
From: Maria Rea - NOAA Federal <maria.rea@noaa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 12:54 PM
To: nmfs.wcr.ccvaio@noaa.gov
Subject: Announcing CCVO staffing plans to implement Western Water memo

Everyone,

As we discussed recently at staff meetings, the White House released an October 19, 2018 Presidential memo promoting the reliable supply and delivery of water in the west. Among other things, this memo directs the Departments of Interior and Commerce to complete a reinitiation of consultation on the long-term operations of the Central Valley and State Water Projects (ROC on LTO) on a very expedited schedule. It also directs us to expedite the environmental review of certain high priority water projects, including Yolo Bypass.

Howard, Garwin, Cathy and I have been meeting to develop a staffing plan to implement this memo. We have also discussed these roles with the other supervisors, to consider impacts to other efforts. The names and general roles of the ROC on LTO core team members are described below. Considering the complexity of the consultation, it is likely that roles and names will change over the next few months, but this is where we are starting.

Per the direction of the memo, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is required to submit final biological assessments (BAs) to NMFS and USFWS by January 31, 2019, and final biological opinions (BiOps) are required to be complete within 135 days after we receive the BAs (June 15).

This consultation is both ambitious in schedule and complex in subject matter and will put quite a resource demand on our office. I expect that we will also be looking for help from other people in the office that might have a particular skill set or area of knowledge. The entirety of this effort will undoubtedly cause significant gaps for our office on real-time water operations teams, technical teams and section 7 and 10 consultations, that will require us to redirect workload and evaluate and carefully manage our priorities.

I am very grateful that the CCVO has such depth in technical and scientific expertise. I appreciate the work you all do here to make this office so productive and a great place to work. It's this kind of depth that gives me the confidence that we can get through this ambitious consultation while supporting each other on all of the other important work we need to do.

Thank you, in advance, to everyone whose name is on the list below, and to everyone else who helps to juggle the remaining workload of the office. If you have any questions about how this might affect you, please talk to your supervisor or come see me. Also, if you feel that you have some type of expertise that might support this consultation, please talk to your supervisor about it and let them know you want to help.

- Maria

ROC on LTO Core Team

Barb - Lead Biologist, BA review, East Side Division Lead (Stanislaus), Delta
Garwin - Branch Chief/Program Manager, BA review
Cathy - Science Center Coordination and FOAM Branch Support with Adaptive Management, Analytical Approach, BA review
Howard - Policy lead and biop coordination
Evan - Proposed Action, Action Area, Adaptive Management, Analytical Approach, deconstructing the action, Shasta Division expertise, BA review
Brian - Environmental Baseline, lead on winter-run species effects (Integration and Synthesis)
Kristin - Status of the Species, East Side Division support
Sarah - Shasta Division Lead, Clear Creek Lead, BA review
Jeff Stuart - Delta Division lead , BA review

Jon - Fish Passage Program lead
Joe - Lead on steelhead and green sturgeon effects
Brittany - Cumulative Effects
Amanda - Interrelated and Interdependent Effects (Nimbus Hatchery)
Naseem - Section 7 support and review
Chris Keifer - NOAA GC
Norma - Administrative Record Management

Yolo Bypass:

Maria, policy and stakeholder engagement
Garwin Yip, supervisor
Hilary Glen, Doug Hampton, consultation biologists

Sent from my iPad