

HYBRID INFLOW-OUTFLOW APPROACH

6/4/2009 Overview

Limitation of current BDCP flow proposals

- Inflow only proposal not designed to secure desirable outflow conditions for covered species
- Inflow only proposal intended to improve timing but not amounts of flow for covered species
- Outflow only proposal not designed to secure desirable upstream or inflow conditions for covered species
- Outflow only proposal developed in water year format and intended to improve amounts but not timing of flow for covered species
- Evaluation of proposals not based on overall ability to meet life history needs of covered species but mostly limited to modeling releases from project facilities in Sacramento Valley

Proposed hybrid approach

- Dedicate % of unimpaired runoff to inflow based on targets for:
 - San Joaquin salmon cohort replacement
 - periodic inundation of Yolo and Sutter bypasses
 - improved peak flows on mainstem rivers
 - streamflows for doubling of salmonid populations
- Dedicate % of unimpaired runoff to outflow based on targets for:
 - >100% average 1967 - 1991 abundance of flow-dependent covered species

- Measure inflow-outflow targets as a rolling average rather than days of compliance
- Allocate releases to meet inflow-outflow targets proportionately among the ten major rivers in the watershed
- Subsequently develop release criteria that allows for shifting between rivers to reflect altered habitat conditions for covered and other species (i.e., temperature control) and other site-specific constraints
- Subsequently determine near-term and long-term contributions of PREs to meeting inflow-outflow targets

CVP/SWP only vs ten river approach

- Potential conservation measures are intended to achieve BDCP plan objectives for covered species and not strictly limited to direct PRE commitments
- Non-flow conservation measures not limited to actions directly controllable by PREs
- Ten river approach should be considered for all proposed flow conservation measures evaluated for BDCP