



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
THE DIRECTOR

OCT 21 2019

Refer to NMFS No: WCRO-2016-00069

Mr. Ernest A. Conant  
Regional Director  
Mid-Pacific Region  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
2800 Cottage Way, MP-3700  
Sacramento, California 95825-1898

Re: Endangered Species Act Section 7(a)(2) Biological Opinion for the Reinitiation of Consultation on the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project

Dear Mr. Conant:

Thank you for your letter of August 2, 2016, requesting reinitiation of consultation with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) on the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. Thank you, also, for your request for consultation pursuant to the essential fish habitat (EFH) provisions in Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA; 16 U.S.C. 1855(b)) for this action.

This document transmits NMFS' final biological opinion (Opinion, enclosure) based on NMFS' review of the proposed long-term operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project ("ROC on LTO") in the Central Valley, California, and its effects on listed anadromous fishes and marine mammal species, and designated critical habitats, in accordance with section 7 of the ESA. This Opinion is based on information provided in the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) February 5, 2019, biological assessment, April 30, 2019 revised proposed action, and the October 17, 2019 final proposed action and biological assessment. The Opinion also considers supplemental modeling that NMFS requested from Reclamation; comments received from Reclamation, the California Department of Water Resources, public water agencies, and peer review reports. The enclosed Opinion will be effective upon Reclamation's issuance of a Record of Decision pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and will supersede the NMFS Biological Opinion on the Long-term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project (2009, as amended in 2011).



NMFS' final Opinion concludes that the ROC on LTO is likely to result in the following determinations for the listed species and designated critical habitats:

<b>Species/Critical Habitat</b>	<b>Determination</b>
Endangered Sacramento River (SR) winter-run Chinook salmon ( <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> )	Will Not Jeopardize
SR winter-run Chinook salmon designated critical habitat	Will Not Result in Destruction/Adverse Modification
Threatened Central Valley (CV) spring-run Chinook salmon ( <i>O. tshawytscha</i> )	Will Not Jeopardize
CV spring-run Chinook salmon designated critical habitat	Will Not Result in Destruction/Adverse Modification
Threatened California Central Valley (CCV) steelhead ( <i>O. mykiss</i> )	Will Not Jeopardize
CCV steelhead designated critical habitat	Will Not Result in Destruction/Adverse Modification
Threatened Southern Distinct Population Segment (sDPS) of North American green sturgeon ( <i>Acipenser medirostris</i> )	Will Not Jeopardize
sDPS of North American green sturgeon designated critical habitat	Will Not Result in Destruction/Adverse Modification
Southern Resident killer whales ( <i>Orcinus orca</i> )	Will Not Jeopardize

Reclamation has determined that the proposed action would adversely affect Pacific Coast salmon and Pacific groundfish species EFH. Therefore, EFH consultation is required by the MSA and is ongoing at this time. The EFH consultation, along with Conservation Recommendations, is forthcoming.

Please contact Barry Thom, West Coast Regional Administrator, if you have any questions concerning this consultation, or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,



Chris Oliver  
Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries

Enclosure