

**Biological Assessment on the
Continued Long-term Operations
of the Central Valley Project and
the State Water Project**

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
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Mission Statement

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

Table of Contents

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
Chapter 1 Summary of Legal and Statutory Authorities, Water Rights, and Other Obligations Relevant to the Action.....	1-1
Introduction	1-1
Relationship to CVP Operations Criteria and Plan.....	1-2
Legal and Statutory Authorities	1-2
CVP	1-2
SWP	1-3
ESA	1-4
Recent Court Rulings.....	1-4
Federal Power Act	1-5
SWP	1-5
Tribal Water Rights and Trust Resources	1-6
Water Rights	1-6
CVP	1-6
SWP	1-7
Water Contracts	1-7
CVP	1-7
SWP	1-8
Monterey Amendment.....	1-8
CVP	1-9
SWP	1-9
Other Agreements.....	1-9
Coordinated Operations Agreement (COA).....	1-9
CALFED	1-10
Trinity River	1-12
San Joaquin River Agreement	1-12
The Yuba Accord	1-13
Water Transfers	1-13
DWR/DFG Delta Fish Agreement (Four Pumps Agreement)	1-13
The Proposed Action	1-14
Action Area	1-20
 Chapter 2 Project Description for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project.....	 2-1
Introduction	2-1

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
The Proposed Action.....	2-1
Coordinated Operations of the CVP and SWP	2-4
Coordinated Operations Agreement	2-4
State Water Resources Control Board Water Rights.....	2-7
Real Time Decision-Making to Assist Fishery Management.....	2-14
Introduction	2-14
Framework for Actions	2-15
Water Operations Management Team.....	2-15
Process for Real Time Decision- Making to Assist Fishery Management	2-15
Groups Involved in Real Time Decision-Making to Assist Fishery Management and Information Sharing.....	2-16
Uses of Environmental Water Accounts	2-19
500 cfs Diversion Increase During July, August, and September	2-23
Central Valley Project	2-24
Project Management Objectives	2-24
Water Service Contracts, Allocations and Deliveries.....	2-25
Project Facilities	2-27
State Water Project.....	2-70
Project Management Objectives	2-71
Water Service Contracts, Allocations, and Deliveries.....	2-74
Project Facilities	2-78
Delta Field Division	2-97
Coordinated Facilities of the CVP and SWP	2-105
Joint Project Facilities	2-105
Transfers	2-121
Near-Term Future Projects Identified in the 2004 BA	2-124
DMC/CA Intertie Proposed Action	2-124
Freeport Regional Water Project	2-125
State Water Project Oroville Facilities.....	2-126
Other Future Projects.....	2-126
Sacramento River Reliability Project.....	2-126
Alternative Intake Project	2-127
Red Bluff Diversion Dam Pumping Plant	2-128
South Delta Improvements Program Stage 1	2-129
Chapter 3 Basic Biology, Life History and Baseline for Central Valley	
Steelhead.....	3-1
Status	3-1
Taxonomy	3-4
Steelhead Biology and Life History	3-5

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
Historical and Current Distribution and Abundance of Central Valley Steelhead.....	3-12
Clear Creek.....	3-16
Feather River.....	3-19
American River.....	3-20
Stanislaus River.....	3-23
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.....	3-24
Critical Habitat.....	3-26
Spawning Habitat.....	3-26
Freshwater Rearing Habitat.....	3-26
Freshwater Migration Corridors.....	3-27
Estuarine Areas.....	3-27
Central California Coast Steelhead.....	3-27
Streamflow.....	3-30
Water Temperature.....	3-33
Predation.....	3-39
Consideration of Variable Ocean Conditions.....	3-39
Summary of the Environmental Baseline.....	3-41
Chapter 4 Factors That May Influence Steelhead Distribution and Abundance	4-1
Water Temperature.....	4-1
Flow.....	4-2
PHABSIM Flow Studies.....	4-2
Habitat Availability.....	4-6
Habitat Suitability.....	4-9
Fish Passage, Diversion, and Entrainment.....	4-9
Predation and Competition.....	4-23
Food Abundance in the Delta.....	4-25
Contaminants.....	4-25
Harvest.....	4-26
Hatcheries.....	4-27
Disease and Parasites.....	4-28
Chapter 5 Basic Biology, Life History, and Baseline for Winter-run and Spring-run Chinook Salmon and Coho Salmon.....	5-1
Status.....	5-2
Taxonomy.....	5-3
Central Valley Chinook Salmon Biology and Life History.....	5-3
Spawning.....	5-4
Winter-run Life History and Habitat Requirements.....	5-5

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
Adult Spawning Migration and Distribution	5-5
Timing of Spawning and Fry Emergence.....	5-6
Juvenile Emigration.....	5-6
Historical and Current Distribution and Abundance of Winter-run Chinook Salmon	5-6
Spring-Run Life History and Habitat Requirements Adult Upstream Migration, Holding, and Spawning	5-12
Adult Holding.....	5-14
Spawning	5-14
Sex and Age Structure	5-14
Fecundity.....	5-14
Egg and Larval Incubation	5-15
Juvenile Rearing and Emigration	5-15
Ocean Distribution.....	5-18
Historical and Current Distribution and Abundance of Spring-Run Chinook Salmon.....	5-20
Clear Creek.....	5-21
Sacramento River Mainstem.....	5-23
Cohort Replacement Rates Used for Mill, Deer, and Butte Creeks	5-25
Mill Creek	5-25
Deer Creek.....	5-28
Butte Creek	5-29
Feather River	5-30
Trinity River Coho Salmon	5-33
Life History	5-34
Trinity River Coho Population Trends	5-34
Critical Habitat.....	5-36
Spawning Habitat.....	5-36
Freshwater Rearing Habitat	5-36
Freshwater Migration Corridors	5-37
Estuarine Areas.....	5-37
Consideration of the Risks Associated with Hatchery Raised Mitigation Fish.....	5-41
Summary of the Environmental Baseline	5-46
Chapter 6 Factors That May Influence Abundance and Distribution of Winter-Run and Spring-Run Chinook Salmon and Coho Salmon.....	6-1
Factors That May Influence Abundance and Distribution of Winter-Run and Spring-Run Chinook Salmon	6-1
Water Temperature	6-1
Flow and Spawning.....	6-7
In-stream Flow Studies	6-7
Redd Scouring	6-8

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
Clear Creek	6-9
Flow Fluctuations/Stranding.....	6-14
Flow and Its Importance to Sub-adult Chinook Salmon.....	6-20
Fish Passage	6-20
ACID Diversion Dam	6-21
Red Bluff Diversion Dam.....	6-21
Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates	6-23
Bank Modification and Riparian Habitat Loss.....	6-24
Delta Emigration	6-24
Changes in the Delta Ecosystem and Potential Effects on Winter-Run, Spring-Run and Fall/Late-Fall-Run Chinook Salmon	6-39
Ocean Conditions and Harvest	6-60
Hatchery Influence	6-66
Feather River Hatchery-Genetics, Competition for Spawning, and Rearing Habitat.....	6-68
Disease and Parasites	6-71
In-stream Habitat	6-71
Factors that May Influence Abundance and Distribution of Coho Salmon.....	6-72
Chapter 7 Basic Biology and Life History of Delta Smelt and Factors that May Influence Delta Smelt Distribution and Abundance.....	7-1
General Biology	7-1
Legal Status	7-2
Distribution, Population Dynamics, and Baseline Conditions.....	7-2
Distribution	7-2
Natural History	7-3
Population Abundance Trends.....	7-4
Factors That May Influence the Abundance and Distribution of Delta Smelt.....	7-7
Prior Abundance	7-7
Habitat.....	7-11
Physical Habitat	7-12
Top-Down Effects	7-21
Entrainment.....	7-22
Bottom-Up Effects.....	7-35
Interconnected Recent Changes in Plankton and Benthos	7-35
Fish Co-Occurrence with Food	7-39
Chapter 8 Basic Biology and Life History of Green Sturgeon & Factors that May Influence Green Sturgeon Distribution and Abundance	8-1
Listing Status	8-1

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
Critical Habitat.....	8-2
Recovery Goals.....	8-2
Biology and Life History	8-2
Description	8-2
Size, Age and Maturation.....	8-4
Migration and Spawning.....	8-4
Egg Incubation and Rearing	8-5
Ocean Residence.....	8-6
Population Distribution	8-6
Sacramento River	8-7
Feather River	8-9
San Joaquin River.....	8-10
Bay-Delta	8-10
Ocean.....	8-12
Abundance and Trends in the Action Area	8-13
Population Estimates	8-13
Migrant Sampling	8-14
Salvage Numbers.....	8-15
Factors that May Influence Abundance and Distribution.....	8-22
Fish Passage	8-22
Water Diversions.....	8-26
Low Flows	8-31
Water Temperature	8-32
Contaminants	8-34
Dredging.....	8-35
Harvest.....	8-35
Disease and predation	8-39
Non-native Invasive Species.....	8-39
Chapter 9 Modeling and Assumptions	9-1
Modeling Methods.....	9-2
Hydrologic Modeling Methods.....	9-5
Delta Hydrodynamic Modeling Methods	9-14
Temperature Modeling Methods	9-18
Salmon Mortality and Life Cycle Modeling Methods.....	9-24
Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Sensitivity Analysis Modeling Methods.....	9-28
Sensitivity and Uncertainty.....	9-29
Other Tools	9-30
Modeling Studies and Assumptions	9-31
Assumed Future Demands	9-53
Modeling Results	9-54
Hydrologic Modeling Results	9-54

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
Delta Hydrodynamic Results.....	9-80
Temperature Results.....	9-95
Salmon Mortality, Population, and Life Cycle Results	9-95
Climate Change Results	9-95
Model Limitations	9-107
General Modeling Limitations	9-107
CalSim-II	9-107
DSM2	9-108
Temperature Models.....	9-109
Salmon Mortality and Life Cycle Models.....	9-110
Chapter 10 CVP and SWP Reservoir Operations.....	10-1
Integrated Upstream CVP Reservoir Operations	10-1
Modeling.....	10-1
Trinity River	10-8
Modeling.....	10-8
Trinity River Temperature Analysis.....	10-16
Clear Creek.....	10-20
Modeling.....	10-20
Clear Creek Temperature Analysis.....	10-25
Sacramento River	10-30
Modeling.....	10-30
Upper Sacramento River Temperature Analysis	10-37
Coldwater Availability.....	10-37
Feather River	10-59
American River	10-61
Modeling.....	10-61
American River Temperature Analysis	10-68
Stanislaus River	10-81
Modeling.....	10-81
Chapter 11 Upstream Effects	11-1
Water Temperature	11-1
Historic Water Temperature Data Summary (Figures 11-1 through 11-25)	11-2
OCAP Modeling Studies	11-18
Trinity River	11-20
Adult Coho Salmon Migration, Spawning, and Incubation.....	11-20
Coho Salmon Fry, Juveniles, and Smolts.....	11-20
Clear Creek.....	11-22
Adult Salmon and Steelhead Migration, Spawning, and Incubation.....	11-22
Salmon and Steelhead Fry, Juveniles, and Smolts	11-24

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
Sacramento River	11-30
Adult Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Migration, Spawning, and Incubation.....	11-30
Salmod Modeling Results (Sacramento River Only)	11-38
Interactive Object-Oriented Salmon Simulation (IOS) Winter-Run Life Cycle Modeling Results	11-46
Red Bluff Diversion Dam.....	11-58
Green Sturgeon.....	11-60
Red Bluff Research Pumping Plant	11-62
Estimated Loss from Unscreened Diversions on the Sacramento River	11-64
Green Sturgeon at Sacramento River Sites.....	11-68
Effect of Cool Summer Time Dam Releases on Steelhead Critical Habitat.....	11-70
Feather River	11-71
American River	11-72
Adult Steelhead Migration, Spawning, and Incubation	11-72
Steelhead Fry, Juveniles, and Smolts.....	11-74
Gas Bubble Disease and IHN (effects of high releases on critical habitat)	11-77
Stanislaus River	11-78
Adult Steelhead Migration, Spawning, and Incubation	11-78
Steelhead Fry, Juveniles, and Smolts.....	11-79
San Joaquin River.....	11-83
Adult Steelhead Migration, Spawning, and Incubation	11-83
Steelhead Fry, Juveniles, and Smolts.....	11-83
Climate Change	11-84
Consideration of Variable Ocean Conditions	11-94
Consideration of the Risks Associated with Hatchery Raised Mitigation Salmon and Steelhead.....	11-96
Feather River Spring-Run Chinook Straying and Genetic Introgression	11-97
Critical Habitat.....	11-102
Spawning Sites	11-102
Freshwater Rearing Sites.....	11-103
Freshwater Migration Corridors	11-103
Estuarine Areas.....	11-103
Evaluation of Viable Salmonid Population (VSP) Parameters	11-103
Winter-run Chinook Salmon.....	11-103
Spring-run Chinook Salmon.....	11-105
Central Valley Steelhead.....	11-106
SONCC Coho Salmon	11-107
Cumulative Effects	11-108
Chapter 12 CVP and SWP Delta Operations	12-1

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
Inflow	12-1
Outflow	12-6
Exports	12-11
Jones Pumping	12-13
Banks Pumping	12-17
Federal Banks Pumping	12-21
North Bay Aqueduct Diversions	12-25
Export-to-Inflow Ratio	12-26
SWP Demand Assumptions	12-36
Water Transfers	12-39
Post-processing of Model Data for Transfers	12-39
Chapter 13 CVP and SWP Delta Effects on Species	13-1
Introduction	13-1
CVP and SWP Delta Effects on Delta Smelt	13-2
Seasonal Breakdown of Potential Effects	13-3
Summer	13-3
Fall	13-4
Winter	13-5
Spring	13-6
Summary of Potential Project Effects	13-6
Model Results Used	13-8
Analyses and Results	13-9
Direct Entrainment at the CVP and SWP	13-9
X2	13-19
Climate Change	13-38
Effects of Sea Level Rise Alone	13-39
Changes in X2 in Climate Change Scenarios	13-40
Uncertainty about Climate Change	13-41
500 CFS Increased Diversion to Provide Reduced Exports Taken to Benefit Fish Resources	13-41
Clifton Court Forebay Aquatic Weed Control Program	13-47
Effects on Delta Smelt	13-47
North Bay Aqueduct	13-49
Summer (Jun-Aug)	13-49
Fall (Sept-Nov)	13-49
Winter (Dec-Feb)	13-49
Spring (Mar-May)	13-50
Rock Slough Intake	13-50
South Delta Temporary Barriers (TBP)	13-53

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
Hydrodynamic Effects	13-54
Temporary Barriers Fish Monitoring	13-55
Predation Impacts to Fish	13-55
Water Quality Impacts to Fish	13-55
Vulnerability to Local Agricultural Diversions	13-56
Impacts to Potential Fish Prey Items	13-56
Past Measures	13-57
South Delta Improvement Program Operable Gates	13-57
Effects of Gate Operation on Delta Smelt Spawning and Rearing Habitat, and Entrainment	13-58
Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates	13-63
Morrow Island Distribution System	13-65
Effects on Critical Habitat	13-66
Habitat	13-66
River Flow	13-66
Water and Salinity	13-67
Cumulative Effects	13-67
CVP and SWP Delta Effects on Steelhead, Chinook Salmon, and Green Sturgeon	13-69
CVP and SWP South Delta Pumping Facilities	13-69
Direct Losses to Entrainment by CVP and SWP Export Facilities	13-77
Indirect Losses to Entrainment by CVP and SWP Export Facilities	13-87
Steelhead Predation Study	13-89
500 CFS Increased Diversion to Provide Reduced Exports Taken to Benefit Fish Resources Effects on Salmonids and Green Sturgeon	13-89
Clifton Court Forebay Aquatic Weed Control Program	13-97
Delta Cross Channel	13-104
North Bay Aqueduct	13-106
Rock Slough Intake	13-107
South Delta Temporary Barriers Project (TBP)	13-109
Hydrodynamic Effects	13-109
Impacts to Fish	13-110
Temporary Barriers Fish Monitoring	13-111
Passage Impacts to Fish	13-111
Predation Impacts to Fish	13-113
Water Quality Impacts to Fish	13-113
Vulnerability to Local Agricultural Diversions	13-114
Impacts to Potential Fish Prey Items	13-114
Past Measures	13-115
South Delta Improvement Program Operable	13-115

