

Figure 4-5. Decision Tree for Old and Middle River Reverse Flow Management

Reclamation and DWR may confer with the Directors of NMFS, USFWS, and CDFW if ~~the Additional Real-Time OMR Restrictions are not required for the protection of species and Reclamation and DWR they~~ desire to operate to a more negative OMR. ~~The than what is specified in “Additional Real-Time OMR Restrictions”.~~ Upon mutual agreement, the Directors of NMFS and USFWS may authorize Reclamation to operate to a more negative OMR. ~~than the “Additional Real-Time OMR Restrictions”, but no more negative than~~ -5000 cfs. The Director of CDFW may authorize DWR to operate to a more negative OMR. ~~than the “Additional Real-Time OMR Restrictions”, but no more negative than~~ -5000cfs.

4.10.5.11 Delta Smelt Summer-Fall Habitat

Reclamation and DWR propose to use structured decision making to identify and use a variety of actions to achieve the environmental and biological goals below, as described further in Appendix C. The Delta Smelt Habitat Action shall take actions to meet these environmental and biological goals in the summer and fall (June through October) of below normal, above normal, and wet water years according to the Sacramento Valley Index. The Delta Smelt Habitat Action may improve Delta Smelt habitat while contributing to the recruitment of Delta Smelt, providing enhancement of food supply and expansion of low salinity habitat.

The environmental and biological goals of the Delta Smelt Habitat Action are to: Maintain a 14-day average low salinity habitat of between 0 ppt to 6 ppt in Suisun Marsh and Grizzly Bay based on data from Belden’s Landing (or other station(s) and averaging periods, as appropriate) from June to October of below normal, above normal, and wet year years, when water temperatures are suitable; manage the low salinity zone to overlap with turbid water (12 NTU) and available food supplies; establish contiguous low salinity habitat from Cache Slough Complex to the Suisun Marsh; and contribute to the recruitment of Delta Smelt. The current conceptual model is that Delta Smelt habitat should include low salinity conditions of 0-6 ppt, turbidity of approximately 12 NTU, temperatures below 25°C, food availability, and littoral or open water physical habitats (FLaSH Synthesis, pp. 15-23). The goal of the Delta Smelt Habitat Action is to provide these habitat components in the same geographic area through a range of actions to improve water quality and food supplies. These actions include, but are not limited to:

- Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gate (SMSCG) operations for up to 60 days (not necessarily consecutive);
- Delta outflow up to the quantity that would have been required to meet a 2 ppt isohaline at 80 km from the Golden Gate Bridge in above normal and wet water years in September and October;
- Enhancement actions, e.g., those included in the Delta Smelt Resiliency Plan to enhance food supply, the North Delta food-web project, Sacramento River Deepwater Ship Channel lock reoperation, and Roaring River distribution system reoperation.

In below normal, above normal, and wet water year types, actions would focus on non-flow measures, such as operation of the SMSCG for up to 60 days (not necessarily consecutive) in the summer and fall. In below normal years, initial actions would include operating the SMSCG in the summer with no additional Delta outflow augmentation above that which is necessary to comply with D-1641. In above normal and wet years, initial actions would include operation of the SMSCG in the summer and fall. In addition, if necessary and helpful to meet the environmental and biological goals described above, Delta outflow may be augmented in above normal and wet years up to the flow volume that would have supported a 2 ppt isohaline at 80 kilometers from the Golden Gate Bridge in September and October. The water cost of operating the SMSCG in above normal years would be subtracted from the Delta outflow augmentation flow volume.