3.2 OTHER REVISIONS TO THE DRAFT EIR

A commenter questioned why the list of project objectives in the Draft EIR (Section 1.1, "Project Purpose, Need, and Objectives") did not list additional species of anadromous fish that would benefit from enhancement of shaded riverine aquatic (SRA) habitat on the Sacramento River. In response to Comment D-1, the last bulleted item on page 1-1 of the Draft EIR is expanded, as follows:

- Provide shaded riverine aquatic (SRA) habitat for federally listed endangered winter-run Chinook salmon, threatened spring-run Chinook salmon, species of concern fall-/late-fall-run Chinook salmon, threatened steelhead, and proposed threatened green sturgeon.

The same change is hereby made to the same bulleted item that is part of a list of project objectives on page 3-3 of the Draft EIR.

Following publication of the Draft EIR in June 2005, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) issued final rulings that resulted in designation of critical habitat for spring-run Chinook salmon and steelhead, and changes in listing status for green sturgeon. Federal listing status for fall-/late-fall-run Chinook salmon and Sacramento splittail were corrected to be listed as species of concern. Table 4.4-3 and related text on page 4.4-18 of the Draft EIR is revised to reflect these changes in listings for fish species, as follows:

Chinook Salmon

Four runs of Chinook salmon occur in the Sacramento River, including fall-, late fall-, winter-, and spring-run. The distribution and abundance of each run is limited by the availability of suitable habitat during their respective spawning seasons. Chinook salmon use this portion of the Sacramento River as a migratory pathway for adults and as rearing habitat for emigrating juveniles. Fall-run Chinook salmon is the most abundant ESU, documented to comprise about 80% of the Sacramento Basin stock in the early 1980s (Kjelson et al. 1982). Under ESA, an ESU is considered a population (or group of populations) that is reproductively isolated from other populations of the same species and that contributes substantially to the ecological/genetic diversity of the species (Waples 1991). Different runs of the same salmon species are often considered separate ESUs because the populations are reproductively isolated due to different spawning times. The portion of the Sacramento River within the project study area (along with other areas) is designated as critical habitat for winter-run Chinook salmon. It was also proposed as critical habitat for Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead in November 2004; a final ruling was issued in August 2005 that designated the Sacramento River within the project study area as critical habitat for these species. ~~rule is expected in June 2005.~~ Critical habitat includes the river water, river bottom, and adjacent riparian zone (i.e., those adjacent terrestrial areas that directly affect a freshwater aquatic ecosystem).

Table 4.4-3
Special-status Fish with Potential to Occur Adjacent to the Project Area

Species	Status [1]			Habitat
	Federal	State	MSCS Goals [2]	
Chinook salmon – Sacramento River winter-run *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*	E	E	R	Rivers and streams, including the Sacramento River.
Chinook salmon - Central Valley spring-run *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*	T	T	R	Rivers and streams, including the Sacramento River.
Chinook salmon - Central Valley fall-/late-fall-run	SC~~—~~	SSC	R	Rivers and streams, including the Sacramento River.

Table 4.4-3
Special-status Fish with Potential to Occur Adjacent to the Project Area

Species	Status [1]			Habitat
	Federal	State	MSCS Goals [2]	
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha				
Central Valley steelhead *Oncorhynchus mykiss*	T	—	R	Rivers and streams, including the Sacramento River.
Sacramento splittail *Pogonichthys macrolepidotus*	SC~~—~~	SSC	R	Bay-Delta and associated rivers and streams, including the Sacramento River.
Green sturgeon *Acipenser medirostris*	PT~~C~~	SSC	R	Bay-Delta and associated large rivers, including the Sacramento River.

[1] Legal Status Definitions

Federal		State	
E	Endangered	E	Endangered
T	Threatened	T	Threatened
~~C~~	~~Candidate for listing~~	SSC	Species of Special Concern
SC	Species of Concern		
PT	Proposed Threatened		

[2] Multi-Species Conservation Strategy Goals

R Recovery. Recover species' populations within the MSCS focus area to levels that ensure the species' long-term survival in nature.

r Contribute to recovery. Implement some of the actions deemed necessary to recover species' populations within the MSCS focus area.

m Maintain. Ensure that any adverse effects on the species that could be associated with implementation of CALFED actions will be fully offset through implementation of actions beneficial to the species (CALFED 2000b).

Furthermore, the last sentence at the end of the first paragraph under the section, "Other Special-status Fish," on page 4.4-19 of the Draft EIR is corrected as follows:

> The portion of the Sacramento River within the project study area (and areas beyond) was ~~proposed~~ designated as critical habitat for Central Valley steelhead on August 12, 2005~~ in November 2004; a final rule is expected in June 2005~~.

The change in listing for green sturgeon requires an additional correction under the same section of the Draft EIR. Under the section, "Other Special-status Fish," the following sentence is added to the beginning of the last paragraph under that section, as follows:

> On April 6, 2005, NOAA Fisheries proposed a threatened status listing for the southern distinct population segment of North American green sturgeon. Green sturgeon occur in the lower reaches of large rivers, including the Sacramento-San Joaquin River basin, and in the Eel, Mad, Klamath and Smith Rivers.