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
South Delta Improvements Project (SDIP) – Stage 1	13-116
Central Valley Chinook Salmon - Operational and Passage Effects	13-117
Effects of Gate Operation on Juvenile and Adult Chinook Salmon Migration	13-117
Effects of Head of Old River Gate Operation on Juvenile Chinook Salmon Entrainment	13-118
Construction-Related Effects on Chinook Salmon.....	13-118
Predation Effects on Chinook Salmon	13-119
Effects of Head of Old River Gate Operation on Juvenile Central Valley Steelhead Migration	13-119
Operational Effects on Green Sturgeon.....	13-121
Construction Effects on Green Sturgeon	13-122
Predation Effects on Green Sturgeon.....	13-122
Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates	13-123
SMSCG Fish Passage Study.....	13-123
Morrow Island Distribution System	13-124
Goodyear Slough	13-125
Water Transfers	13-125
Post-processing of Model Data for Transfers	13-125
Limitations	13-127
Proposed Exports for Transfers	13-127

**Chapter 14 Basic Biology and Life History of Southern Resident Killer
Whales, Distribution and Abundance, and Effects of the
Proposed Action** **14-1**

Introduction	14-1
Legal Status	14-1
General Biology	14-1
Population Status and Trends.....	14-3
Range and Distribution	14-4
Effects of the Proposed Action.....	14-6
Critical Habitat.....	14-8
Cumulative Effects	14-8

Chapter 15 Summary of Effects Analysis and Effects Determination **15-1**

Central Valley Steelhead DPS	15-1
Upper Sacramento River.....	15-1
Clear Creek.....	15-1
Feather River	15-2
American River.....	15-2
Stanislaus River	15-2
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	15-3

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
Steelhead Summary.....	15-3
Determination of Effects to Central Valley Steelhead DPS and their Designated Critical Habitat.....	15-3
Sacramento River Winter–run Chinook ESU, Central Valley Spring–run Chinook Salmon ESU	15-4
Upper Sacramento River.....	15-4
Clear Creek.....	15-4
Feather River	15-4
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	15-5
Winter-run and Spring-run Chinook Summary.....	15-5
Determination of Effects to Sacramento River Winter-run Chinook Salmon ESU and their Designated Critical Habitat	15-5
Determination of Effects to Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon ESU and their Designated Critical Habitat	15-5
Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Coho Salmon ESU.....	15-6
Central California Coast Steelhead DPS	15-6
Delta Smelt	15-6
Determination of Effects to Delta Smelt and their Designated Critical Habitat.....	15-7
Southern DPS of North American Green Sturgeon.....	15-7
Determination of Effects to Southern DPS of North American Green Sturgeon.....	15-8
Southern Resident DPS of Killer Whales	15-8
Determination of Effects to Southern Resident DPS of Killer Whales and their Designated Critical Habitat	15-8
Summary of Beneficial Effects	15-8
Chapter 16 Essential Fish Habitat Assessment	16-1
Essential Fish Habitat Background	16-1
Identification of Essential Fish Habitat	16-1
Description of the Federally-managed Fisheries Species.....	16-2
Northern Anchovy	16-2
Starry Flounder	16-9
Potential Effects of Proposed Project.....	16-14
Northern Anchovy	16-15
Starry Flounder	16-15
Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Measures	16-17
Conclusion for Northern Anchovy and Starry Flounder.....	16-17
Essential Fish Habitat for Chinook Salmon.....	16-17
Distribution and Status.....	16-17
Description and Life History	16-18
Population Trends	16-24

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
Trinity River	16-27
Clear Creek	16-29
Sacramento River	16-31
American River.....	16-33
Stanislaus River	16-38
Feather River	16-43
Summary of effects on EFH for Chinook Salmon	16-48
Trinity River	16-48
Upper Sacramento River.....	16-49
Clear Creek	16-51
Feather River	16-51
American River.....	16-51
Stanislaus River	16-52
Delta.....	16-53
Conclusion Chinook	16-53
EFH Conservation Measures for Chinook Salmon	16-53
Folsom Dam Temperature Shutter Mechanization	16-53
Spawning Gravel Enhancement	16-54
Stanislaus Temperature Model	16-54
American River Group.....	16-54
Sacramento River Temperature Control Task Group	16-54
Chapter 17 Technical Assistance for Longfin Smelt.....	17-1
Longfin Smelt Biology and Population Dynamics.....	17-1
General Biology.....	17-1
Distribution, Population Dynamics, and Baseline Conditions.....	17-2
Distribution	17-2
Population Abundance Trends.....	17-3
Factors That May Influence the Abundance and Distribution of Longfin Smelt	17-5
Prior Abundance	17-6
Habitat.....	17-6
Top-Down Effects.....	17-11
Bottom-Up Effects	17-18
Chapter 18 Ongoing Management Programs that Address State Water Project and Central Valley Project Impacts	18-1
Central Valley Project Improvement Act	18-1
Tracy Fish Facility Improvement Program	18-7
Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Benefits	18-8
Introduction and Background: Delta Pumping Plant Fish Protection Agreement.....	18-9
Commitments, Timing, and Financing.....	18-11
Year One Commitments and Financing.....	18-11

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
Years Two through Ten Commitments and Financing	18-12
Evaluation, Acceptance and Progress Review of Conservation Actions.....	18-12
CALFED Bay-Delta Program	18-15
Highlights of Accomplishments in Years 1-7.....	18-17
Delta Vision – One Vision for the Delta.....	18-18
Bay-Delta Conservation Plan – Conservation Planning.....	18-19
Appendix A Delta Smelt Risk Assessment Matrix Footnotes	A-1
Appendix B Chinook Salmon Decision Tree.....	B-1
Appendix C Iron Mountain Mine.....	C-1
Appendix D CalSim-II Model.....	D-1
Appendix E CalSim-II Model Results	E-1
Appendix F Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Hydrodynamic and Water Quality Model (DSM2 Model).....	F-1
Appendix G DSM2 – Hydro Results	G-1
Appendix H Reclamation Temperature Model and SRWQM Temperature Model	H-1
Appendix I Temperature Results	I-1
Appendix J Feather River Water Temperature Model	J-1
Appendix K Feather River Water Temperature Model Results.....	K-1
Appendix L Reclamation Salmon Mortality Model	L-1
Appendix M Reclamation Salmon Mortality Model Results.....	M-1
Appendix N OCAP Modeling Software, Application, and Results.....	N-1
Appendix O Interactive Object-Oriented Salmon Simulation (IOS) Winter- Run Life Cycle Results	O-1
Appendix P SALMOD Model.....	P-1
Appendix Q SALMOD Results.....	Q-1
Appendix R Sensitivity of Future CVP and SWP Operations to Potential Climate Change and Associated Sea Level Rise	R-1
Appendix S Alternative Delta Management Information.....	S-1
Appendix T X2 Analysis.....	T-1
Appendix U Historical Data	U-1
Appendix V Other Stressors on Delta Smelt.....	V-1
Appendix W Sensitivity and Uncertainty Analysis	W-1

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
Appendix X Sensitivity and Uncertainty Results	X-1
Appendix Y OCAP BA – Delta Fish Agreement	Y-1
Appendix Z Hydrodynamic Effects of the Temporary Barriers Project and the South Delta Improvements Program Stage 1	Z-1

List of Figures

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
Figure 2-1 Map of California CVP and SWP Service Areas	2-3
Figure 2-2 Summary Bay Delta Standards (See Footnotes below).....	2-9
Figure 2-3 Footnotes for Summary Bay Delta Standards	2-11
Figure 2-4 CVP/SWP Delta Map.....	2-12
Figure 2-5 Shasta-Trinity System	2-28
Figure 2-6 Sacramento-Trinity Water Quality Network (with river miles [RM]).....	2-31
Figure 2-7 American River System	2-43
Figure 2-8. Bay Delta System.	2-51
Figure 2-9 Tracy Fish Collection Facility Diagram	2-54
Figure 2-10 East Side System	2-58
Figure 2-11 West San Joaquin Division and San Felipe Division.....	2-69
Figure 2-12 Oroville Facilities on the Feather River	2-80
Figure 2-13 Clifton Court Gate Operations	2-99
Figure 2-14 Compliance and monitoring stations and salinity control facilities in Suisun Marsh.	2-106
Figure 2-15 Average of seven years salinity response to SMSCG gate operation in Montezuma Slough and Suisun Bay.....	2-108
Figure 2-16 SMSCG operation frequency versus outflow since 1988.....	2-109
Figure 2-17 San Luis Complex	2-116
Figure 2-18 Total Annual Pumping at Banks and Jones Pumping Plant 1978-2007 (MAF).....	2-119
Figure 3-1 Adult steelhead counts at RBDD, 1967–93 (top) and adult steelhead counts at Coleman National Fish Hatchery, Feather River Fish Hatchery, and Nimbus Hatchery, 1967-93 (bottom). The revised Red Bluff gates open period after 1993 eliminated RBDD counting ability. <i>Source: McEwan and Jackson 1996.</i>	3-3
Figure 3-2 Unrooted Neighbor-Joining tree based on Cavalli-Sforza and Edwards	

Figure	Page
chord distance for the Central Valley system derived from allelic variation at 11 microsatellite loci. Branches with bootstrap values (percent of 2000 replicate trees) are provided (from Nielsen et al. 2005).....	3-5
Figure 3-3 Steelhead spawning habitat depth and velocity suitability indices in the American River, Hannon and Deason 2007.	3-7
Figure 3-4 Steelhead life cycle for various Central Valley streams.	3-8
Figure 3-5 Mean FL (mm) plus standard deviation of steelhead collected in the FWS Chipps Island Trawl, 1976-2006 (data from BDAT).....	3-10
Figure 3-6 Comparison of hatchery and wild steelhead sizes collected in the Chipps Island Trawl, 1993 – 2006 (data from BDAT). 100% adipose clipping of hatchery fish began in 1998.....	3-10
Figure 3-7 Cumulative percentage of steelhead per 10,000 m ³ in the FWS Chipps Island Trawl vs. surface water temperature at Chipps Island. Solid symbols represent hatchery fish (adipose-clipped) and open symbols represent wild fish (non adipose-clipped). 98ad means adipose clipped fish in 1998 and 98non means non-adipose clipped in 1998.	3-11
Figure 3-8 Adipose clipped and un-clipped steelhead captured in the Chipps Island Trawl, 1996 – 2006 (BDAT...USFWS unpublished data).....	3-12
Figure 3-9 Adult steelhead counts at Nimbus Hatchery, 1956-2006.	3-14
Figure 3-10 Adult steelhead counts at Feather River Hatchery, 1969-2004.	3-15
Figure 3-11 Relationship between Nimbus Hatchery and Feather River Hatchery steelhead returns, 1969 – 2004.....	3-15
Figure 3-12 Clear Creek water temperature at Igo, 1996-2006 (CDEC). Dates are expressed like 101=January 1, 208=February 8, etc.	3-17
Figure 3-13 Clear Creek daily water temperature fluctuation at Igo, 1996-2006 (CDEC). Dates are expressed like 101=January 1, 208=February 8, etc.	3-18
Figure 3-14 American River water temperature 2000 – 2007 (CDEC data).....	3-21
Figure 3-15 American River steelhead in-river spawning population estimate based on redd counts and spawning fish counts (Hannon and Deason 2007).....	3-22
Figure 3-16 American River steelhead in-river spawning population estimate and Nimbus hatchery return (Hannon and Deason 2007).....	3-23
Figure 3-17 Mossdale Trawl rainbow/steelhead catch, 1988-2002 (Marston 2003).....	3-25
Figure 3-18 Length frequency distribution of clipped and unclipped steelhead salvaged at the CVP and SWP in 2001-2004.....	3-25
Figure 3-19 Designated critical habitat for Central Valley steelhead, Central Valley spring run Chinook salmon, and Central California Coast steelhead. Note: spring-run Chinook plotted over the top of steelhead (critical habitat GIS coverage from NMFS).	3-29
Figure 3-20 Sacramento River at Bend Bridge monthly flows comparing pre-Shasta Dam (1892-1945) to post Shasta (1946-2004) flows. The vertical lines represent range of variability analysis boundaries.	3-30
Figure 3-21 Clear Creek monthly flows comparing pre-Whiskeytown Dam (1941-1964) to post Whiskeytown (1965-2004) flows. The vertical lines	

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
represent range of variability analysis boundaries.	3-31
Figure 3-22 Feather River monthly flows comparing pre-Oroville Dam (1902-1967) to post Oroville (1966-2004) flows in the low flow channel, total releases from Oroville Dam are much higher than those reported here. The vertical lines represent range of variability analysis boundaries.....	3-31
Figure 3-23 American River at Fair Oaks monthly flows comparing pre-Folsom Dam (1905-1954) to post Folsom (1955-2004) flows. The vertical lines represent range of variability analysis boundaries.	3-32
Figure 3-24 Stanislaus River at Ripon monthly flows comparing pre-New Melones Dam (1941-1982) to post New Melones (1983-2004) flows. The vertical lines represent range of variability analysis boundaries.	3-33
Figure 3-25 Sacramento River at Bend Bridge mean daily water temperatures 1998 – 2006.	3-34
Figure 3-26 Sacramento River at Bend Bridge daily water temperature fluctuation (daily high temperature minus daily low temperature).	3-34
Figure 3-27 Clear Creek at Igo mean daily water temperatures 1996 – 2006.....	3-35
Figure 3-28 Clear Creek at Igo daily water temperature fluctuation (maximum daily minimum daily temperature).	3-36
Figure 3-29 American River mean daily water temperatures, 2000 – 2007 at Hazel Avenue and Watt Avenue.	3-36
Figure 3-30 Stanislaus River at Orange Blossom Bridge water temperatures, 2001 – 2005. Note: some gaps in data exist.	3-37
Figure 3-31 Feather River water temperatures, 2002 – 2004.....	3-37
Figure 4-1 Run timing of adult steelhead and Chinook salmon past RBDD (from TCCA and Reclamation 2002).	4-11
Figure 4-2 Scatterplot of total monthly CVP export in acre feet vs. log ₁₀ total monthly CVP steelhead salvage, 1993-2006.	4-13
Figure 4-3 Scatterplot of total monthly SWP export in acre-feet vs. log ₁₀ total monthly SWP steelhead salvage, 1993-2006.	4-14
Figure 4-4 Steelhead salvage, 1993 – 2007 by adipose clip status and facility.	4-15
Figure 4-5 Relationship between total combined CVP and SWP steelhead salvage December through June, and December through June steelhead catch per minute trawled at Chipps Island, December 1993 through June 1999.	4-16
Figure 4-6 Steelhead captured in the Chipps Island Trawl, 1993 – 2006 (data from BDAT) note: 100% hatchery steelhead clipping began in 1998.	4-16
Figure 4-7 Steelhead length frequency, 2001 - 2004. Unclipped fish were significantly larger than clipped fish (t=9.7, P<0.001).....	4-18
Figure 4-8 Unclipped steelhead salvage density at the SWP, 1993 – 2006.....	4-19
Figure 4-9 Unclipped steelhead salvage density at the CVP, 1996 – 2006.	4-19
Figure 4-10 Unclipped steelhead loss density at the SWP, 1993 – 2006.....	4-20

