA in coordination with DOC will send the effects analysis to our relevant Oversight Committees and other key offices.

Please let me know if you are good with this statement. Once you clear, NOAA and DOC will need to review. —Brianne

COORDINATED HOLDING STATEMENT: The Bureau of Reclamation, National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been working closely together for months to ensure we issue the Biological Opinions for Reclamation's proposed operations plan for the CVP and SWP in a timely manner in accordance with the Presidential Memo.

The agencies are working to complete Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation and incorporate the best available science to protect endangered fish and their critical habitats while providing the necessary flexibility to maximize water deliveries.

The issuance of NMFS's draft BiOp effects analysis this week for peer review is the next step in that process. The draft analysis has also been provided to public water agencies in accordance with WIIN Act provisions that give water agencies an opportunity to provide comments on these draft documents as they are under development.

Comments from peer review and from the public water agencies will be considered and incorporated into the final biological opinions as appropriate. We welcome these comments and believe they are essential to developing final Biological Opinions that are informed by the best available science.

The FWS has transmitted its draft assessment of the effects of the proposed operation of the projects on Delta smelt to our agency partners for their review.

Both agencies are on track to finalize their assessments by July 1.

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