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COURT ORDERS PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION ON SALMON BIOLOGICAL OPINION

Earlier this year, state and federal water contractors requested a preliminary injunction on the salmon biological opinion. The biological opinion, which sets guidelines for water operations in an attempt to protect the fish, required new restrictions on water exports from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. A federal court granted the injunction today, stating that the federal agencies responsible for drafting the biological opinion must take into account human impacts and also must demonstrate why certain water export restrictions were called for in the opinion. This decision is one step in the court's analysis of the biological opinion. A hearing to establish interim operation guidelines is set for tomorrow, May 19.

Sacramento, CA – “The federal court’s decision opens the door to protecting the Delta’s treasured salmon populations through better and more flexible management of the water projects in a manner that does not needlessly cost the economy water supplies. The water projects have operated at a tenth of their full capacity over the past month as upstream reservoirs have been releasing water to avoid spilling due to the late season storms. Beyond a more flexible approach to water operations based on real-time conditions, we need to address environmental harms caused by other factors so that the Delta and its salmon are truly on a path to recovery.”

**Laura King Moon
Assistant General Manager
State Water Contractors**

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The State Water Contractors is a statewide, non-profit association of 27 public agencies from Northern, Central and Southern California that purchase water under contract from the California State Water Project. Collectively the State Water Contractors deliver water to more than 25 million residents throughout the state and more than 750,000 acres of agricultural lands. For more information on the State Water Contractors, please visit www.swc.org.