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
Figure 4-11 Unclipped steelhead loss density at the CVP, 1993 – 2006.	4-20
Figure 4-12 Steelhead catch per minute from the Yolo Bypass Toe Drain RST and total Yolo Bypass flow, 1998.	4-22
Figure 5-1 Sacramento River winter-run Chinook escapement. (brackets indicate preliminary data).	5-8
Figure 5-2 Sacramento River winter-run and spring run Chinook salmon cohort replacement rates (brackets indicate that the escapement estimate is preliminary).	5-9
Figure 5-3 Spring-run Chinook salmon life cycle for various Central Valley streams. Cross hatching indicates period of peak occurrence.	5-16
Figure 5-4 Clear Creek flows for optimum salmon and steelhead habitat.	5-23
Figure 5-5 Estimated adult spring-run Chinook salmon population abundance in the upper Sacramento River. Brackets indicate the data for that year is preliminary.	5-24
Figure 5-6 Migration timing of spring-run and fall-run Chinook salmon.	5-25
Figure 5-7 Adult spring-run Chinook counts in Mill Creek. Figure on top shows escapement back to 1947.	5-26
Figure 5-8 Three-year running average abundance of returning adult spring-run Chinook salmon in highest producing Central Valley spring run streams.	5-28
Figure 5-9 Estimated adult spring-run Chinook salmon population abundance in Feather River. Brackets indicate data is preliminary.	5-31
Figure 5-10 The disposition of Chinook salmon spawned, tagged, and released as spring-run from FRH.	5-33
Figure 5-11 The disposition of Chinook salmon spawned, tagged, and released as fall-run from FRH.	5-33
Figure 5-12 Trinity River adult coho salmon escapement, 1977 – 2006.	5-35
Figure 5-13 Trinity River adult coho salmon escapement 1997 – 2005 separated into hatchery and naturally spawned fish.	5-35
Figure 5-14 Winter Run Chinook salmon critical habitat.	5-38
Figure 5-15 Whiskeytown Lake Isothermobaths, 2004 (top) and 2005 (bottom).	5-40
Figure 6-1 Sacramento River at Balls Ferry mean daily water temperatures, 1990 – 2007. Dates on the x-axis expressed like 101 = Jan 1, 303 = March 3, etc. (Source: cdec data)	6-4
Figure 6-2 Sacramento River at Balls Ferry maximum daily water temperatures, 1990 – 2007. (Source: cdec data)	6-4
Figure 6-3 Sacramento River at Bend Bridge Water Temperatures 1989–2006. (Source: cdec data)	6-5
Figure 6-4 Bend Bridge Daily Temperature Fluctuation 1989–2006. Dates on the x- axis expressed like 101 = Jan 1, 303 = March 3, etc. (Source: cdec data)	6-5
Figure 6-5 Monthly mean water temperatures for the Sacramento River at Chipps	

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
Island for water years 1975–1995.	6-6
Figure 6-6 Yearly probability of exceedance for releases from Whiskeytown Dam on Clear Creek based on historical dam operations records.....	6-10
Figure 6-7 Clear Creek near Igo (Station 11-372000) flood frequency analysis of annual maximum, 1-day average, and 3-day average flood series for post-dam (1964–97) data.....	6-10
Figure 6-8 Yearly probability of exceedance for releases from Keswick Dam on the Sacramento River from historical dam operations records.....	6-11
Figure 6-9 Empirical flood frequency plots for the Sacramento River at Red Bluff (Bend Bridge gauge) for pre- and post-Shasta periods, and downstream at Colusa for the post-Shasta period.	6-12
Figure 6-10 Flood frequency analysis for the American River at Fair Oaks Gauge (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1999).	6-13
Figure 6-11 Exceedance probability for yearly Goodwin Dam releases from historical dam operations records.	6-14
Figure 6-12 Frequency of times Nimbus releases fluctuated over and under 4000 cfs, 1972-2002.	6-18
Figure 6-13 Annual Maximum Daily Nimbus Release Exceedance.	6-18
Figure 6-14 Timing of recoveries of coded-wire-tagged Coleman National Fish Hatchery late-fall-run Chinook salmon smolts, Sacramento River flow at Freeport, and precipitation at Red Bluff Airport, winter 1993–1994.	6-26
Figure 6-15 Timing of recoveries of coded-wire-tagged Coleman National Fish Hatchery late-fall-run Chinook salmon smolts, Sacramento River flow at Freeport, and precipitation at Red Bluff Airport, winter 1994–1995.	6-27
Figure 6-16 Timing of recoveries of coded-wire-tagged Coleman National Fish Hatchery late-fall-run Chinook salmon smolts, Sacramento River flow at Freeport, and precipitation at Red Bluff Airport, winter 1995–1996.	6-28
Figure 6-17 Timing of recoveries of coded-wire-tagged Coleman National Fish Hatchery late-fall-run Chinook salmon smolts, Sacramento River flow at Freeport, and precipitation at Red Bluff Airport, winter 1996–1997.	6-29
Figure 6-18 Timing of recoveries of coded-wire-tagged Coleman National Fish Hatchery late-fall-run Chinook salmon smolts, Sacramento River flow at Freeport, and precipitation at Red Bluff Airport, winter 1997–1998.	6-30
Figure 6-19 Timing of recoveries of coded-wire-tagged Coleman National Fish Hatchery late-fall-run Chinook salmon smolts, Sacramento River flow at Freeport, and precipitation at Red Bluff Airport, winter 1998–1999.	6-31
Figure 6-20 Timing of recoveries of coded-wire-tagged Coleman National Fish Hatchery late-fall-run Chinook salmon smolts, Sacramento River flow at Freeport, and precipitation at Red Bluff Airport, winter 1999–2000.	6-32
Figure 6-21 Timing of recoveries of coded-wire-tagged Coleman National Fish Hatchery late-fall-run Chinook salmon smolts, Sacramento River flow at Freeport, and precipitation at Red Bluff Airport, winter 2000–2001.	6-33
Figure 6-22 Timing of recoveries of coded-wire-tagged Coleman National Fish Hatchery late-fall-run Chinook salmon smolts, Sacramento River flow at	

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
Freeport, and precipitation at Red Bluff Airport, winter 2001–2002.	6-34
Figure 6-23 Relationship between mean flow (cfs) in the Sacramento River and the log10 time to recapture in the FWS Chipps Island Trawl for Coleman Hatchery late-fall-run Chinook salmon smolts. The explanatory variable is mean flow at Freeport for 30 days beginning with the day of release from Coleman Hatchery. The response variable is an average of median days to recapture for November through January releases during winter 1993–94 through 1998–99.	6-35
Figure 6-24 Winter-run and older juvenile Chinook loss at Delta fish facilities, October 2005-May 2006.	6-37
Figure 6-25 Observed Chinook salvage at the SWP and CVP delta fish facilities, 8/1/05 – 7/31/06.	6-38
Figure 6-26 Length frequency distribution of Chinook salvaged at the CVP.	6-42
Figure 6-27 Length frequency distribution for Chinook salvaged at SWP.	6-43
Figure 6-28 Winter run loss per cfs at the SWP, 1993 – 2006.	6-43
Figure 6-29 Winer run loss per cfs at the CVP, 1993 – 2006.	6-44
Figure 6-30 Spring run loss density (fish per cfs) at the SWP.	6-44
Figure 6-31 Spring run loss density (fish per cfs) at the CVP.	6-45
Figure 6-32 Scatterplot of Delta survival indices for Coleman Hatchery late-fall-run Chinook salmon from paired release experiments in the Sacramento River and Georgiana Slough v. percentage of the release group salvaged at the CVP and SWP Delta facilities.	6-49
Figure 6-33 Relationship between Delta exports and the Georgiana Slough to Ryde survival index ratio. The export variable is combined average CVP and SWP exports for 17 days after release.	6-50
Figure 6-34 Relationship between Delta exports and percentage of late-fall-run CWT Chinook salmon Delta release groups salvaged at the CVP and SWP Delta facilities. The export variable is combined average CVP and SWP exports for 17 days after release.	6-50
Figure 6-35 Relationship between Sacramento River flow and the Georgiana Slough to Ryde survival index ratio. The flow variable is average Sacramento River flow at Sacramento for 17 days after release.	6-51
Figure 6-36 Relationship between Sacramento River flow and the percentage of late-fall-run CWT Chinook salmon Delta release groups salvaged at the CVP and SWP Delta facilities. The flow variable is average Sacramento River flow at Sacramento for 17 days after release. Georgiana Slough and Ryde releases are plotted separately.	6-51
Figure 6-37 Relationship between QWEST flow and the Georgiana Slough to Ryde survival index ratio. The flow variable is average QWEST flow for 17 days after release.	6-52
Figure 6-38 Relationship between QWEST flow and the percentage of late-fall-run CWT Chinook salmon Delta release groups salvaged at the CVP and SWP Delta facilities. The flow variable is average QWESTflow for 17 days after release.	6-52

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
Figure 6-39 Relationship between Export/Inflow ratio and the Georgiana Slough to Ryde survival index ratio. The flow variable is average Export/Inflow ratio for 17 days after release.	6-53
Figure 6-40 Relationship between Export/Inflow ratio and the percentage of late-fall-run CWT Chinook salmon Delta release groups salvaged at the CVP and SWP Delta facilities. The flow variable is average Export/Inflow ratio for 17 days after release.	6-54
Figure 6-41 The percentage of late-fall-run CWT Chinook salmon Sacramento River and Delta release groups salvaged at the CVP and SWP Delta facilities grouped by release date.	6-55
Figure 6-42 The Wells Ocean Productivity Index (WOPI, black line) and the Northern Oscillation Index (NOI, grey line) between 1975 and 2006. Values derived for March-August. Note the close fit between the larger-scale NOI, which represents the strength of the North Pacific high pressure cell, and local-scale WOPI, except for recent years (2004-2006), suggesting a change in local conditions. Low values indicate conditions for lower biological productivity. Source: MacFarlane et al (2008).....	6-62
Figure 6-43 Central Valley fall-run Chinook salmon Ocean Harvest Index, 1970–2006.	6-63
Figure 6-44 Central Valley Chinook salmon (all races) abundance index, 1970–2006 (PSFMC data).	6-64
Figure 6-45 Coded-wire tag recovery rate of Feather River Hatchery spring-run Chinook salmon relative to the coded-wire tag recovery rate of Central Valley fall-run Chinook salmon. Data were taken from DFG (1998), and are presented individually for recreational and commercial fisheries for age-2, age-3, and age-4 fish. Values greater than one indicates fishing pressure above the level sustained by the fall-run.	6-66
Figure 6-46 Percent of Central Valley fall-run Chinook escapement taken at hatcheries 1952–2006.	6-68
Figure 7-1 (x-axis is DAYFLOW; y-axis is first 20-mm Survey following VAMP).....	7-3
Figure 7-2 IEP TNS indices 1969-2007.	7-5
Figure 7-3 IEP FMWT indices 1969-2007.....	7-5
Figure 7-4 (Beverton-Holt curve was fitted to all data even though time periods are shown separately).....	7-8
Figure 7-5 Relationships between 20-mm Survey indices and TNS indices, 1995-2002.	7-10
Figure 7-6 Water operations impacts to the delta smelt population.....	7-10
Figure 7-7 Relationships between juvenile and adult lifestages of delta smelt since 2000. NOTE: The Towntnet Survey is a measure of summer juvenile abundance. The Fall Midwater Trawl is a measure of fall pre-spawning adult abundance. The blue circles represent the data from the full Towntnet Survey which begins in June and ends when the average fork length of striped bass reaches 38 mm. The red squares represent data from July only. Regression equations and coefficients are given in blue font for the full Towntnet Survey data and in red font for the July Towntnet	

Figure	Page
Survey data.....	7-11
Figure 7-8 Annual values (± 2 standard errors) of environmental quality (EQ) for (a) delta smelt, (b) threadfin shad, (c) striped bass in San Francisco Estuary, based on data from the Fall Midwater Trawl (from Feyrer et al. 2007). <i>NOTE: EQ is the probability of capturing the species in a sample based on values of specific conductance and Secchi depth for delta smelt and striped bass and based on values of water temperature and specific conductance for threadfin shad.</i>	7-15
Figure 7-9 Spatial distribution of long-term trends in annual EQ for (a) delta smelt, (b) threadfin shad, (c) striped bass in San Francisco Estuary shown for the region bordered downstream at Carquinez Strait. <i>NOTE: Color shading represents the coefficient for the year term for individual linear regressions of EQ versus year for each station. Lighter shading represents a more negative slope. Open circles and filled circles represent stations with non-significant ($P > 0.05$) or significant regressions ($P < 0.05$), respectively (from Feyrer et al. 2007).</i>	7-16
Figure 7-10 Changes in abundance of bivalves in Grizzly Bay from 1981 to 2005 (IEP 2005; Peterson et al. In prep). <i>NOTE: Salinity is highest during dry years, lowest during wet years and intermediate during moderate years. Water year classifications are explained in detail at: http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/iudir/WSI.</i>	7-21
Figure 7-11 Deviations from average exports (cubic feet per second) in January, February, and March exports from 1984 to 2004 (IEP 2005; Simi et al., U.S. Geological Survey, unpublished data).	7-24
Figure 7-12 Proportion of Delta inflow coming from the San Joaquin River and the Sacramento River, including Yolo Bypass from 1984 to 2004 (IEP 2005; Simi et al., U.S. Geological Survey, unpublished data).	7-25
Figure 7-13 Relationship of mean combined salvage of delta smelt, longfin smelt, and striped bass at the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) to combined Old and Middle rivers (OMR) flow (cubic feet per second). <i>NOTE: Open symbols denote pre-POD years (1993-1999) and filled symbols represent post-POD years (2000-2005) (Grimaldo et al. In prep).</i>	7-27
Figure 7-14 Delta outflow (m ³ /s) averaged over water years (top) and export flow (m ³ /s) averaged over seasons (bottom). <i>NOTE: Water years begin on 1 October of the previous calendar year. Seasons are in 3-month increments starting in October. Export flows are the sum of diversions to the Federal Central Valley Project and State Water Project pumping plants. The outflow and export data are from DWR (http://iep.water.ca.gov/dayflow) (from Sommer et al. 2007).</i>	7-28
Figure 7-15 Abundance of age-1 and age-2+ striped bass in midwater trawls in A) San Francisco Bay based on the California Department of Fish and Game Bay study (Bay Study) and B) in the Delta from the Fall Midwater Trawl.	7-33
Figure 7-16 Peterson population estimates of the abundance of adult (3+) striped bass < 460 mm total length from 1969 to 2004. <i>NOTE: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals (DFG, unpublished data). Confidence intervals are not shown previous to 1987. Striped bass were</i>	

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
<i>only tagged during even years from 1994 to 2002, so no estimates are available for odd years during that period</i>	7-34
Figure 7-17 Annual salvage density (fish per acre foot) of largemouth bass at the CVP and SWP combined from 1979 to 2005 (DFG, unpublished data).....	7-34
Figure 7-18 Mean value and range in primary production in Suisun Bay and the Delta in the 1970s and 1990s plotted on the relationship of fishery yield to primary production from other estuaries around the world (modified from Nixon 1988, using data provided by Alan Jassby, U.C. Davis and James Cloern, U.S. Geological Survey).	7-36
Figure 7-19 Changes in abundance of <i>Pseudodiaptomus forbesi</i> and other copepods at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers (D10), Suisun Marsh (S42), and the southern Delta (P8) during three decades from 1975-2004. <i>NOTE: Arrows indicate the direction of statistically significant trends within decades. E: Eurytemora affinis; S: Sinocalanus doerri; P: Pseudodiaptomus forbesi; A: Acartiella sinensis; L: Limnoithona sp. Site codes correspond to designations used in the California Department of Fish and Game zooplankton survey.</i>	7-38
Figure 7-20 Biomass of copepods in summer delta smelt habitat as defined by salinity and turbidity.	7-39
Figure 7-21 Summer to fall survival index of delta smelt in relation to zooplankton biomass in the low salinity zone (0.15 – 2.09 psu) of the estuary. <i>NOTE: The survival index is the log ratio of the Fall Midwater Trawl index to the Summer Towntnet Survey index. The line is the geometric mean regression for log(10) -transformed data, $y = 2.48x - 0.36$. The correlation coefficient for the log-transformed data is 0.58 with a 95% confidence interval of (0.26, 0.78) (Kimmerer, in press).</i>	7-40
Figure 7-22 Prey volume in guts of delta smelt collected during summer 2005 and 2006. Note: Sample size appears in parentheses (Steve Slater, California Department of Fish and Game, unpublished data).	7-41
Figure 8-1. Image of Green Sturgeon.	8-3
Figure 8-2. Distribution of North American Green Sturgeon of both the Northern and Southern Distinct Population Segments (NMFS 2007).	8-7
Figure 8-3. Observations of sturgeon remains in the California Native American archaeological sites. (Gobalet et al. 2004). Numbers represent number of sturgeon observations based on skeletal remains. Numbers are typically unidentified sturgeon species. Species-specific identifications are listed in parentheses (green sturgeon, white sturgeon).	8-9
Figure 8-4. Sizes of juvenile green sturgeon measured at CVP/SWP fish salvage facilities, 1968-2001 (DFG 2002), collected in rotary 1994-2000 (FWS 2002), and sampled in semi-annual San Pablo Bay sturgeon stock assessments (DFG 2002). [Figure from Beamesderfer et al. 2007].....	8-12
Figure 8-5. Changes in length distribution over time based on trammel net sampling of subadult green sturgeon in San Pablo Bay (DFG 2002). [Figure from Beamesderfer et al. 2007].....	8-14
Figure 8-6. Green sturgeon data sample data from Red Bluff Diversion Dam rotary screw trap monitoring (FWS 2002).	8-15

