

William W. Stelle, Jr.
Regional Administrator, West Coast Region
National Marine Fisheries Service
7600 Sand Point Way Northeast
Seattle, WA 98115

Subject: Request to Engage in Adaptive Management Provision of 2009 Biological Opinion for the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA), section 11.2.1.2

Dear Mr. Stelle:

We are submitting this letter to request the use of the adaptive management provision outlined in the RPA, section 11.2.1.2, of the 2009 National Marine Fisheries (NMFS) Biological Opinion (2009 BiOp) relating to Shasta Reservoir operations (collectively, Shasta RPA). The primary reasons for this request include recent multiple years of drought conditions, new science and modeling, and data demonstrating low population levels of endangered Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon and threatened Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*).

We would like to coordinate with you on possible modifications to the Shasta RPA that reflect temperature management approaches learned during ongoing drought management over the last 3 years. As evidenced over recent years, we remain committed to continuing to engage with NMFS on 2009 BiOp implementation efforts. This commitment includes continued monitoring and coordination of operational activities to address species needs.

As modifications to the Shasta RPA are developed, we will request the ongoing participation of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). As you are aware, the limited resources available for meeting both water supply and environmental needs has proven particularly challenging these past few years. Specifically, we feel the needs of Federally-listed salmonid species and Delta Smelt should be given equal consideration and we support efforts to engage USFWS in conversations related to the Shasta RPA modifications in order to ensure equivalent coordination among regulatory agencies.

We appreciate the continued collaboration with NMFS to address the suite of water management challenges we have faced throughout this drought, and look forward to jointly developing effective modifications to the Shasta RPA with your staff. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Banonis, Bay-Delta Area Manager, at (916) 414-2401 or at mbanonis@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,

David Murillo
Regional Director

Cc:

Mr. Ren Lohofener, Regional Director, USFWS

Mr. Charlton Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Mr. Mark Cowin, Director, California Department of Water Resources