

# Decree Party FFMP 2017 Study Updates

DRBC's RFAC Meeting

April 9, 2019

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# Decree Party Approach

- RFAC identified as primary avenue to share updates, receive comments and interact with the public:
  - FFMP2017 Recital 11. “... The Decree Parties will continue to seek public input as they implement the 2017 Flexible Flow Management Program (FFMP2017) and negotiate successor agreements.”
- Engaged RFAC’s Subcommittee on Ecological Flows (SEF) to review and advise on use of IERQ banks (March 2018)
- Heard from interested parties at RFAC in May 2018 (as well as today)
- Receive input on FFMP2017 study documents (today)
- Continue process at future RFAC meetings

# Seeking Public Comments on Two Documents

- Draft General Study Workplan
  - List of studies to be undertaken, general approach, due dates and deliverables
- Draft Salinity Study Statement
  - Statement on overall approach of study, detailed scope of work developed next
- Documents released in January 2019 via RFAC announcement and DRBC website

# Considerations for Studies (from FFMP 2017)

- Coordination with DRBC plans and programs
- Climate change and sea level rise
- Thermal mitigation for habitat and ecological protection
- Rapid flow change mitigation
- Alternate uses of the F.E. Walter Reservoir
- Montague and Trenton flow objectives
- Drought management
- Flood mitigation
- Optimization of use of other sources of augmentation flows
- Endangered species
- Cold and warm-water and migratory fishery resources
- Estuary and bay ecological health
- Other relevant conditions

# Draft General Study Workplan

- Outlines studies, timelines and overall approach for each study identified in FFMP 2017
- Studies:
  - IERQ Banks
  - Balancing Adjustment
  - October, 2017 to May 31, 2023 Studies
    - Storage
    - Salinity
    - NJ Diversion
  - June 1 2023 to May 31, 2028
    - ERQ Calculation

# Draft Salinity Study Statement

- Outlines overall approach and objective of the study
  - Detailed scope to be developed
- Interagency salinity scoping group formed
  - ODRM, Decree Parties, DRBC, USGS, ACOE, DOE and others
- Expert panel to review results planned
- Complementary DRBC modeling and planning activities related to study

# Comment Period and Next Steps

- Verbal comments accepted today
- Written comments (encouraged) accepted through April 15th
  - Submit to: [klrussell@usgs.gov](mailto:klrussell@usgs.gov)
- Comments compiled from today's discussion and written comments
- Submitted to Decree Parties for review and consideration for incorporation into final documents
- Final documents and future draft documents related to studies will be shared at upcoming RFAC meetings