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
Figure 8-7. Juvenile green sturgeon collected in fyke and rotary screw traps operated at the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Diversion from 1986-2003 (Beamesderfer 2005).....	8-15
Figure 8-8. Estimated annual salvage of green sturgeon at SWP and CVP fish facilities in the South Sacramento-San Joaquin River delta. Green sturgeon were not counted at the Federal Central Valley Project prior to 1981. (Data from DFG 2004). Figure from Beamesderfer et al. (2007).	8-16
Figure 8-9. Estimated annual salvage of green sturgeon at CVP and SWP fish facilities in the South Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (DFG 2002). Prior to 1981, green and white sturgeon were counted together and reported simply as sturgeon at the CVP.....	8-17
Figure 8-10. Fork lengths of green sturgeon collected at the CVP and SWP fish facilities and by seine in Clifton Court Forebay (data from DFG 2002).	8-18
Figure 8-11. Seasonal pattern of juvenile green sturgeon catches at State and Federal fish facilities, 1968-2001 (DFG 2002).....	8-18
Figure 8-12. Green sturgeon salvage numbers at State and Federal facilities are not statistically correlated (Beamesderfer 2005).	8-19
Figure 8-13. Annual patterns in sturgeon salvage, river flow, export volume, and Delta Cross Channel operation, 1968-2004 (Beamesderfer 2005). The April-August period corresponds to the timing of downstream dispersal of juvenile white and green sturgeon from areas of the Sacramento River where they were spawned (Beamesderfer 2005).	8-21
Figure 8-14. Historical patterns of gate operations at Red Bluff Diversion Dam.	8-23
Figure 8-15. Mean fork lengths in mm of green sturgeons captured weekly by rotary screw traps at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam from 1995 to 1998 (DFG 2002).....	8-28
Figure 8-16. Monthly mean lengths in mm of sturgeon caught by the Glenn Colusa Irrigation District rotary screw trap from 1999 to 2001 (DFG 2002).....	8-29
Figure 8-17. Modeled temperatures in the Sacramento River below Keswick Dam (Orlob and King 1997).....	8-33
Figure 8-18. Recent annual harvest of green sturgeon (NMFS 2005). Klamath includes Yurok and Hoopa subsistence fishery harvests. The Oregon and Washington total includes sport and commercial fishery harvests from ocean and estuary fisheries including the Columbia River, Willapa Bay, and Greys Harbor. Figure from Beamesderfer et al. (2007).....	8-36
Figure 8-19. Historical yield of white sturgeon in the Fraser River commercial fishery, white sturgeon in the Columbia River commercial and sport fisheries, white sturgeon in San Francisco Bay commercial fisheries and green sturgeon in the Columbia River sport and commercial fisheries (Beamesderfer 2005). Note differences in the scales of the y axes.	8-38
Figure 9-1 OCAP BA Model Information Flow	9-3
Figure 9-2 General spatial representation of the CalSim-II network.....	9-7
Figure 9-3 Conditions for Spilling Carried-over Debt at SWP San Luis in CalSim-II Because the Regulatory Baseline cannot exceed SWP San Luis Capacity (i.e., the dashed line in Stack A), then the debt above this	

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
capacity line must be carried-over debt. Therefore, this spill tool will only be applicable to erasing carried-over debt and will not affect “new” debt conditions from this year’s actions. Spill amount is limited by the availability of excess capacity at Banks and surplus water in the Delta.....	9-12
Figure 9-4 General spatial representation of the DSM2 network.....	9-17
Figure 9-5 General spatial representation of the temperature model networks.	9-23
Figure 9-6 General spatial representation of the salmon model networks.	9-27
Figure 9-7 Study 6.0 Total Annual WQCP and Total (b)(2) Costs.....	9-62
Figure 9-8 Study 7.0 Total Annual WQCP and Total (b)(2) Costs.....	9-63
Figure 9-9 Study 7.1 Total Annual WQCP and Total (b)(2) Costs.....	9-64
Figure 9-10 Study 8.0 Total Annual WQCP and Total (b)(2) Costs.....	9-65
Figure 9-11 Oct – Jan WQCP and Total (b)(2) Costs Probability of Exceedance Study 6.0	9-66
Figure 9-12 Oct – Jan WQCP and Total (b)(2) Costs Probability of Exceedance Study 7.0	9-66
Figure 9-13 Oct – Jan WQCP and Total (b)(2) Costs Probability of Exceedance Study 7.1	9-67
Figure 9-14. Oct – Jan WQCP and Total (b)(2) Costs Probability of Exceedance Study 8.0.....	9-67
Figure 9-15 Annual WQCP and Total (b)(2) Costs Probability of Exceedance for Study 6.0.....	9-68
Figure 9-16. Annual WQCP and Total (b)(2) Costs Probability of Exceedance for Study 7.0.....	9-68
Figure 9-17. Annual WQCP and Total (b)(2) Costs Probability of Exceedance for Study 7.1	9-69
Figure 9-18. Annual WQCP and Total (b)(2) Costs Probability of Exceedance for Study 8.0.....	9-69
Figure 9-19. Annual EWA expenditures simulated by CalSim-II, measured in terms of export reductions from exports under the EWA Regulatory Baseline relative to exports with EWA operations.	9-72
Figure 9-20 Combined Banks and Jones export rate simulated by CalSim-II, during the April and May VAMP period compared to export target flow specified in the San Joaquin River Agreement.....	9-73
Figure 9-21. Combined Carryover Debt at CVP and SWP San Luis, Simulated in CalSim- II, at the End (Oct) and Start (Nov) of the Carryover Debt Assessment Year	9-74
Figure 9-22. Annual EWA assets simulated in CalSim-II.....	9-75
Figure 9-23. Annual Carryover-debt Spilling at SWP San Luis, Simulated in CalSim-II.	9-76
Figure 9-24. Simulated Export Reductions Associated with Taking EWA Action 2 (i.e., Winter Export Reductions). Note that Export Reductions for	

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
Studies 7.1 and 8.0 are zero.....	9-77
Figure 9-25 – Simulated Export Reductions Associated with Taking EWA Action 3 (i.e., VAMP-related restrictions).....	9-78
Figure 9-26 – Simulated Export Reductions Associated with Taking EWA Action 5 (i.e., extension of VAMP-related restrictions into May 16–May 31 (i.e., the May Shoulder)).....	9-78
Figure 9-27– Simulated Export Reductions Associated with Taking EWA Action 6 (i.e., representation of June “ramping” from May Shoulder restriction to June Export-to-Inflow restriction).....	9-79
Figure 9-28 Simulated use of additional 500 cfs Banks fishery capacity in summer months (Jul, Aug, and Sep) and total assets pumped using additional capacity (taf).....	9-80
Figure 9-29. DSM2-Hydro locations of output for flow (cfs) and velocity (ft/s). Arrows represent the direction of positive flow and velocity.....	9-82
Figure 9-30. DSM2-PTM locations for particle injection.....	9-89
Figure 9-31. DSM2-Hydro locations of output for flow (cfs) and velocity (ft/s). Arrows represent the direction of positive flow and velocity.....	9-100
Figure 10-1 Trinity+Shasta+Folsom Storage Time-series.....	10-3
Figure 10-2 Trinity+Shasta+Folsom Exceedence Storage – End-of-May.....	10-4
Figure 10-3 Trinity+Shasta+Folsom Exceedence Storage – End-of-September.....	10-4
Figure 10-4 Keswick+Nimbus Releases - Average.....	10-5
Figure 10-5 Keswick+Nimbus Releases - Wet.....	10-5
Figure 10-6 Keswick+Nimbus Releases – Above Normal.....	10-6
Figure 10-7 Keswick+Nimbus Releases – Below Normal.....	10-6
Figure 10-8 Keswick+Nimbus Releases - Dry.....	10-7
Figure 10-9 Keswick+Nimbus Releases - Critical.....	10-7
Figure 10-10 Keswick+Nimbus 50 th Percentile Monthly Releases with the 5 th and 95 th as the Bars.....	10-8
Figure 10-11 Chronology of Trinity Storage Water Year 1922 - 2003.....	10-10
Figure 10-12 Trinity Reservoir End of September Exceedence.....	10-11
Figure 10-13 Lewiston 50 th Percentile Monthly Releases with the 5 th and 95 th as the Bars.....	10-11
Figure 10-14 Average Monthly Releases to the Trinity from Lewiston.....	10-12
Figure 10-15 Average Wet Year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Releases to the Trinity.....	10-12
Figure 10-16 Average Above-normal Year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Releases to the Trinity.....	10-13
Figure 10-17 Average Below-normal Year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Releases to the Trinity.....	10-13
Figure 10-18 Average Dry-year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Releases to the	

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
Trinity	10-14
Figure 10-19 Average Critical-year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Releases to the Trinity	10-14
Figure 10-20 Clear Creek Tunnel 50 th Percentile Monthly Releases with the 5 th and 95 th as the Bars	10-15
Figure 10-21 Douglas City Exceedence Plot – End-of-April	10-16
Figure 10-22 Douglas City Exceedence Plot – End-of-May	10-17
Figure 10-23 Douglas City Exceedence Plot – End-of-June	10-17
Figure 10-24 Douglas City Exceedence Plot – End-of-July	10-18
Figure 10-25 Douglas City Exceedence Plot – End-of-August	10-18
Figure 10-26 Douglas City Exceedence Plot – End-of-September	10-19
Figure 10-27 Douglas City Exceedence Plot – End-of-October	10-19
Figure 10-28. Whiskeytown Reservoir End-of-September Exceedence	10-21
Figure 10-29 Clear Creek Releases 50 th Percentile Monthly Releases with the 5 th and 95 th as the Bars	10-21
Figure 10-30 Long-term Average Monthly Releases to Clear Creek	10-22
Figure 10-31 Average Wet Year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Releases to Clear Creek	10-22
Figure 10-32 Average Above Normal Year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Releases to Clear Creek	10-23
Figure 10-33 Average Below Normal Year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Releases to Clear Creek	10-23
Figure 10-34 Average Dry Year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Releases to Clear Creek	10-24
Figure 10-35 Average Critical Year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Releases to Clear Creek	10-24
Figure 10-36 Spring Creek Tunnel 50 th Percentile Monthly Releases with the 5 th and 95 th as the Bars	10-25
Figure 10-37 Igo Exceedence Plot – End-of-April	10-26
Figure 10-38 Igo Exceedence Plot – End-of-May	10-26
Figure 10-39 Igo Exceedence Plot – End-of-June	10-27
Figure 10-40 Igo Exceedence Plot – End-of-July	10-27
Figure 10-41 Igo Exceedence Plot – End-of-August	10-28
Figure 10-42 Igo Exceedence Plot – End-of-September	10-28
Figure 10-43 Igo Exceedence Plot – End-of-October	10-29
Figure 10-44. Chronology of Shasta Storage, Water Years 1922 – 2003	10-31
Figure 10-45 Shasta Reservoir End-of-April Exceedence	10-32
Figure 10-46 Shasta Reservoir End-of-September Exceedence	10-32

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
Figure 10-47 Keswick 50 th Percentile Monthly Releases with the 5 th and 95 th as the Bars.....	10-33
Figure 10-48 Average Monthly Releases from Keswick	10-33
Figure 10-49 Average Wet Year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Releases from Keswick.....	10-34
Figure 10-50 Average Above Normal Year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Releases from Keswick.....	10-34
Figure 10-51 Average Below Normal Year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Releases from Keswick.....	10-35
Figure 10-52 Average Dry Year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Releases from Keswick.....	10-35
Figure 10-53 Average Critical Year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Releases from Keswick.....	10-36
Figure 10-54 52°F index of coldwater availability	10-38
Figure 10-55 Spring Creek Tunnel Water Temperatures 10% exceedence.....	10-39
Figure 10-56 Spring Creek Tunnel Water Temperatures 50% exceedence.....	10-40
Figure 10-57 Spring Creek Tunnel Water Temperatures 90% exceedence.....	10-40
Figure 10-58 Shasta Tailbay End-of-April Exceedence.....	10-43
Figure 10-59 Shasta Tailbay End-of-May Exceedence	10-43
Figure 10-60 Shasta Tailbay End-of-June Exceedence	10-44
Figure 10-61 Shasta Tailbay End-of-July Exceedence.....	10-44
Figure 10-62 Shasta Tailbay End-of-Aug Exceedence.....	10-45
Figure 10-63 Shasta Tailbay End-of-September Exceedence	10-45
Figure 10-64 Shasta Tailbay End-of-October Exceedence	10-46
Figure 10-65 Shasta Tailbay End-of-November Exceedence	10-46
Figure 10-66 Keswick End-of-April Exceedence	10-47
Figure 10-67 Keswick End-of-May Exceedence	10-47
Figure 10-68 Keswick End-of-June Exceedence	10-48
Figure 10-69 Keswick End-of-July Exceedence	10-48
Figure 10-70 Keswick End-of-August Exceedence	10-49
Figure 10-71 Keswick End-of-September Exceedence	10-49
Figure 10-72 Keswick End-of-October Exceedence.....	10-50
Figure 10-73 Keswick End-of-November Exceedence	10-50
Figure 10-74 Balls Ferry End-of-April Exceedence	10-51
Figure 10-75 Balls Ferry End-of-May Exceedence.....	10-51
Figure 10-76 Balls Ferry End-of-June Exceedence.....	10-52
Figure 10-77 Balls Ferry End-of-July Exceedence	10-52

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
Figure 10-78 Balls Ferry End-of-August Exceedence	10-53
Figure 10-79 Balls Ferry End-of-September Exceedence	10-53
Figure 10-80 Balls Ferry End-of-October Exceedence	10-54
Figure 10-81 Balls Ferry End-of-November Exceedence	10-54
Figure 10-82 Bend Bridge End-of-April Exceedence	10-55
Figure 10-83 Bend Bridge End-of-May Exceedence	10-55
Figure 10-84 Bend Bridge End-of-June Exceedence	10-56
Figure 10-85 Bend Bridge End-of-July Exceedence.....	10-56
Figure 10-86 Bend Bridge End-of-August Exceedence.....	10-57
Figure 10-87 Bend Bridge End-of-September Exceedence	10-57
Figure 10-88 Bend Bridge End-of-October Exceedence	10-58
Figure 10-89 Bend Bridge End-of-November Exceedence	10-58
Figure 10-90. Chronology of Folsom Storage Water Years 1922 – 2003	10-62
Figure 10-91 Folsom Reservoir End of May Exceedence	10-63
Figure 10-92 Folsom Reservoir End of September Exceedence	10-63
Figure 10-93 Nimbus Release 50 th Percentile Monthly Releases with the 5 th and 95 th as the Bars	10-64
Figure 10-94 Average Monthly Nimbus Release	10-64
Figure 10-95 Average Wet Year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Nimbus Release.....	10-65
Figure 10-96 Average Above Normal Year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Nimbus Release	10-65
Figure 10-97 Average Below Normal Year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Nimbus Release	10-66
Figure 10-98 Average Dry Year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Nimbus Release.....	10-66
Figure 10-99 Average Critical Year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Nimbus Release	10-67
Figure 10-100 58°F index of coldwater availability	10-69
Figure 10-101 Folsom Tailbay End-of-May Exceedence.....	10-72
Figure 10-102 Folsom Tailbay End-of-June Exceedence.....	10-72
Figure 10-103 Folsom Tailbay End-of-July Exceedence	10-73
Figure 10-104 Folsom Tailbay End-of-August Exceedence	10-73
Figure 10-105 Folsom Tailbay End-of-September Exceedence.....	10-74
Figure 10-106 Folsom Tailbay End-of-October Exceedence.....	10-74
Figure 10-107 Nimbus End-of-May Exceedence	10-75
Figure 10-108 Nimbus End-of-June Exceedence	10-75
Figure 10-109 Nimbus End-of-July Exceedence	10-76

