



Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook

2/17/2026 – 2/23/2026

Water Project Operational Intent for Week

Both projects are operating so their total combined Delta exports do not cause OMRI to be more negative than -5,000 cfs on a 14-day average basis. Per D-1641, X2 requirements and a maximum E/I ratio of 0.35 begin February 1. High flows in the Delta watershed this week will be accompanied by increases in Delta exports for both the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP). CVP is evaluating potential for storm flex under Action 5.

Biological Context

The DCC gates remain closed to protect migrating salmonids.

Forecasted Weather

Widespread rain, winds, thunderstorms and snow through midweek with major travel impacts in mountain areas. The active weather pattern may continue into next week.

Tables

Table 1: Anticipated weekly operational ranges by tributary. Environmental and fish conditions are updated by respective watershed groups at varying intervals that may not coincide with the weekly range of Water Operations shown.

Tributary/Division	Anticipated Weekly Ranges	Related Environmental and Fish Conditions
Clear Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Release: 300 cfs • Anticipated Range of Weekly Releases: 300 cfs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring-run Chinook Salmon juveniles are rearing and out-migrating • Fall-run Chinook Salmon juveniles are rearing and out-migrating • Adult O. mykiss/steelhead are spawning and eggs are incubating • Adult Late fall-run Chinook Salmon eggs are incubating • (Updated 02/17/2026)
Sacramento River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shasta Storage: 3.544 MAF • Current Release: 6,000 cfs • Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 5,800 cfs to 8,000 cfs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall-run Chinook are out-migrating in steady numbers • Sporadic catch of winter and spring run Chinook • Late fall-run Chinook Salmon are migrating upstream, preparing to spawn, and are actively spawning. Early eggs are in the gravel • (Updated 02/17/2026)
Feather River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oroville Storage: 2.745 MAF • Current Release: 4,000 cfs • Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 3,000 to 5,000 cfs • Daily temperature maximum: 55 °F at Fish Hatchery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall-run Chinook Salmon spawning complete, juveniles emerging and migrating downstream • Spring-run Chinook Salmon juveniles migrating downstream • Adult O. mykiss are migrating upstream • (Updated 01/27/2026)
American River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Folsom Storage: 512 TAF • Current Release: 2,500 cfs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall-run Chinook Salmon spawning has ended. • Eggs are incubating in the gravel and fry are beginning to emerge. • (Updated 1/27/2026)

Tributary/Division	Anticipated Weekly Ranges	Related Environmental and Fish Conditions
Stanislaus River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Melones Storage: 1.783 MAF • Current Release: 200 cfs • Anticipated Range of Weekly Releases: 200 cfs to 1,200 cfs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult fall-run Chinook Salmon spawning has likely ended, carcass surveys are complete. • Eggs are incubating in the gravel. • Spring-run fry are emerging and moving downstream. • Fall-run fry are also likely moving downstream with the increases in flow. • (Updated 1/26/2026)
Delta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freeport: 30,000 cfs to 50,000 cfs • Vernalis: 2,500 cfs to 7,500 cfs • Delta Outflow index: 40,000 to 65,000 cfs • Combined Exports: 6,200 to 9,200 cfs • JPP: 4,200 cfs • CCF: 2,000 cfs to 5,000 cfs • Expected Daily OMR Index Values: - 4,500 cfs to - 5,000 cfs • Rio Vista Flows: 32,000 cfs to 45,000 cfs • DCC Gates: Closed • X2 at 71 km • JPF: 3,000 cfs to 16,000 cfs • Qwest daily: 3,100cfs • Qwest 7-day: 2,500 cfs • Expected Qwest 7-days 2,500 cfs - 11,000 cfs • Tides: Transition from Spring to Neap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAD Spring-run and Winter-run Chinook salmon juveniles are being observed migrating and rearing by monitoring surveys. • 163,349 unmarked Delta smelt were released in fall 2025. A total of 36 adult and 29 juvenile Delta smelt have been observed in Suisun Marsh, the lower Sacramento River and the SDWSC. The most recent observations were of four juveniles in Suisun Marsh on 02/10/2026. • A total of 260 sub-adult and adult Longfin Smelt have been observed in the Chipps Island Trawl for WY2026, with the last detection being on 02/02/2026. • Final larval Longfin Smelt detections from SLS 1 and 2 were 117 and 442, respectively. • SLS 3 preliminarily detected 738 larval Longfin Smelt (San Pablo Bay: 2, Napa River: 297, Carquinez Strait: 78, Suisun Bay and Marsh: 199, Sacramento River: 22; Central and South Delta: 16; 1/26 - 1/28/2026. • SLS 4 preliminarily detected 224 larval Longfin Smelt (Suisun Bay and Marsh: 102, Sacramento River: 82, Confluence: 12; Central and South Delta: 27) • (Updated 2/17/2026)

Table 2: WY 2026 Salmonid Current Loss and Delta and Longfin Smelt Abiotic Conditions.

