

United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Bay-Delta Office
801 "I" Street, Suite 140
Sacramento, CA 95814



DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
State Water Project Long-Term Operations
715 P Street, Room 8-422
Sacramento, CA 95814

IN REPLY REFER TO:

BDO-100
2.2.1.06

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Dr. Lisamarie Windham-Myers
Delta Lead Scientist, Delta Science Program
Delta Stewardship Council
715 P Street, 15-300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Independent Peer Review for Water Year 2024 and 2025 Winter-run Chinook Salmon Annual Loss

Dear Dr. Windham-Myers:

The Bureau of Reclamation and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) requests the Delta Science Program's (DSP) assistance in conducting an independent peer review on the subject topic.

Reclamation signed a Record of Decision on December 20, 2024, for the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. The Decision includes a commitment to seek an independent peer review if salvage loss of hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon exceeds 0.12% of the juvenile production estimate (JPE) entering the Delta. In water year 2025, measured loss was 242 (0.18% of the JPE). The 2024 Incidental Take Permit for the State Water Project contains a similar commitment requirement for an independent peer review of actions and conditions related to winter-run Chinook salmon loss for both water years 2024 and 2025.

Reclamation and DWR request the DSP's established independent scientific peer review and advice processes to review the actions and decisions contributing to the loss trajectory that led to an exceedance of the annual loss threshold, and make recommendations on modifications to

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SWP and CVP operations, or additional actions to be conducted to stay within the threshold in subsequent years including the use of indicators from in-season monitoring (e.g., existing/new monitoring data) and tools (e.g. modeling tools). The Decision calls for “Seasonal Reports” as the record of actions and outcomes to inform subsequent actions and these will be provided to inform the review.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Dr. Joshua Israel at jaisrael@usbr.gov or 916-296-8792.

Sincerely,



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David M. Mooney
Manager, Bay Delta Office

Lenny Grimaldo
6/26/2025

Lenny Grimaldo
SWP Environmental Director, DWR