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
Figure 10-110 Nimbus End-of-August Exceedence	10-76
Figure 10-111 Nimbus End-of-September Exceedence	10-77
Figure 10-112 Nimbus End-of-October Exceedence	10-77
Figure 10-113 Watt Avenue End-of-May Exceedence	10-78
Figure 10-114 Watt Avenue End-of-June Exceedence	10-78
Figure 10-115 Watt Avenue End-of-July Exceedence.....	10-79
Figure 10-116 Watt Avenue End-of-August Exceedence	10-79
Figure 10-117 Watt Avenue End-of-September Exceedence.....	10-80
Figure 10-118 Watt Avenue End-of-October Exceedence	10-80
Figure 10-119 Chronology of New Melones Storage Water Years 1922 – 2003	10-82
Figure 10-120 New Melones Reservoir End of May Exceedence	10-83
Figure 10-121 New Melones Reservoir End of September Exceedence	10-83
Figure 10-122 Goodwin Releases 50 th Percentile Monthly Releases with the 5 th and 95 th as the Bars	10-84
Figure 10-123 Average Monthly Goodwin Releases	10-84
Figure 10-124 Average Wet Year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Goodwin Releases	10-85
Figure 10-125 Average Above Normal Year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Goodwin Releases	10-85
Figure 10-126 Average Below Normal Year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Goodwin Releases	10-86
Figure 10-127 Average Dry Year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Goodwin Releases	10-86
Figure 10-128 Average Critical Year (40-30-30 Classification) Monthly Goodwin Releases	10-87
Figure 11-1. Sacramento River mean daily temperature and flow at selected locations in a dry water year, actual measured water temperatures (2001).	11-3
Figure 11-2. Sacramento River mean daily temperature and flow at selected locations in a wet water year, actual measured water temperatures (1999).	11-4
Figure 11-3. Sacramento River at Balls Ferry daily temperature range and flow in a wet water year, actual measured water temperatures (1999).	11-4
Figure 11-4. Sacramento River at Balls Ferry daily temperature range and flow in a dry water year, actual measured water temperatures (2001).	11-5
Figure 11-5. Sacramento River at Balls Ferry seasonal temperature exceedence, 1997-2007 (actual temperatures, not modeled).	11-5
Figure 11-6. Sacramento River at Balls Ferry seasonal temperature exceedence in study 7.0 (modeled temperatures with current operations throughout the 82 year CalSim-II modeling period).	11-6
Figure 11-7. Sacramento River at Bend Bridge seasonal temperature exceedence,	

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
1997-2007 (actual temperatures, not modeled).	11-6
Figure 11-8. Sacramento River at Bend Bridge seasonal temperature exceedence in study 7.0 (modeled temperatures with current operations throughout the 82 year CalSim-II modeling period).	11-7
Figure 11-9. Sacramento River at Colusa daily temperature fluctuation and flow in a wet water year, actual measured water temperatures (1999).	11-7
Figure 11-10. Sacramento River at Colusa daily temperature fluctuation and flow in a dry water year, actual measured water temperatures (2001).	11-8
Figure 11-11. Sacramento River at Rio Vista water temperature exceedence for 2000 – 2007, actual measured temperatures.	11-8
Figure 11-12. Clear Creek mean daily temperature at Whiskeytown Dam and Igo in a dry year, actual measured water temperatures (2002).	11-9
Figure 11-13. Clear Creek mean daily temperature at Whiskeytown Dam and Igo in an above normal water year, actual measured water temperatures (2003).	11-9
Figure 11-14. Clear Creek at Igo daily temperature fluctuation and flow in a dry water year, actual measured water temperatures (2002).	11-10
Figure 11-15. Clear Creek at Igo daily temperature fluctuation and flow in an above normal water year, actual measured water temperatures (2003).	11-10
Figure 11-16. American River temperature and flow at monitoring sites in a dry year, actual measured water temperatures (2001).	11-11
Figure 11-17. American River temperature and flow at monitoring sites in a wet year, actual measured water temperatures (2006).	11-12
Figure 11-18. American River at Watt Avenue daily temperature fluctuation and flow in a dry year, actual measured water temperatures (2001).	11-12
Figure 11-19. American River at Watt Avenue daily temperature fluctuation and flow in a wet year, actual measured water temperatures (2006).	11-13
Figure 11-20. Stanislaus and San Joaquin River temperatures and flow at selected locations in a dry year, actual measured water temperatures (2001).	11-13
Figure 11-21. Stanislaus and San Joaquin River temperatures and flow at selected locations in a wet year, actual measured water temperatures (2006).	11-14
Figure 11-22. Stanislaus River at Orange Blossom Bridge daily temperature fluctuation and flow in a dry water year, actual measured water temperatures (2001).	11-14
Figure 11-23. Stanislaus River at Orange Blossom Bridge daily temperature fluctuation and flow in a wet water year, actual measured water temperatures (2006).	11-15
Figure 11-24. San Joaquin River at Mossdale Bridge water temperature exceedence for 2002 – 2007, actual measured water temperatures.	11-15
Figure 11-25. San Joaquin River at Antioch water temperature exceedence for 1995 – 2007, actual measured water temperatures.	11-16
Figure 11-26. Trinity River water temperatures and flow at monitoring sites in a wet	

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
year type, actual measured water temperatures (1999).....	11-16
Figure 11-27. Trinity River water temperatures and flow at monitoring sites in a dry year type, actual measured water temperatures (2002).....	11-17
Figure 11-28. Trinity River at Douglas City daily temperature fluctuation and flow in a wet year, actual measured water temperatures (1999).....	11-17
Figure 11-29. Trinity River at Douglas City daily temperature fluctuation and flow in a dry year, actual measured water temperatures (2002).....	11-18
Figure 11-30. Trinity River Restoration Program recommended flow releases from Lewiston Dam to the Trinity River including functional performance ranges.	11-22
Figure 11-31. Water temperature exceedence in Clear Creek at Whiskeytown Dam in OCAP modeling study 7.0 in throughout the CalSim-II modeling hydrological record.....	11-26
Figure 11-32. Water temperature exceedence in Clear Creek at Igo in OCAP modeling study 7.0 throughout the CalSim-II modeling hydrological record.	11-27
Figure 11-33. Whiskeytown Lake isothermobaths in 2004.	11-28
Figure 11-34. Whiskeytown Lake isothermobaths in 2005. Water temperatures in degrees Fahrenheit.	11-29
Figure 11-35. Water temperature exceedence at Balls Ferry under study 8.0 from CalSim-II and weekly temperature modeling results.	11-32
Figure 11-36. Water temperature exceedence at Bend Bridge under study 8.0 from CalSim-II flow and weekly temperature modeling results.	11-33
Figure 11-37. September storage in Shasta Reservoir. Study 6.0 represents 2004 operations, study 7.0 represents current operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.....	11-34
Figure 11-38. Winter-run Chinook salmon spawning distribution through time relative to water temperature targets.....	11-35
Figure 11-39. Winter run Chinook average egg mortality by water year type from Reclamation egg mortality model. Study 6.0 represents 2004 operations, study 7.0 represents current operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.....	11-36
Figure 11-40. Winter run Chinook egg mortality from Reclamation egg mortality model by year in hydrological record. Study 6.0 represents 2004 operations, study 7.0 represents current operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.....	11-36
Figure 11-41. Spring run Chinook egg mortality from Reclamation egg mortality model by water year type. Study 6.0 represents 2004 operations, study 7.0 represents current operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.	11-37
Figure 11-42. Spring-run Chinook egg mortality from Reclamation egg mortality model by year in hydrological record. Study 6.0 represents 2004 operations, study 7.0 represents current operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.....	11-37

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
Figure 11-43. Average yearly egg mortality from Reclamation egg mortality model between studies for all four runs in the Sacramento River. Study 6.0 represents 2004 operations, study 7.0 represents current operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.	11-38
Figure 11-44. Percentage change in juvenile winter-run Chinook production past Red Bluff of operational scenarios compared with the current scenario from the SALMOD model. Study 6.0 represents 2004 operations, 7.0 represents current operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.....	11-40
Figure 11-45. Winter-run Chinook juveniles emigrating past Red Bluff by operational scenario, 1923-2002 from SALMOD model. Study 6.0 represents 2004 operations, 7.0 represents current operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.....	11-41
Figure 11-46. Percentage change in juvenile winter-run Chinook egg mortality in operational scenarios compared with the current scenario from the SALMOD model. Study 6.0 represents 2004 operations, 7.0 represents current operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.....	11-41
Figure 11-47. Winter-run egg mortality due to water temperature by operational scenario with 12,368,840 total potential eggs, 1923-2002 from SALMOD model. Study 6.0 represents 2004 operations, 7.0 represents current operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.	11-42
Figure 11-48. Winter-run Chinook fry mortality due to water temperature by operational scenario. Study 6.0 represents 2004 operations, 7.0 represents current operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.	11-42
Figure 11-49. Winter-run Chinook salmon fry mortality due to habitat limitations by water operational scenario, 1923-2002 from SALMOD model. Study 6.0 represents 2004 operations, study 7.0 represents current operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.	11-43
Figure 11-50. Winter-run Chinook presmolt mortality due to habitat limitations by operational scenario, 1923-2002 from SALMOD model. Study 6.0 represents 2004 operations, 7.0 represents current operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.	11-43
Figure 11-51. Percentage change in juvenile spring-run Chinook production past Red Bluff of future operational scenarios compared with the current scenario from the SALMOD model. Study 7.0 represents current operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.	11-44
Figure 11-52. Juvenile Sacramento River Spring-run Chinook production emigrating past Red Bluff by operational scenario with 1,000 spawners, from Salmod model. Study 6.0 represents 2004 operations, 7.0 represents current operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.....	11-45
Figure 11-53. Sacramento River spring-run egg mortality due to water temperature by	

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
operational scenario with 2,400,000 total potential eggs, 1923-2002 from SALMOD model. Study 6.0 represents 2004 operations, 7.0 represents current operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.	11-45
Figure 11-54. Spring-run Chinook salmon fry mortality due to habitat limitations by water operational scenario, 1923-2002 from SALMOD model. Study 6.0 represents 2004 operations, 7.0 represents current operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.	11-46
Figure 11-55. Annual winter-run Chinook salmon escapement under four OCAP water operation scenarios, 1923-2002 from IOS model. Study 7.0 represents current operations, 6.0 represents 2004 operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.	11-48
Figure 11-56. Annual Passage of winter-run Chinook Salmon juveniles past Red Bluff Diversion Dam (RBDD) under four OCAP water operation scenarios, 1923-2002 from IOS model. Study 7.0 represents current operations, 6.0 represents 2004 operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.	11-48
Figure 11-57. Annual percent difference in juvenile survival from emergence to RBDD from water operation scenario 7.0 for water operation scenarios 6.0, 7.1, and 8.0, 1923-2002 from IOS model. Study 7.0 represents current operations, 6.0 represents 2004 operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.	11-49
Figure 11-58. Annual percent difference in egg-fry survival from water operation scenario 7.0 for water operation scenarios 6.0, 7.1, and 8.0, 1923-2002 from IOS model. Study 7.0 represents current operations, 6.0 represents 2004 operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.	11-50
Figure 11-59. Annual percent difference in survival from emergence to RBDD from water operation scenario 7.0 for water operation scenarios 6.0, 7.1, and 8.0, 1923-2002 from IOS model. Study 7.0 represents current operations, 6.0 represents 2004 operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.	11-51
Figure 11-60. Annual percent difference in survival from RBDD to the Delta from water operation scenario 7.0 for water operation scenarios 6.0, 7.1, and 8.0, 1923-2002 from IOS model. Study 7.0 represents current operations, 6.0 represents 2004 operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.	11-51
Figure 11-61. Annual percent difference in juvenile Delta survival from water operation scenario 7.0 for water operation scenarios 6.0, 7.1, and 8.0, 1923-2002 from IOS model. Study 7.0 represents current operations, 6.0 represents 2004 operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.	11-52
Figure 11-62. Annual winter-run Chinook salmon in-river survival (egg-Delta arrival) under four OCAP water operation scenarios, 1923-2002 from IOS model. Study 7.0 represents current operations, 6.0 represents 2004 operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.	11-54
Figure 11-63. Annual winter-run Chinook salmon in-river survival (egg-Delta arrival)	

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
for water operation scenario 7.0 and its three components: 1) egg to fry, 2) fry emergence to RBDD, and 3) RBDD to Delta arrival, 1923-2002 from IOS model.....	11-54
Figure 11-64. Annual winter-run Chinook salmon Delta survival under four OCAP operation scenarios, 1923-2002 from IOS model. Study 7.0 represents current operations, 6.0 represents 2004 operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.....	11-55
Figure 11-65. Monthly spatial distribution of winter-run Chinook salmon pre-smolts and smolts in the IOS Winter-Run Life Cycle Model during OCAP Biological Assessment model runs from IOS model.....	11-56
Figure 11-66. Water temperature exceedence at Red Bluff under study 8.0 from CalSim-II and weekly temperature modeling results.	11-60
Figure 11-67. Water temperatures at Sacramento River temperature monitoring stations.....	11-67
Figure 11-68. Sturgeon captured at RBDD and GCID (BDAT 8/29/2006). <i>Note:</i> All Sturgeon, N=4,767 (green=296, white=18, unidentified=4,453)	11-70
Figure 11-69. 90% exceedence level monthly water temperatures at Watt Avenue for the four OCAP scenarios (dry conditions).	11-75
Figure 11-70. 10% exceedence level monthly water temperatures at Watt Avenue for the four OCAP scenarios (wet conditions).....	11-76
Figure 11-71. 90% exceedence level monthly water temperatures at Nimbus Dam for the four OCAP scenarios (dry conditions).	11-76
Figure 11-72. 10% exceedence level monthly water temperatures at Nimbus Dam for the four OCAP scenarios (wet conditions).....	11-77
Figure 11-73. <i>O. mykiss</i> passage through the Stanislaus River weir.	11-78
Figure 11-74. Stanislaus River at Goodwin Dam modeled water temperatures for the four studies at the 90% exceedence level (dry conditions).	11-81
Figure 11-75. Stanislaus River at Goodwin Dam modeled water temperatures for the four studies at the 10% exceedence level (wet conditions).....	11-81
Figure 11-76. Stanislaus River at Orange Blossom Bridge modeled water temperatures for the four studies at the 90% exceedence level (dry conditions).....	11-82
Figure 11-77. Stanislaus River at Orange Blossom Bridge water temperatures for the four studies at the 10% exceedence level (wet conditions).....	11-82
Figure 11-78. Sacramento River winter-run Chinook egg mortality with climate change scenarios from Reclamation egg mortality model. All studies except 9.0 include 1' sea level rise. Study 9.0 is future conditions with D-1641.	11-86
Figure 11-79. Sacramento River Winter-run Chinook egg mortality with climate change scenarios from Reclamation egg mortality model. All studies except 9.0 include 1' sea level rise. Study 9.0 is future conditions with D-1641.	11-87
Figure 11-80. Sacramento River spring-run Chinook egg mortality with climate change scenarios from Reclamation salmon egg mortality model. All	

