

Water Operations Management Team Notes

Water Year 2025 – February 12, 2025

Members Attending

- Reclamation: Present
- USFWS: Present
- CDFW: Present
- NMFS: Present
- DWR: Present
- SWRCB: Present

Topics/Actions

- Approval of Meeting Notes and Off-Cycle Meeting Notes from last week: Approved
- Upcoming Meetings
 - Salmonid Monitoring Team (SaMT, meets weekly on Tuesdays): 02/18
 - Smelt Monitoring Team (SMT, meets as needed on Tuesdays, met on): 01/28
 - Feather River Operations Group (meets monthly first and third Thursdays): 02/20
 - American River Group (meets monthly on third Thursday, and as needed): 02/20
 - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (meets monthly on third Wednesday): 02/19
 - Clear Creek Technical Team (meets quarterly on third Thursday): 03/20
 - Sacramento River Group (meets monthly on fourth Thursday, but maybe changing): 02/27
 - Shasta Operations Team (SHOT, meeting frequency and timing TBD)
 - Winter-run JPE Sub-Team (as needed): met on 12/20
- Relevant Assessments
 - 20250211 Fish and Water Operations Outlook
 - DWR Spring-run Weekly Assessment 2025-02-11

- Operational Updates
 - CVP: Trinity River release is 3,500 cfs for a safety dam release and will hold here for some time. Clear Creek (Whiskeytown Dam) release is 300 cfs. Sacramento River (Keswick) release is 60,000 cfs and will be reducing to 40,000 cfs tomorrow. American River (Nimbus) release is 2,500 cfs and will be increasing to 5,000 cfs on Saturday. Stanislaus River (Goodwin) release is 200 cfs. The winter instability flows will start tomorrow and peak at 1,200 cfs, with a recession back to 200 cfs by Tuesday. Reclamation's Delta exports are currently at maximum capacity at 4,200 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 668 TAF. Delta Cross Channel Gates are closed and will remain closed until May, unless there is a water quality issue.
 - SWP: Feather River (Oroville-Thermalito Complex) releases are at 25,000 cfs and decreasing at the end of this week. Clifton Court Forebay exports are at 1,800 cfs. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 933 TAF.
- Hydrology Update (DWR and Reclamation)
 - Storm is passing through Wednesday and much of tomorrow. This storm is more widespread than previous storms and is also expected to be a bit colder. There is likely to be some increased flow in the San Joaquin River due to the storm.

Upcoming Actions, Updates, or Discussion Items

- Reclamation:
 - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- USFWS:
 - No upcoming actions or discussion items.
 - Update: WOMT Charter.
- CDFW:
 - No upcoming actions or discussion items.
 - Update: SaMT Risk Assessment.
- NMFS:
 - No upcoming actions or updates.
 - Discussion Item: SaMT Meeting Frequency.
- DWR:
 - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- SWRCB:
 - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.

Discussion Items

- WOMT Charter
 - The Sub-Cubs currently have an outline for the WOMT charter, which is focused on membership roles of all agencies along with: the process for communicating, making decisions, and how the elevation process works. As more progress is made on the WOMT charter, it will be shared with relevant staff.
 - CDFW proposed to remove individual names from WOMT notes, suggesting that noting agencies present is sufficient. Monitoring team notes that are posted do not have individual names present and only speak on agencies comment and position. The Sub-Cubs are in agreement for not having individual names in draft or final WOMT notes. CDFW requested that individual names be removed from the notes from this year that have not been posted online and only note agency presence.
 - Reclamation, USFWS, CDFW, NMFS, DWR, and SWRCB agree with this approach.
 - SWRCB asked if an agency designates a substitute who is not an official WOMT member, is that a critical criterion for noting agency representation?
 - CDFW responded that in that circumstance, noting there was an acting member or participant for the agency shows the agency was present, but not the official WOMT member(s).
- SaMT Risk Assessment
 - CDFW is seeking clarification on an item discussed in the *DWR Spring-run Weekly Assessment 2025-02-11* that was sent to WOMT, which states "subdirectors are discussing length, format, and use of the risk assessment". CDFW wanted to note it was not their understanding and does not believe that this item has been elevated to subdirectors.
- SaMT Meeting Frequency
 - NMFS stated that its BiOp and the PA do not impose any terms of frequency for SaMT meetings. Does SaMT need to meet to discuss the Spring-run weekly assessment or is emailing sufficient?
 - DWR responded that at the SaMT meeting last Tuesday, there was staff from CDFW that requested DWR and Reclamation to review the Spring-run weekly assessment on weekly basis in order to have an opportunity to discuss and provide feedback. There was a brief discussion on whether an email exchange would be sufficient, CDFW staff indicated preference would be for any review and discussions to occur during a meeting.
 - CDFW noted that weekly assessments are required in the ITP and call out a role for SaMT. Using the Weekly Operations Outlook meeting to review what information will be used in the assessment and providing an opportunity to present information to DWR and Reclamation on the assessment at that time in case there was a need for a discussion would be the most efficient.
 - DWR, NMFS, and Reclamation agree with this approach.

Action Items

- CDFW and DWR to provide WOMT an email regarding the resolution from their meeting on 2/8/25. COMPLETED – There was no deviation from what was discussed in the 2/7/25 WOMT meeting and captured in those notes.
- WOMT facilitator will remove individual names from WOMT notes that have yet to be posted - COMPLETED

Elevation Items

- No elevation items.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 1-1:50 p.m.