



IN REPLY
REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825-1898

OCT 07 1996

MP-400
ENV-4.00

Hilda Diaz-Soltero
Regional Director
National Marine Fisheries Service
501 West Ocean Blvd, Suite 4200
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

Subject: Request for Reinitiation of Consultation Under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act on Behalf of Reclamation District 108 to Amend the Current Biological Opinion to Allow for an Adjustment of the Schedule for Completing a Positive Barrier Screen at Wilkins Slough

Dear Ms. ^{Hilda}~~Diaz-Soltero~~:

On behalf of Reclamation District 108 (District) we request reinitiation of formal consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to address the recent decision by the District to discontinue the experimental fish barrier testing at the Wilkins Slough Diversion and to focus on the construction of a positive barrier screen. This decision, as discussed at the meeting of August 15, 1996, was based primarily on the determination by involved resource agencies that the sound and electrical barrier testing over the last 4 years had not produced the level of fish protection desired for winter-run chinook salmon nor had the barrier met the effectiveness criteria prescribed in the current amended Biological Opinion dated March 29, 1996.

On August 16, 1996, the District's Board of Trustees voted to proceed with planning, design, and installation of a positive barrier fish screen as the long-term solution for fish protection at the Wilkins Slough diversion. As further discussed at the above meeting with the District and involved resource agencies, the District will need additional time with which to complete some of the tasks outlined in the schedule provided in the amended Biological Opinion. The District is currently reviewing the schedule and will have some date changes and recommendations for your consideration by the end of the month.

As further agreed at the August 15, 1996, meeting, Reclamation and/or the Fish and Wildlife Service will initiate consultation for the positive barrier fish screen project. We understand that this process will also provide for an incidental take statement which will address the District's six other smaller diversions. The District is currently soliciting proposals from consultants for the design and construction of the positive barrier screen.

If you have any questions regarding this request for reinitiation, please do not hesitate to call Ron Brockman at (916) 979-2323 (TDD 979-2310).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger K. Patterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "P".

Roger K. Patterson
Regional Director

cc: See attached list

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