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
studies except 9.0 include 1' sea level rise. Study 9.0 is future conditions with D-1641.....	11-87
Figure 11-81. Sacramento River spring-run Chinook egg mortality with climate change scenarios record from Reclamation egg mortality model. All studies except 9.0 include 1' sea level rise. Study 9.0 is future conditions with D-1641.....	11-88
Figure 11-82. Sacramento River average Chinook salmon mortality by run and climate change scenario from Reclamation salmon egg mortality model. All studies except 9.0 include 1' sea level rise. Study 9.0 is future conditions with D-1641.....	11-88
Figure 11-83. Shasta Lake coldwater pool volume at end of April with climate change scenarios. All studies except 9.0 include 1' sea level rise. Study 9.0 is future conditions with D-1641.	11-89
Figure 11-84. Trinity River fall-run Chinook egg mortality with climate change scenarios from Reclamation salmon egg mortality model. All studies except 9.0 include 1' sea level rise. Study 9.0 is future conditions with D-1641.	11-89
Figure 11-85. Feather River fall-run Chinook egg mortality with climate change scenarios from Reclamation egg mortality model. All studies except 9.0 include 1' sea level rise. Study 9.0 is future conditions with D-1641.....	11-90
Figure 11-86. Oroville Lake coldwater pool volume at end of April with climate change scenarios. All studies except 9.0 include 1' sea level rise. Study 9.0 is future conditions with D-1641.	11-90
Figure 11-87. American River fall-run Chinook egg mortality with climate change scenarios from Reclamation salmon egg mortality model. All studies except 9.0 include 1' sea level rise. Study 9.0 is future conditions with D-1641.	11-91
Figure 11-88. Folsom Lake end of May coldwater pool with climate change scenarios. All studies except 9.0 include 1' sea level rise. Study 9.0 is future conditions with D-1641.....	11-91
Figure 11-89. Stanislaus River fall-run Chinook egg mortality with climate change scenarios from Reclamation salmon egg mortality model. All studies except 9.0 include 1' sea level rise. Study 9.0 is future conditions with D-1641.	11-92
Figure 11-90. Water temperature in the Sacramento River at Balls Ferry under climate change scenarios at the 50% exceedence level.....	11-93
Figure 11-91. Water temperature in the Sacramento River at Freeport under climate change scenarios at the 50% exceedence level.	11-93
Figure 12-1 Chronology of Total Delta Inflow	12-2
Figure 12-2 Total Delta Inflow 50 th Percentile Monthly Flow with the 5 th and 95 th as the bars	12-3
Figure 12-3 Average Monthly Total Delta Inflow.....	12-3
Figure 12-4 Average wet year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Total Delta Inflow.....	12-4
Figure 12-5 Average above normal year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Total Delta	

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
Inflow.....	12-4
Figure 12-6 Average below normal year (40-30-30 Classification) Total Outflow Delta Inflow.....	12-5
Figure 12-7 Average dry year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Total Delta Inflow	12-5
Figure 12-8 Average critical year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Total Delta Inflow	12-6
Figure 12-9 Chronology of Total Delta Outflow.....	12-7
Figure 12-10 Total Delta Outflow 50 th Percentile Monthly Flow with the 5 th and 95 th as the bars	12-8
Figure 12-11 Average Monthly Total Delta Outflow	12-8
Figure 12-12 Average wet year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Delta Outflow	12-9
Figure 12-13 Average above normal year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Delta Outflow	12-9
Figure 12-14 Average below normal year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Delta Outflow	12-10
Figure 12-15 Average dry year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Delta Outflow.....	12-10
Figure 12-16 Average critical year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Delta Outflow	12-11
Figure 12-17 Total Annual Jones + Banks Pumping	12-12
Figure 12-18 Jones Pumping 50 th Percentile Monthly Export Rate with the 5 th and 95 th as the bars	12-13
Figure 12-19 Average Monthly Jones Pumping.....	12-14
Figure 12-20 Average wet year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Jones Pumping.....	12-14
Figure 12-21 Average above normal year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Jones Pumping.....	12-15
Figure 12-22 Average below normal year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Jones Pumping.....	12-15
Figure 12-23 Average dry year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Jones Pumping	12-16
Figure 12-24 Average critical year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Jones Pumping	12-16
Figure 12-25 Banks Pumping 50 th Percentile Monthly Export Rate with the 5 th and 95 th as the bars	12-17
Figure 12-26 Average Monthly Banks Pumping	12-18
Figure 12-27 Average wet year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Banks Pumping	12-18
Figure 12-28 Average above normal year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Banks Pumping.....	12-19
Figure 12-29 Average below normal year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Banks Pumping.....	12-19
Figure 12-30 Average dry year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Banks Pumping	12-20
Figure 12-31 Average critical year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Banks Pumping.....	12-20
Figure 12-32 Average use of Banks pumping for the CVP	12-21

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
Figure 12-33 Federal Banks Pumping 50 th Percentile Monthly Export Rate with the 5 th and 95 th as the bars	12-22
Figure 12-34 Average Monthly Federal Banks Pumping	12-22
Figure 12-35 Average wet year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Federal Banks Pumping	12-23
Figure 12-36 Average above normal year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Federal Banks Pumping	12-23
Figure 12-37 Average below normal year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Federal Banks Pumping	12-24
Figure 12-38 Average dry year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Federal Banks Pumping	12-24
Figure 12-39 Average critical year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly Federal Banks Pumping	12-25
Figure 12-40 Average Monthly North Bay Aqueduct Diversions from the Delta	12-26
Figure 12-41 Average Monthly export-to-inflow ratio	12-27
Figure 12-42 Average wet year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly export-to-inflow ratio	12-27
Figure 12-43 Average above normal year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly export-to-inflow ratio	12-28
Figure 12-44 Average below normal year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly export-to-inflow ratio	12-28
Figure 12-45 Average dry year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly export-to-inflow ratio	12-29
Figure 12-46 Average critical year (40-30-30 Classification) monthly export-to-inflow ratio	12-29
Figure 12-47 October export-to-inflow ratio sorted by 40-30-30 Index	12-30
Figure 12-48 November export-to-inflow ratio sorted by 40-30-30 Index	12-30
Figure 12-49 December export-to-inflow ratio sorted by 40-30-30 Index	12-31
Figure 12-50 January export-to-inflow ratio sorted by 40-30-30 Index	12-31
Figure 12-51 February export-to-inflow ratio sorted by 40-30-30 Index	12-32
Figure 12-52 March export-to-inflow ratio sorted by 40-30-30 Index	12-32
Figure 12-53 April export-to-inflow ratio sorted by 40-30-30 Index	12-33
Figure 12-54 May export-to-inflow ratio sorted by 40-30-30 Index	12-33
Figure 12-55 June export-to-inflow ratio sorted by 40-30-30 Index	12-34
Figure 12-56 July export-to-inflow ratio sorted by 40-30-30 Index	12-34
Figure 12-57 August export-to-inflow ratio sorted by 40-30-30 Index	12-35
Figure 12-58 September export-to-inflow ratio sorted by 40-30-30 Index	12-35
Figure 12-59 Exceedance Probability of Annual SWP Article 21 Delivery	12-38
Figure 12-60 Exceedance Probability of Annual SWP Table A Delivery	12-38

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
Figure 12-61 Exceedance Probability of Annual SWP Total Delivery	12-39
Figure 12-62 July to September Banks Export Capacity from Study 8.0	12-41
Figure 12-63 July to September Jones Export Capacity from Study 8.0.....	12-42
Figure 13-1 Variation in X2 in Study 7.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in October.....	13-20
Figure 13-2 Variation in X2 in Study 7.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in November.....	13-21
Figure 13-3 Variation in X2 in Study 7.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in December.....	13-21
Figure 13-4 Variation in X2 in Study 7.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in January.....	13-22
Figure 13-5 Variation in X2 in Study 7.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in February.....	13-22
Figure 13-6 Variation in X2 in Study 7.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in March.....	13-23
Figure 13-7 Variation in X2 in Study 7.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in April	13-23
Figure 13-8 Variation in X2 in Study 7.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in May.....	13-24
Figure 13-9 Variation in X2 in Study 7.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in June.....	13-24
Figure 13-10 Variation in X2 in Study 7.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in July	13-25
Figure 13-11 Variation in X2 in Study 7.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in August	13-25
Figure 13-12 Variation in X2 in Study 7.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in September.....	13-26
Figure 13-13 Variation in X2 in Study 7.1 with respect to Study 6.1 in October.....	13-26
Figure 13-14 Variation in X2 in Study 7.1 with respect to Study 6.1 in November.....	13-27
Figure 13-15 Variation in X2 in Study 7.1 with respect to Study 6.1 in December.....	13-27
Figure 13-16 Variation in X2 in Study 7.1 with respect to Study 6.1 in January.....	13-28
Figure 13-17 Variation in X2 in Study 7.1 with respect to Study 6.1 in February.....	13-28
Figure 13-18 Variation in X2 in Study 7.1 with respect to Study 6.1 in March.....	13-29
Figure 13-19 Variation in X2 in Study 7.1 with respect to Study 6.1 in April	13-29
Figure 13-20 Variation in X2 in Study 7.1 with respect to Study 6.1 in May.....	13-30
Figure 13-21 Variation in X2 in Study 7.1 with respect to Study 6.1 in June.....	13-30
Figure 13-22 Variation in X2 in Study 7.1 with respect to Study 6.1 in July	13-31
Figure 13-23 Variation in X2 in Study 7.1 with respect to Study 6.1 in August	13-31
Figure 13-24 Variation in X2 in Study 7.1 with respect to Study 6.1 in September.....	13-32
Figure 13-25 Variation in X2 in Study 8.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in October.....	13-32
Figure 13-26 Variation in X2 in Study 8.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in November.....	13-33
Figure 13-27 Variation in X2 in Study 8.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in December.....	13-33
Figure 13-28 Variation in X2 in Study 8.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in January.....	13-34
Figure 13-29 Variation in X2 in Study 8.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in February.....	13-34
Figure 13-30 Variation in X2 in Study 8.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in March.....	13-35
Figure 13-31 Variation in X2 in Study 8.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in April	13-35
Figure 13-32 Variation in X2 in Study 8.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in May.....	13-36

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
Figure 13-33 Variation in X2 in Study 8.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in June.....	13-36
Figure 13-34 Variation in X2 in Study 8.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in July	13-37
Figure 13-35 Variation in X2 in Study 8.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in August	13-37
Figure 13-36 Variation in X2 in Study 8.0 with respect to Study 6.1 in September	13-38
Figure 13-37 X2 in climate change studies. The bars represent 50 th percentile with 5 th and 95 th as the whisker.	13-39
Figure 13-38 May-September delta smelt salvage at the SWP Banks Pumping Plant, 1996-2005, with the start and end dates of Komeen or Nautique aquatic weed treatment indicated by the red diamonds.	13-48
Figure 13-39 Historical juvenile non-clipped winter-run Chinook loss, WY 1992-2007.....	13-69
Figure 13-40 Monthly juvenile Chinook loss versus average exports, December through June, 1993 through 2006, at each facility; SWP and CVP.	13-70
Figure 13-41 Monthly juvenile Chinook loss versus average Export/Inflow ratio, December through June, and January alone, 1993 through 2006, at each facility; SWP and CVP.....	13-71
Figure 13-42 Regression of winter-run Chinook cohort replacement rate (population growth rate) to winter-run Chinook juvenile loss at the SWP and CVP Delta exports, 1993-2007.....	13-72
Figure 13-43 Regression of spring-run Chinook cohort replacement rate (population growth rate) to spring-run Chinook surrogate loss at the SWP and CVP Delta exports, 1993-2007.....	13-73
Figure 13-44 Historical Juvenile Non-Clipped Steelhead Salvage, WY 1998-2007.....	13-73
Figure 13-45 Monthly steelhead salvage versus average exports, January through May, 1998 through 2006, at each facility; SWP and CVP.	13-74
Figure 13-46 Monthly steelhead salvage versus average Export/Inflow ratio in taf, January through May, and January alone, 1998 through 2006, at each facility; SWP and CVP.	13-75
Figure 13-47 Historical juvenile green sturgeon salvage, WY 1992 – 2007.....	13-76
Figure 13-48 Green sturgeon salvage at Banks grouped by water year type and month	13-76
Figure 13-49 Green sturgeon salvage at Jones grouped by water year type and month	13-77
Figure 13-50 Posterior means and medians.....	13-88
Figure 13-51 Total (all four runs) Chinook loss at the SWP Banks Pumping Plant two weeks before and after Komeen or Nautique aquatic weed treatment, 1995 – 1999.	13-98
Figure 13-52 Total (all four runs) Chinook loss at the SWP Banks Pumping Plant two weeks before and after Komeen or Nautique aquatic weed treatment, 2000 - 2006.....	13-99
Figure 13-53 Steelhead salvage at the SWP Banks Pumping Plant two weeks before and after Komeen or Nautique aquatic weed treatment, 1995 – 1999.....	13-100
Figure 13-54 Steelhead salvage at the SWP Banks Pumping Plant two weeks before	

Figure	Page
and after Komeen or Nautique aquatic weed treatment, 2000 – 2006.....	13-101
Figure 13-55 Percent of Sacramento River flow passing through the DCC during critically dry years under the three scenarios.	13-105
Figure 13-56 Percent of Sacramento River flow passing through Georgiana Slough during critically dry years under the three scenarios.	13-105
Figure 13-57 Percent of Sacramento River flow continuing down the main Sacramento River channel past the DCC and Georgiana Slough during critically dry years under the three scenarios.	13-106
Figure 13-58 Available Export Capacity at Banks Pumping Plant.....	13-126
Figure 13-59 Available Export Capacity at Jones Pumping Plant	13-127
Figure 16-1 The annual abundance indices for northern anchovies are generated from the San Francisco Bay Monitoring Program midwater trawl data.	16-7
Figure 16-2 Abundance of Northern Anchovy within four sections of the San Francisco Bay, 1980 through 2005. Data Source: CDFG 2005.	16-8
Figure 16-3 California Department of Fish and Game (1966) Ecological studies of the Sacramento-San Joaquin estuary; Part 1,: Zooplankton, zoobenthos, and fishes of San Pablo and Suisun Bays, zooplankton and zoobenthos of the Delta.....	16-9
Figure 16-4 San Francisco Bay starry flounder distribution (Source: California Department of Fish and Game/ Bay Delta Region web page (http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/baydelta/monitoring/stfl.asp)	16-10
Figure 16-5 Abundance estimates of starry flounder young-of-the-year (YOY) and age 1+, captured by otter trawl. Data source: California Department of Fish and Game/ Bay Delta Region web page. (http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/baydelta/monitoring/stflab.asp)	16-14
Figure 16-6 Life cycle timing for Sacramento River Chinook salmon. Adapted from Vogel and Marine (1991).	16-20
Figure 16-7 Central Valley fall-run Chinook salmon escapements, 1952-2007. Source: DFG data.	16-25
Figure 16-8 Fall-run Chinook salmon in-river escapement estimates in the California Central Valley, 2001-2007. Source: Interior (2008).	16-26
Figure 16-9 Fall-run Chinook salmon run-size for the Trinity River upstream of Willow Creek Weir from 1977 through 2006. *Natural area spawners includes both wild and hatchery fish that spawn in areas outside Trinity River Hatchery.....	16-28
Figure 16-10 Trinity River flows as at the town of Lewiston, 1980-2008. The top chart shows the entire hydrograph. The bottom chart shows a close-up of the 0 to 4000 cfs range.	16-29
Figure 16-11 Clear Creek fall-run Chinook salmon escapement, 1951-2000. Source: DFG data.....	16-30
Figure 16-12 Average daily flow in Clear Creek, 1996-2007.....	16-31
Figure 16-13 Fall-run Chinook salmon escapement in the Sacramento River, 1952-2007.	16-32

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
Figure 16-14 Sacramento River daily average flow at Keswick Dam from 1993-2001.	16-32
Figure 16-15 American River Chinook salmon escapement estimates, 1952-2007.....	16-34
Figure 16-16 American River flows as released from Nimbus Dam, 1993-2008. The top chart shows the entire hydrograph. The bottom chart shows a close-up of the 0 to 4000 cfs range.	16-36
Figure 16-17 Chinook salmon escapement in the Stanislaus River, 1952-2007.....	16-39
Figure 16-18 Stanislaus River Chinook salmon out-migration estimates past Caswell State Park during rotary screw trapping and prior year spawning escapement, 1996-2001.	16-39
Figure 16-19 Stanislaus River flow at Orange Blossom Bridge, 1993-2008. The top chart shows the entire hydrograph. The bottom chart shows a close-up of the 0 to 4000 cfs range.	16-41
Figure 16-20 Daily catch distribution of fall-run Chinook salmon caught at Live Oak and Thermalito rotary screw traps during 1998, 1999, and 2000 (trapping years a, b, and c, respectively).....	16-44
Figure 16-21 Escapement of fall-run Chinook salmon (1953-2007) in the FRH and river.	16-46
Figure 16-22 Stocking rates of juvenile salmon from the FRH into river and Bay-Delta locations.....	16-46
Figure 16-23 Mean monthly flows (cfs) in the Feather River for the pre-Oroville Dam (1902-67) and post-Oroville Dam (1968-93) periods.....	16-47
Figure 16-24 The percentage of salmon spawning in the Feather River low flow channel for 1969-2007. The increase is significant at the $P < 0.001$ level.....	16-48
Figure 16-25 Percent mortality of Chinook salmon from egg to fry in the Trinity River based on water temperature by water year type.	16-49
Figure 16-26 Sacramento River Fall-run Chinook Early Life-stage Mortality by Water Year Type.....	16-50
Figure 16-27 Sacramento River Late Fall-run Mortality by Year Type	16-50
Figure 16-28 Feather River Chinook Salmon Mortality.....	16-51
Figure 16-29 American River Chinook Salmon Mortality.....	16-52
Figure 16-30 Stanislaus River Chinook Salmon Mortality	16-53
Figure 17-1 Four separate “indices” of longfin smelt abundance in the San Francisco Estuary through 2006.....	17-4
Figure 17-2 Water operations impacts to the delta smelt population.	17-15

