

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

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February 11, 2013

Mr. Scott Wilson  
Acting Regional Manager  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Bay Delta Region  
7329 Silverado Trail  
Napa, California 94558

Re: 2012 Annual Summary Report on Environmental Permit Compliance for the  
Temporary Barriers Project

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Please find the enclosed 2012 Annual Summary Report on Environmental Permit Compliance for the South Delta Temporary Barriers Project (TBP). In 2012, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) constructed and operated the TBP under Clean Water Act Section 404 Permits SPK-2001-00121 and SPK-2000-00696, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification 5B39CR00191, Fish and Wildlife Streambed Alteration Agreement 1600-2010-0375-R3, Fish and Wildlife Incidental Take Permit 2081-2011-019-03, National Marine Fisheries Service Biological Opinion 2012/00152, and Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinions 81420-2008-F-0522 and 08FBDT00-2012-F-0010. This document is intended to fulfill the annual reporting requirements in each of these permits.

The principal purpose of the TBP is to protect San Joaquin salmon migrating through the Delta and provide an adequate agricultural water supply in terms of quantity, quality, and channel water levels to meet the reasonable and beneficial needs of water users in the South Delta Water Agency. Temporary barriers will also help DWR to better understand the complex engineering, operational, and biological considerations for improving both temporary barrier designs and potential future permanent solutions.

The TBP was initiated in 1991, and involves the seasonal installation of four rock barriers: three flow-control or agricultural barriers and one fish-control barrier. The flow-control barriers are installed at Middle River near Victoria Canal, Old River near Tracy, and Grant Line Canal near Tracy Boulevard Bridge. The fish-control barrier is installed at the head of Old River at the divergence from the San Joaquin River

Mr. Scott Wilson, Acting Regional Manager  
February 11, 2013  
Page 2

(HORB). In the fall, the HORB may be installed to serve as a flow-control barrier by keeping water in the San Joaquin River to improve downstream dissolved oxygen conditions. As an alternative to installing the HORB in the spring, DWR may opt to install a non-physical barrier (NPB), as done in 2009 and 2010. The NPB is a multi-stimulus fish barrier designed to prevent juvenile salmon in the San Joaquin River from entering Old River.

The TBP was initiated with the intention that it would be a temporary program implemented only until permanent operable gates could be installed. However, the timing of implementation of permanent operable gates is uncertain and the TBP is proposed to continue until the permanent operable gates are implemented.

The agricultural barriers as well as spring HORB were installed and operated in 2012. The terms and conditions of the environmental permits were met during the construction and operation of the agricultural barriers and the spring HORB. Also, in addition to the minimization and avoidance measures, Swainson's Hawk and shallow water disturbances have been compensated for through the purchase of mitigation credits at approved mitigation banks.

If you need additional information regarding this Annual Summary Report, please contact Jacob McQuirk, Chief of Temporary Barriers Project and Lower San Joaquin Section, at (916) 653-9883.

Sincerely,



Katherine F. Kelly, Chief  
Bay-Delta Office

Enclosure: 2012 Annual Summary Report on Environmental Permit Compliance for  
the Temporary Barriers Project

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