



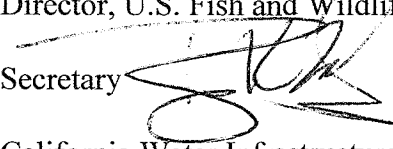
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

AUG 17 2018

Memorandum

To: Solicitor
Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
Assistant Secretary – Water and Science
Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

From: Secretary 

Subject: California Water Infrastructure¹

Leadership in California and at the Department of the Interior (Department) has spent decades evaluating the need to improve the water infrastructure and water delivery situation in California's Central Valley Project. While the Federal and State Governments have engaged in negotiations, our infrastructure has degraded. Communities have been harmed, productive land has stood fallow, and the populations of fish these particular water delivery limitations were intended to protect have seen no meaningful improvements.

The Central Valley Project is an important project operated by the Bureau of Reclamation. It is a major water source for farms, families, industry, and fish and wildlife in California. It is a significant contributor in facilitating California's ability to produce more than a third of our Nation's vegetables and two-thirds of our fruits and nuts.

Today, the Central Valley Project is in such a desperate state of disrepair that it cannot effectively achieve its design capacity operations without the assistance of California's own State Water Project to move water. Beyond neglecting our infrastructure, actions taken by the various agencies have significantly reduced the water available for delivery south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

The State of California is now proposing additional unacceptable restrictions that further reduce the Department's ability to deliver water to Federal contractors. Our operational needs and our environmental regulations must innovate, incorporate best science, implement best practices, and produce greater reliability and better stewardship. The time for action is now.

Therefore, I direct:

- Within 15 days, the Assistant Secretary – Water and Science, the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, and the Solicitor shall jointly develop and provide to the Office of the Deputy Secretary an initial plan of action that must contain options for:
 - maximizing water supply deliveries;

- better incorporating best science into real-time and long-term decision making;
 - streamlining the Endangered Species Act consultation and National Environmental Policy Act processes to more expeditiously modify long-term Central Valley Project operations;
 - moving to construction of new water storage;
 - identifying and making infrastructure improvements necessary to independently operate the Central Valley Project;
 - reassessing legal interpretations, which were adopted prior to the existence of the significant constraints on Central Valley Project operations and those enacted since 2009;
 - resolving issues with the State of California regarding the Coordinated Operations Agreement, the California Water Fix, and the potential enhancement of Shasta Dam;
 - preparing legislative and litigation measures that may be taken to maximize water supply deliveries to people; and
 - coordinating between the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Within 10 days after receiving the initial plan of action, the Office of the Deputy Secretary shall provide me with a final recommendation for action. Such a recommendation must include specific objectives and implementation timelines, identify the accountable official, and be designed to meet any legal procedural requirements by the earliest possible date.