List of Tables

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
Table 1-1 Proposed CVP operational actions for consultation.	1-15
Table 1-2 Proposed SWP Operational Actions for Consultation.	1-19
Table 2-1 Major Proposed Future Operational Actions for Consultation.	2-2
Table 2-2 Water temperature objectives for the Trinity River during the summer, fall, and winter as established by the CRWQCB-NCR (California Regional Water Quality Control Board North Coast Region).	2-30
Table 2-3 Days of Spilling below Whiskeytown and 40-30-30 Index from Water Year 1978 to 2005.	2-32
Table 2-4 Minimum flows at Whiskeytown Dam from 1960 MOA with the DFG	2-34
Table 2-5 Current minimum flow requirements and objectives (cfs) on the Sacramento River below Keswick Dam.	2-37
Table 2-6 Shasta Temperature Control Device Gates with Elevation and Storage.	2-41
Table 2-7 Annual Water Delivery - American River Division	2-44
Table 2-8 San Joaquin base flows-Vernalis.	2-62
Table 2-9 Inflow characterization for the New Melones IPO.	2-63
Table 2-10 New Melones IPO flow objectives (in thousand af)	2-63
Table 2-11 Fundamental considerations used to define the New Melones Reservoir operations parameters.	2-65
Table 2-12 Wet Year effects	2-78
Table 2-13 Combined Minimum Instream Flow Requirements in the Feather River Below Thermalito Afterbay Outlet When Lake Oroville Elevation is Projected to be Greater vs. Less Than 733' in the Current Water Year.	2-83
Table 2-14 Historical Records of Releases from the Oroville Facilities in 2001 and 2002, by Downstream Use.	2-84
Table 2-15 High Flow Channel minimum flow requirements as measured downstream from the Thermalito Afterbay Outlet.	2-85
Table 2-16 Feather River Fish Hatchery Temperature Requirements	2-86
Table 2-17 Lower Feather River Flows and Temperature Management under Existing Conditions	2-87
Table 2-18 Water Year/Days in Flood Control/40-30-30 Index.	2-90
Table 2-19 Lower Feather River Ramping Rates	2-91
Table 2-20 Maximum Mean Daily Temperatures,	2-93
Table 2-21 Hatchery Water Temperatures	2-93
Table 2-22 LFC as Measured at Robinson Riffle.	2-95
Table 2-23 HFC as measured at Downstream Project Boundary.	2-96
Table 2-24 Aquatic herbicide applications in Clifton Court Forebay, 1995- Present.	2-100

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
Table 2-25 Total Annual Pumping at Banks and Jones Pumping Plant 1978-2007 (MAF)	2-120
Table 2-26 Consultation Processes Summary.....	2-135
Table 3-1 Adipose clip status of adult steelhead entering Nimbus Hatchery on the American River.	3-21
Table 3-2 American River steelhead spawning distribution, 2002-2007 (Hannon and Deason 2007). Data was not collected in 2006.	3-22
Table 4-1 Recommended water temperatures (°F) that provide for highest survival for life stages of steelhead in Central Valley streams from McEwan and Jackson (1996), Myrick (1998, 2000), Piper et al 1982, Bell 1991 Myrick and Cech (2001).	4-1
Table 4-2 Average WUA (expressed as 1,000 square feet of spawning area per 1,000 feet of stream) from 21 cross sections measured in 1995 in high-density Chinook spawning areas. Summarized from FWS 1997.	4-4
Table 4-3 Estimates of wild steelhead smolt production and hatchery smolt survival in the American River based on adult hatchery counts, spawner surveys and hatchery yearling releases (Hannon and Deason 2007).	4-6
Table 4-4 In-stream flows that would provide the maximum weighted usable area of habitat for rainbow trout and steelhead trout in the Stanislaus River between Goodwin Dam and Riverbank, California (Aceituno 1993).	4-6
Table 4-5 Estimated number of historical, pre-dam, and post-dam river miles available to steelhead (includes mainstem migratory, spawning, and rearing habitat). The extent of historical habitat is based on Chinook salmon distribution and should be considered minimum estimates for steelhead. Source: Yoshiyama et al. (1996).....	4-7
Table 4-6 Summary of potential salmonid migration barriers on Central Valley streams. Adapted from Yoshiyama et al. (1996).	4-7
Table 4-7 Stomach contents of adipose fin-clipped steelhead captured in Toe Drain of Yolo Bypass 1998 (DWR unpublished data).	4-23
Table 4-8 Production and release data for hatchery steelhead. ^a	4-27
Table 5-1 Historical upstream limits of winter-run Chinook salmon in the California Central Valley drainage (from Yoshiyama et al. 2001).	5-7
Table 5-2 Sacramento River winter-run and Central Valley spring-run escapements and cohort replacement rates. Brackets around years indicate preliminary data (data from DFG's Grandtab spreadsheet dated 3-7-2008).	5-10
Table 5-3 Comparison of RBDD winter-run Chinook escapement vs. carcass count (Peterson estimate) winter-run escapement.....	5-11
Table 5-4 Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon spawning distribution from aerial redd surveys grouped by 1987-92, 1993-2005, and all years combined.....	5-12
Table 5-5 Sacramento River winter-run and spring-run redd distribution 2001 through 2005 (winter) and 2001-2004 (spring).	5-12
Table 5-6 Dates of spring-run and fall-run Chinook salmon spawning at Baird	

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
Hatchery on the McCloud River (DFG 1998).....	5-13
Table 5-7 Recovery locations of hatchery-released spring-run and estimated number recovered, 1978 – 2002 (RMIS database). All are from the Featherly River Hatchery. Location identifiers with less than 8 recoveries (48 of them) are not shown.	5-19
Table 5-8 Clear Creek adult spring-run Chinook escapement, 1999-2006 (Source: FWS, unpublished data).	5-21
Table 5-9 Mill Creek spring-run Chinook salmon CRR.....	5-27
Table 5-10 Deer Creek spring-run Chinook salmon CRR.	5-28
Table 5-11 Butte Creek spring-run Chinook salmon CRR.....	5-30
Table 5-12 Feather River Spring-run Chinook Salmon CRR.....	5-32
Table 5-13 Spring Creek tunnel release volume, 1999-2004 compared to 2005.....	5-41
Table 5-14 Contribution of Nimbus Hatchery Chinook from brood year 2000 and 2001 to Central Valley rivers.....	5-42
Table 6-1 Recommended water temperatures for all life stages of Chinook salmon in Central Valley streams as presented in Boles et al. (1988). ^a	6-2
Table 6-2 Relationship between water temperature and mortality of Chinook salmon eggs and pre-emergent fry used in the Reclamation egg mortality model.	6-3
Table 6-3 Stage discharge relationship for the Clear Creek at Igo USGS gauge, Station 11372000.....	6-15
Table 6-4 Stage discharge relationship in the Sacramento River at Bend Bridge, gauge 11377100.....	6-15
Table 6-5 Stage discharge relationship in the Stanislaus River at Ripon, gauge 11303000.....	6-19
Table 6-6 Percent of winter-run and spring-run redds counted below Red Bluff Diversion Dam, 1987-2005. Data from Doug Killam, DFG.....	6-21
Table 6-7 Example of how the winter-run Chinook juvenile production estimate, and take levels are calculated using 2001-02 adult escapement data.....	6-36
Table 6-8 Total Chinook salmon salvage (all sizes combined) by year at the SWP and CVP salvage facilities (Source: DFG fish salvage database).....	6-40
Table 6-9 Average Chinook salmon salvage (all sizes and marks combined) by facility 1981 - 1992.....	6-41
Table 6-10 Average Chinook salmon salvage (all sizes and marks combined) by facility, 1993 - 2007.....	6-42
Table 6-11 Winter-run Chinook estimated harvest of code-wire tagged release groups (expanded from tag recoveries) by harvest location (data from RMIS database).	6-65
Table 6-12 Production data for Central Valley hatchery produced Chinook salmon.....	6-67
Table 6-13 Water temperature suitability criteria for Coho salmon life stages from DFG 2002a.	6-72

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
Table 8-1. The temporal occurrence of (a) adult, (b) larval and post-larval, (c) juvenile, and (d) coastal migrants of the southern DPS of North American green sturgeon. Locations are specific to the Central Valley of California. Darker shades indicate months of greatest relative abundance.	8-11
Table 8-2. Actual salvage of Southern DPS green sturgeon and white sturgeon at the Tracy Fish Collection Facility (Reclamation 2007a). GRN = Southern DPS green sturgeon, WHT = white sturgeon.	8-30
Table 8-3. Actual salvage of Southern DPS green sturgeon and white sturgeon at the Skinner Fish Protection Facility (Reclamation 2007a). GRN = Southern DPS green sturgeon, WHT = white sturgeon.	8-31
Table 9-1 Temporal and Simulation Characteristics.....	9-4
Table 9-2 Reclamation Temperature Model Key Output Locations.....	9-18
Table 9-3. SRWQM Model Key Output locations.....	9-21
Table 9-4 Summary of Assumptions in the OCAP BA Runs	9-34
Table 9-5. Assumptions for the Base and Future Studies	9-36
Table 9-6. Long-term Averages and 28-34 Averages From Each of the Five Studies.....	9-56
Table 9-7 Average Monthly WQCP and Total (b)(2) Costs by Month, Total Oct – Jan Costs, and Total Annual Costs for Study 6.0 Today.....	9-60
Table 9-8 Average Monthly WQCP and Total (b)(2) Costs by Month, Total Oct – Jan Costs, and Total Annual Costs for Study 7.0 Today.....	9-60
Table 9-9 Average Monthly WQCP and Total (b)(2) Costs by Month, Total Oct – Jan Costs, and Total Annual Costs for Study 7.1 Near Future	9-61
Table 9-10 Average Monthly WQCP and Total (b)(2) Costs by Month, Total Oct – Jan Costs, and Total Annual Costs for Study 8.0 Future	9-61
Table 9-11. Total (b)(2) Water Requested for Export Actions Versus Amount of (b)(2) Water Used	9-70
Table 9-12. Percent That Possible Occurrences Action Was Triggered	9-71
Table 9-13. Annual EWA Expenditures Simulated by CalSim-II, Averaged by Hydrologic Year Type, Defined According to the Sacramento River 40-30-30 Index.	9-72
Table 9-14. Instances of not Adhering to the EWA “No Harm Principle” (i.e., not repaying delivery debt in full upon assessment), Simulated by CalSim-II.....	9-74
Table 9-15. Definitions for the DSM2 output.....	9-83
Table 9-16. DSM2-Hydro tidally filtered daily average flow for water-years 1976 to 1991. Shading indicates negative (landward) flows. Positive flows are towards the ocean.....	9-85
Table 9-17. DSM2-Hydro tidally filtered daily average velocity for water-years 1976 to 1991. Shading indicates negative (landward) velocities. Positive velocities are towards the ocean.	9-86
Table 9-18. Injection Locations	9-87

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
Table 9-19. PTM Output.....	9-88
Table 9-20. Percent particle fate percentiles after 21 days for particle injection at node 7.	9-91
Table 9-21. Percent particle fate percentiles after 21 days for particle injection at node 249.	9-92
Table 9-22. Percent particle fate percentiles after 21 days for particle injection at node 350.	9-93
Table 9-23. Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Long-term Averages and 28-34 Averages.....	9-97
Table 9-24. Definitions for the DSM2 output.....	9-101
Table 9-25. DSM2-Hydro tidally filtered daily average flow for water-years 1976 to 1991. Shading indicates negative (landward) flows. Positive flows are towards the ocean.....	9-103
Table 9-26. DSM2-Hydro tidally filtered daily average flow for water-years 1976 to 1991. Shading indicates negative (landward) flows. Positive flows are towards the ocean.....	9-104
Table 9-27. DSM2-Hydro tidally filtered daily average velocity for water-years 1976 to 1991. Shading indicates negative (landward) velocities. Positive velocities are towards the ocean.	9-105
Table 9-28. DSM2-Hydro tidally filtered daily average velocity for water-years 1976 to 1991. Shading indicates negative (landward) velocities. Positive velocities are towards the ocean.	9-106
Table 10-1 Trinity River Longterm Annual Average.....	10-9
Table 10-2 Clear Creek Long-term Annual Average	10-20
Table 10-3. Shasta Storage, Spring Creek Tunnel Flow, and Keswick Release Longterm Annual Average	10-30
Table 10-4 Annual Availability of Oroville Facilities Temperature Management Actions in the Oroville Facilities Relicensing DEIR Proposed Project Alternative Simulation.	10-60
Table 10-5 Long-term Average Annual Impacts to Stanislaus River flows.....	10-81
Table 11-1. Temperature targets from 2004 OCAP BO used as evaluation criteria in this BA. Temperature targets are mean daily. Target points in the Sacramento and American River are determined yearly with input from the Sacramento River temperature group and American River ops group.....	11-2
Table 11-2. Summary of differences between the OCAP modeling studies.....	11-18
Table 11-3. Estimated bed mobility flows for affected Central Valley Rivers.	11-24
Table 11-4. Spring Creek tunnel release volume, 1999-2004 compared to 2005.....	11-29
Table 11-5. Number and Distribution of Spawning Fish (Adult Male and Female) Incorporated into Salmol Model.....	11-39
Table 11-6. Average survival proportions under four OCAP water operation scenarios and percent difference in average survival from study 7.0 for studies	

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
6.0, 7.1, and 8.0, 1923-2002 fro IOS model. . Study 7.0 represents current operations, 6.0 represents 2004 operations, 7.1 represents near future operations, and 8.0 represents future operations.....	11-53
Table 11-7. Acoustic tagged adult green sturgeon that passed downstream under the RBDD gates in 2007 and height of opening under gates in feet.	11-61
Table 11-8. Estimated entrainment and mortality of winter-run sized Chinook salmon at Red Bluff Pumping Plant pumps.....	11-63
Table 11-9. Estimated entrainment and mortality of spring-run sized Chinook salmon at Red Bluff Pumping Plant pumps.....	11-63
Table 11-10. Estimated entrainment and mortality of steelhead at Red Bluff Pumping Plant pumps.	11-64
Table 11-11. Timing and quantity of diversions based on past averages.*	11-65
Table 11-12. Timing and passage of juvenile salmonids past Red Bluff Diversion Dam. The line “% of year total” refers to the percent of the fish for the entire year that pass RBDD during that month.....	11-66
Table 11-13. Estimated entrainment of salmonids in unscreened diversions in the Sacramento River. Project water refers to water supplied by Reclamation and base water is water rights water.	11-68
Table 11-14. Rotary screw trap catches of sturgeon at GCID, 1994-2005.....	11-69
Table 11-15. Sturgeon captured at RBDD rotary screw traps	11-69
Table 11-16. Estimated entrainment of green sturgeon at unscreened diversions in the Sacramento River.	11-70
Table 11-17. Contribution of Nimbus Hatchery Chinook salmon from brood years 2000 and 2001 to Central Valley rivers based on coded wire tag returns.....	11-97
Table 12-1 Differences in annual Delta Inflow for Long-term average and the 1929-1934 Drought	12-1
Table 12-2 Differences in annual Delta Outflow and Excess Outflow for Long-term average and the 1929-1934 Drought.....	12-6
Table 12-3 Average Annual and Long-term Drought Differences in North Bay Aqueduct.....	12-25
Table 13-1 Comparison of total export pumping in studies 7.0, 7.1, and 8.0 with Study 6.1 for October.	13-10
Table 13-2 Comparison of total export pumping in studies 7.0, 7.1, and 8.0 with Study 6.1 for November.	13-10
Table 13-3 Comparison of total export pumping in studies 7.0, 7.1, and 8.0 with Study 6.1 for December.	13-11
Table 13-4 Comparison of total export pumping in studies 7.0, 7.1, and 8.0 with Study 6.1 for January.	13-11
Table 13-5 Comparison of total export pumping in studies 7.0, 7.1, and 8.0 with Study 6.1 for February.	13-12
Table 13-6 Comparison of total export pumping in studies 7.0, 7.1, and 8.0 with Study 6.1 for March.....	13-12

