

Joe Grindstaff,
Executive Director
Delta Stewardship Council

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Joe,

During the brief discussion of Delta port impact issues at the Friday, February 10, 2012 DSC meeting, a commenter stated that the low-DO problem in the San Joaquin River (SJR) Deep Water Ship Channel (DWSC) was not caused by the Port of Stockton but rather was caused by discharges of oxygen-demanding substances upstream of the DWSC; he stated that the Port of Stockton was not involved in this matter. That position is incorrect; it has been well-established that the existence of the Port of Stockton and the Deep Water Ship Channel leading to the Port creates the conditions for the low-DO problem. The existence of those facilities lengthens the water residence time in that area sufficiently to allow the exertion of the oxygen demand in the channel and resultant low dissolved oxygen levels there. Without the DWSC, there would not be a low-DO problem in the SJR.

I became involved in the SJR DWSC low-DO issues in 1989 when I served as an advisor to the DeltaKeeper, which evolved into my becoming a technical consultant to the SJR Low-DO TMDL Steering Committee. Dr. Jones-Lee and I subsequently became the PIs for the \$2-million, two-year, 12-investigator CALFED-supported low-DO study. Our extensive publications on this issue include our final project synthesis report:

Lee, G. F., and Jones-Lee, A., "Synthesis and Discussion of Findings on the Causes and Factors Influencing Low DO in the San Joaquin River Deep Water Ship Channel near Stockton, CA: Including 2002 Data," Report Submitted to SJR DO TMDL Steering Committee/Technical Advisory Committee and CALFED Bay-Delta Program, G. Fred Lee & Associates, El Macero, CA, March (2003). <http://www.gfredlee.com/SJR-Delta/SynthesisRpt3-21-03.pdf>

We have published several updated reviews of this issue that are on our website, www.gfredlee.com in the Watershed Studies San Joaquin River Delta section at <http://www.gfredlee.com/psjriv2.htm> including a recently updated discussion of this issue:

Lee, G. F., and Jones-Lee, A., "Issues in Controlling Residual Oxygen Demand in SJR DWSC That Leads to Violations of DO WQO," PowerPoint Slides, G. Fred Lee & Associates, El Macero, CA, February (2011).
<http://www.gfredlee.com/SJR-Delta/Issues-Ox-Demand-DWSC-Ppt.pdf>

Lee, G. F., "Comments on SWRCB Review of South Delta Channel Water Quality," Report of G. Fred Lee & Associates, El Macero, CA, January 15 (2011).
<http://www.gfredlee.com/SJR-Delta/SoDeltaWQ1-11.pdf>

Lee, G. F., and Jones-Lee, A., "Issues in Controlling the Residual Oxygen Demand in the SJR DWSC That Leads to DO WQO Violations," Report of G. Fred Lee & Associates, El Macero, CA, November 3, 2010; updated February 6 (2011).
<http://www.gfredlee.com/SJR-Delta/Residual-Ox-Demand-DWSC.pdf>

As part of the development of the TMDLs for responsible parties for the SJR DWSC low-DO problem, the CVRWQCB named the Port of Stockton as one of the responsible parties that must work with the other Responsible Parties to fund the solution to this problem. Additional information on these issues is available at <http://www.sjrdotmdl.org/background.html>.

Please contact me if there are questions on these issues.

Fred

G. Fred Lee, PhD, BCEE, F.ASCE

G. Fred Lee & Associates

El Macero, CA 95618

gfredlee@aol.com

www.gfredlee.com