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
Table 13-7 Comparison of total export pumping in studies 7.0, 7.1, and 8.0 with Study 6.1 for April.....	13-13
Table 13-8 Comparison of total export pumping in studies 7.0, 7.1, and 8.0 with Study 6.1 for May.	13-13
Table 13-9 Comparison of total export pumping in studies 7.0, 7.1, and 8.0 with Study 6.1 for June.	13-14
Table 13-10 Comparison of total export pumping in studies 7.0, 7.1, and 8.0 with Study 6.1 for July.	13-14
Table 13-11 Comparison of total export pumping in studies 7.0, 7.1, and 8.0 with Study 6.1 for August.	13-15
Table 13-12 Comparison of total export pumping in studies 7.0, 7.1, and 8.0 with Study 6.1 for September.....	13-15
Table 13-13 Projected monthly net OMR flow for Wet + Above Normal years during months of adult delta smelt entrainment vulnerability.....	13-17
Table 13-14 Projected monthly net OMR flow for Wet + Above Normal years during months of juvenile delta smelt entrainment vulnerability	13-17
Table 13-15 Projected monthly net OMR flow for Below Normal + Dry years during months of adult delta smelt entrainment vulnerability.....	13-18
Table 13-16 Projected monthly net OMR flow for Below Normal + Dry years during months of juvenile delta smelt entrainment vulnerability	13-18
Table 13-17 Projected monthly net OMR flow for Critically Dry years during months of adult delta smelt entrainment vulnerability.....	13-18
Table 13-18 Projected monthly net OMR flow for Critically Dry years during months of juvenile delta smelt entrainment vulnerability	13-19
Table 13-19 Delta smelt.....	13-45
Table 13-20 Summary of listed fish captured at the Rock Slough Headworks and Pumping Plant 1 and amount of water diverted each year, 1998 – 2008.....	13-52
Table 13-21 Suisun Marsh Channel Water Standards 1/	13-64
Table 13-22 Average loss of winter-run, yearling-spring-run and young-of-the-year spring-run Chinook, and steelhead and green sturgeon salvage by export facility, water-year type and month.	13-78
Table 13-23 Average change in Banks and Jones pumping grouped by water year type.	13-80
Table 13-24 Average change in winter run, yearling spring run and young-of-the-year spring run loss, and steelhead and green sturgeon salvage by species, model, facility, water-year type and month assuming a direct relationship between monthly exports and monthly salvage.	13-81
Table 13-25 Chinook Salmon	13-94
Table 13-26 Steelhead.....	13-95
Table 13-27 Green Sturgeon	13-96
Table 13-28 Fraction of salvage sampled, fraction winter run of total Chinook loss based on genetic characterization, and fraction spring run of total	

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
Chinook loss based on genetic characterization. Time intervals are two weeks starting Mid-April and ending July.	13-102
Table 13-29 Estimated take of listed Chinook (winter and spring run), and steelhead in the Forebay during Komeen or Nautique aquatic weed treatments, 1995 – 2006.	13-103
Table 13-30 Summary of listed fish captured at the Rock Slough Headworks and Pumping Plant 1 and amount of water diverted each year, 1998 – 2008.....	13-108
Table 14-1. Summary of known and potential sightings of Southern Resident killer whales along the California coast.	14-5
Table 16-1 Starry flounder salvage at the SWP and CVP export facilities, 1981 – 2002.	16-16
Table 16-2 Fall-run and Late Fall-run Life History Traits (Data sources: Moyle et. al. 1995; Moyle 2002).	16-19
Table 16-3 Criteria defining suitable fall-run Chinook salmon spawning habitat (sources: Platts et al. 1979; Reiser and Bjornn 1979; Kondolf 1988; Hanrahan et al. 2004).	16-23
Table 16-4 Status of CAMP-monitored Central Valley stocks of Chinook salmon races using Pacific Salmon Commission methodology.	16-27
Table 16-5 Average weighted usable spawning area in the American River (expressed as 1,000 square feet of spawning area per 1,000 feet of stream) from 21 cross sections measured in 1996. Summarized from FWS 1997.	16-36
Table 16-6 Instream flows (cfs) that would provide the maximum weighted usable area of habitat for Chinook salmon in the Stanislaus River between Goodwin Dam and Riverbank.	16-42
Table 16-7 Stanislaus River summary of past smolt survival tests.....	16-43
Table 18–1 Summary of CVPIA accomplishments – 1992–2007.....	18-2

List of Abbreviations/Acronyms

°F	degrees Fahrenheit
°C	degrees Celsius
1995 Bay-Delta Plan	San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary
8500 Banks	Banks Pumping Plant
ACID	Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District
af	acre-feet
af/yr	acre-feet per year
AFRP	Anadromous Fish Restoration Program
ALPI	aleutian low pressure index
ANN	Artificial Neural Network
ARG	American River Group
ASIP	Action Specific Implementation Plan
Authority	San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority
B2IT	CVPIA Section 3406 (b)(2) Implementation Team
BA	biological assessment
Banks	Banks Pumping Plant
BDCP	Bay Delta Conservation Plan
BO	biological opinions
BR	breached
BY	brood year
CA	California Aqueduct
Cal EPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CALFED	CALFED Bay-Delta Program
CalSim II	California Simulation computer model
CAMP	Comprehensive Assessment and Monitoring Program
CCC	Contra Costa Canal

CCF	Clifton Court Forebay
CCWD	Contra Costa Water District
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFC	California Fish Commission
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
CHO	Constant Head Orifice
City	City of Sacramento
cm	centimeters
CMARP	Comprehensive Monitoring Assessment and Research Program
COA	Coordinated Operation Agreement
Conjunctive Use Agreements	Principles of Agreement for Proposed Conjunctive Use Agreements
Corps	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
cpm	catch per minute
CPUE	catch per unit effort
CRR	Cohort Replacement Rate
CRWQ CB-NCR	California Regional Water Quality Control Board-North Coast Region
CVOO	Bureau of Reclamation's Central Valley Operations Office
CVP	Central Valley Project
CVPA	Central Valley Project Act
CVPIA	Central Valley Project Improvement Act
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWT	coded-wire-tag
D-1485	SWRCB Decision 1485
DAT	CVPIA Section 3406 (b)(2) Data Assessment Team

DBEEP	Delta-Bay Enhanced Enforcement Program
DCC	Delta Cross Channel
Delta	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
DFG	California Department of Fish and Game
DMC	Delta-Mendota Canal
DO	dissolved oxygen
DPS	Distinct Population Segment
DSM2	Delta Simulation Model 2
DSDT	delta smelt decision tree
DW	dewatered (at some point throughout the year)
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
E/I	export/inflow
EBMUD	East Bay Municipal Utility District
EC	electroconductivity
EFH	essential fish habitat
E/I	Export/Inflow Ratio
EID	El Dorado Irrigation District
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIR/EIS	Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ERP	Ecosystem Restoration Program
ESA	(Federal) Endangered Species Act
ESU	Evolutionarily Significant Unit
EWA	Environmental Water Account
EWAT	Environmental Water Account Team
FB	flashboards removed during winter

FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Fisheries Agreement	Principles of Agreement for Proposed Lower Yuba River Fisheries Agreement
FL	Fork length
FLD	fish ladder
FMWT	Fall Midwater Trawl Survey
FPA	Federal Power Act
FRH	Feather River Hatchery
FRWA	Freeport Regional Water Authority
FRWP	Freeport Regional Water Project
ft/s	foot/feet per second
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
GCID	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
GIS	geographic information system
GLM	Generalized Linear Models
GORT	Gate Operations Review Team
GS	Georgiana Slough
GSI	Genetic Stock Identification
HFC	high-flow channel
HGMP	Hatchery Genetics Management Plan
HORB	Head of Old River Barrier
IEP	Interagency Ecological Program
ID	Irrigation District
IFIM	Instream Flow Incremental Methodology
IHN	Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis
Interior	U.S. Department of the Interior
IOS	Interactive Object-Oriented Salmon Simulation
IPO	Interim Plan of Operation

IWOFF	Integrated Water Operations Fisheries Forum
Jones	C.W. “Bill” Jones Pumping Plant. Formerly known as Tracy Pumping Plant
JPE	Juvenile Production Estimate
JPOD	joint point of diversion
KCWA	Kern County Water Agency
KFE	Kern Fan Element
km	kilometer
LFC	low-flow channel
LOD	Level of Development
LP	linear programming
LWD	large woody debris
M&I	municipal and industrial
maf	million acre-feet
Magnuson-Stevens Act	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
MAs	Management Agencies (FWS, NOAA Fisheries, and DFG for EWA)
mg/L	milligrams per liter
mgd	millions of gallons per day
MIB	methylisoborneol
MIDS	Morrow Island Distribution System
MILP	mixed integer linear programming
MLR	multiple linear regression
mm	millimeters
mmhos/cm	millimhos per centimeter
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
mS/cm	milliSiemens per centimeter

OCAP BA

msl	mean sea level
NBA	North Bay Aquaduct
NCCPA	Natural Community Conservation Planning Act
NCWA	Northern California Water Association
NDO	Net Delta Outflow
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGVD	National Geodetic Vertical Datum
NMIPO	New Melones Interim Plan of Operation
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA Fisheries	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (also know as National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS])
NOD	North of Delta
NRC	National Research Council
OCAP	Operations Criteria and Plan
OFF	Operations and Fishery Forum
OID	Oakdale Irrigation District
ONCC	Oregon/Northern California Coast
Ops Group	CALFED Operations Coordination Group
PAs	Project Agencies (DWR and Reclamation)
PCBs	Polychlorinated biphenyls
PCWA	Olacer County Water Agency
PEIS	Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
PFMC	Pacific Fishery Management Council
PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric
PHABSIM	Physical Habitat Simulation
PIT	passive integrated transponder
POD	Pelagic Organic Decline
POP	Persistent organic pollutants

ppm	parts per million
ppt	parts per trillion
Project	CVP and SWP (as in CVP and SWP water rights)
PSL	Pre-screen loss
psu	Practical Salinity Units
RBDD	Red Bluff Diversion Dam
Reclamation	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
RM	River Marker (similar to mile marker)
RMIS	Regional Mark Information System
ROD	Record of Decision
RPA	reasonable and prudent alternative
RRDS	Roaring River Distribution System
RST	rotary screw (fish) trap
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SA	Settlement Agreement
SAFCA	Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
Salmod model	A computer model that simulates the dynamics of freshwater salmonid populations
SCDD	Spring Creek Debris Dam
SCE	Southern California Edison
SCWA	Sacramento County Water Agency
SDFE	South Delta Fish Facility Forum
SDIP	South Delta Improvement Project
SDP	Station Development Plan
SDTB	South Delta Temporary Barriers
SJRA	San Joaquin River Agreement
SJRTC	San Joaquin River Technical Committee
SJRWR	San Joaquin River water rights

SL	sloped dam
SMPA	Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement
SMSCG	Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates
SMWC	Sutter Mutual Water Company
SOD	South of Delta
SOD	Safety of Dams
SONCC	Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast
SPME	Solid Phase Micro-extraction
SRCD	Suisun Resource Conservation District
SRPP	Spring-run Chinook Salmon Protection Plan
SRTTG	Sacramento River Temperature Task Group
SRWQM	Sacramento River Water Quality Management
SSJID	South San Joaquin Irrigation District
SWP	State Water Project
SVWMP	Sacramento Valley Water Management Program (Phase 8)
SWRCB	(California) State Water Resources Control Board
SWRI	Surface Water Resources, Inc.
T&E	Threatened and Endangered
taf	thousand acre-feet
TAO	Thermalito Afterbay Outlet
TCCA	Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
TCD	temperature control device
TDS	total dissolved solids
TFCF	Tracy Fish Collection Facility
TFFIP	Tracy Fish Facility Improvement Program
TFPL	Trust for Public Lands
TNS	Townet Survey

TU	temperature units
U.S.C.	United States Code
UN	unscreened diversion
USFC	U.S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
USFRHAC	Upper Sacramento River Fisheries and Riparian Habitat Advisory Council
VAMP	Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan
VSP	Viable Salmonid Population
Water Purchase Agreement	Principles of Agreement for Proposed Long-term Transfer Agreement
WDSC	(Metropolitan) Water District of Southern California
Western	Western Area Power Administration
Westlands	Westlands Water District
WOMT	Water Operations Management Team
Working Group	Delta Smelt Working Group
WQCP	Water Quality Control Plan
WRESL	Water Resources Engineering Simulation Language
WTP	Water Treatment Plant
WUA	weighted usable (spawning) area
WY	water year
YCWA	Yuba County Water Agency
YOY	young-of-the-year

Preface

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) propose to operate the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) to divert, store, re-divert, and convey CVP and SWP (Project) water consistent with applicable law and contractual obligations. These operations are summarized in this biological assessment (BA) and described in more detail in Chapter 2.

This BA is intended to provide a thorough analysis of the continued long-term operations of the CVP and SWP and the effects of those operations on listed species and designated Critical Habitat. The document is divided into chapters. Chapter 1 outlines the statutory, regulatory and other parameters that influence Project operations. Chapter 2 is the complete project description. Chapters 3 and 4 address basic biology, life history, and baseline of Central Valley steelhead and factors that may influence their distribution and abundance. Chapters 5 and 6 address basic biology, life history, and baseline of winter-run Chinook and Coho salmon and factors that may influence their distribution and abundance. Chapter 7 addresses basic biology, life history, and baseline of delta smelt and factors that may influence their distribution and abundance. Chapter 8 addresses basic biology, life history, and baseline of green sturgeon and factors that may influence their distribution and abundance. Chapter 9 articulates the assumptions made in the modeling used in the effects analysis. Chapters 10 through 13 are the effects analyses. Chapter 14 addresses effects of Project operations on southern Killer Whales. Chapter 15 is the summary of the effects analyses and effects determinations. Chapter 16 addresses Essential Fish Habitat. Chapter 17 addresses technical assistance for longfin smelt. Chapter 18 is a discussion of ongoing actions to improve habitat and lessen Project impacts.

The CVP and the SWP are two major inter-basin water storage and delivery systems within California that divert and re-divert water from the southern portion of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta). Both CVP and SWP include major reservoirs upstream of the Delta, and transport water via natural watercourses and canal systems to areas south and west of the Delta. The CVP also includes facilities and operations on the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers. The major facilities on these rivers are New Melones and Friant Dams, respectively.

The projects are permitted by the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to store water during wet periods, divert water that is surplus to the Delta, and re-divert Project water that has been stored in upstream reservoirs. Both projects operate pursuant to water right permits and licenses issued by the SWRCB to appropriate water by diverting to storage or by directly diverting to use and re-diverting releases from storage later in the year. As conditions of their water right permits and licenses, the SWRCB requires the CVP and SWP to meet specific water quality, quantity, and operational criteria within the Delta and on various project-controlled rivers. Reclamation and DWR closely coordinate the CVP and SWP operations, respectively, to meet these conditions.

The project description for this BA includes the ongoing operations of the CVP and SWP and potential future actions that are foreseeable to occur within the period covered by the project description. Inclusion of future activities in the project description does not constitute agency approval of those actions. Any future actions will be required to comply with all applicable laws, including those regarding agency decision making, before those actions are approved or implemented. The Biological Opinions (BOs) issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife

Service (FWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in compliance with the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) as a result of this Section 7 consultation will be considered in the decision making process on future actions as the BOs will analyze the effects of those potential actions on listed species.

The proposed action in this consultation includes activities undertaken by DWR in operating the SWP. As such, DWR will also consult with the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), as may be appropriate, to address applicable requirements of the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). This BA will serve to describe the proposed SWP activities to be consulted under CESA.

The listed species and designated Critical Habitat to be analyzed in this document have been derived from species lists provided by FWS and NMFS. The species analyzed in this document under the jurisdiction of FWS are delta smelt. The species analyzed in this document under the jurisdiction of NMFS are: winter-run Chinook salmon, spring-run Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, Central Valley steelhead, green sturgeon, and southern Killer Whales. Supplemental information regarding longfin smelt is also provided.

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