Species/run	Threshold	Current Status	Weekly Trend	Updated
Green sturgeon	Annual ITL= 14 3-year rolling average ITL= 5	salvage = 6	Occasional salvage possible	1/20/26
Winter-run Chinook Salmon juveniles (JPE= 1,057,452 (genetically confirmed unclipped); 130,096 (LSNFH Sacramento River); 5,186 (LSNFH Battle Creek))	Genetically confirmed unclipped Annual ITL = 5,922; loss threshold= 10,575 LSNFH releases (Annual ITL and loss threshold) Sacramento River = 1,301 Battle Creek = 52	Confirmed loss= 4 (0.03% of threshold) LSNFH loss = 0	Salvage is possible in the upcoming week. *LAD WR was salvaged but genetically identified as Latefall	1/20/206
Central Valley Steelhead	¹ Clipped = 3565 ² Unclipped = 5914	Hatchery Loss = 552 (9.34% of threshold) Natural-origin loss = 87 (1.64%)	Salvage of clipped and unclipped fish is likely to continue in the upcoming week.	01/27/26
Spring-run Chinook salmon surrogate releases	Yearling: Annual ITL: 0.5% of 75,119 = 376 60,873 = 304 57,109=286 Loss Threshold: 1% of 75,119 = 751 60,873 = 609 57,109 = 571 Young of Year= TBD	Yearling loss = 1041 (47.33% of threshold) Young of Year loss = 0	Salvage is possible in the upcoming week.	01/20/26
First Flush (onset of Entrainment Management Season)	Freeport flows \geq 25,000 cfs AND Freeport turbidity \geq 50 FNU	See Table 3b First flush conditions were met on 12/23/25 and implemented by CVP on 12/25/25.	N/A	12/29/25

Species/run	Threshold	Current Status	Weekly Trend	Updated
Delta smelt adults	JPF < 0 AND daily average turbidity ≥ 12 FNU in OMR corridor UNTIL Average water temperatures at Jersey Point or Rio Vista ≥ 12°C (53.6°F) for 3 consecutive days	Not Active Daily JPF: 2,1482cfs (1/25/26) Turbidity: OBI = 5.97 FNU OSJ = 8.43 FNU HOL = 6.02 FNU Jersey Point temp: 12.05 °C on 2/10 12.09 °C on 2/11 12.13 °C on 2/13	Turbidity is low- moderate	2/17/26
Delta smelt larvae and juveniles	After onset of spawning, if JPF < 0 AND turbidity is ≥12 FNU in the south Delta	Active, not triggered Daily JPF: 2,451 cfs Avg turbidity in south Delta: (as of 2/11/26) 5.7 FNU	Turbidity in south Delta is low.	2/17/26
Longfin smelt adults	If JPF < 0 and assessment indicates annual loss will exceed 5% of adult population abundance	Active, not triggered Daily JPF: 2,451 cfs Annual loss of adult LFS: 0	No WY26 salvage to date	2/17/26
Longfin smelt larvae and juveniles	If JPF < 0 and population model indicates need to reduce entrainment to avoid population decline	Active, not triggered Daily JPF: 2,451 cfs	No WY26 salvage to date	2/17/2026

¹Based on combined releases and estimated survival across Coleman, Feather River, Nimbus, and Mokelumne hatcheries.

²No operational threshold for unclipped steelhead. Incidental Take Limit from NMFS 2024 Biological Opinion.

Table 3a-e: Relevant Water Year 2026 Fish Criteria and Status for Listed Fish under the SWP Long-Term Incidental Take Permit.

Table 3a: Chinook Salmon

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
Onset of OMR Management (8.3)	Jan. 1 - Jun. 30	In Effect	Begins January 1 or earlier if COA 8.3.1, COA 8.3.2, or COA 8.3.3 are in effect (see Table 3b)	N/A	N/A	1/26/26	N/A
Winter-run Annual Loss (8.4.3)	July 1 - Jun. 30	In Effect – JPE was finalized on 1/8/26.	Natural-origin Winter-run Loss Threshold: 5,287.26 Hatchery-origin Winter-run Loss Threshold: 156.12 Battle Creek Loss threshold: 6.22	Confirmed Genetic WR Annual Loss = 3.52 Hatchery origin Winter-run Loss = 0 Battle Creek Winter-run Loss = 0	Possible observation of salvage of natural winter-run based on historical salvage.	2/17/26	First genetically confirmed WR was salvaged on 2/7/26.
Natural-origin Winter-run Early Season Weekly Loss Thresholds (8.2.1)	Nov. 1- Dec. 31	Not in Effect	Dec 1-Dec 31 = 231.64	N/A	N/A	1/5/26	N/A

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
Natural-origin Winter-run Weekly Loss (8.4.4)	Jan 1 – June 30	In Effect – JPE finalized on 1/8/26.	Week 7 (2/12-2/18): $0.1486 \times 0.5 \times 5,287.26 = 392.84$ Upcoming: Week 8 (2/19-2/25): $0.1459 \times 0.5 \times 5,287.26 = 385.71$	one genetically confirmed WR has been salvaged at delta fish facilities for WY 2026.	Possible observation of salvage of natural winter-run based on historical salvage.	2/17/26	First genetically confirmed WR was salvaged on 2/7/26.
Spring-run Protection Action and Surrogate Annual Loss (8.4.5)	Natural-origin: Oct. – June 30 Hatchery-origin: Nov. 1 – June 30	Natural-origin: In effect Hatchery-origin: In effect	Group 1: 0.25% of 75,119 = 187.80 Group 2: 0.25% of 60,873 = 152.18 Group 3: 0.25% of 60,873 = 142.77	Confirmed loss for Group 1: 0 Confirmed loss for Group 2: 261.65 Confirmed loss for Group 3: 29.86	Yearling natural spring-run salvage possible in next week	2/17/26	CWT CHN was salvaged from second and third group of spring surrogate released at delta fish facilities.

Table 3b: Delta Smelt

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
First Flush Action (8.3.1)	Dec. 1 – last day of February	Not Active. (Triggered on 12/23/25, in effect 12/25/25 – 1/7/26)	three-day Freeport (FPT) daily flow running avg >= 25,000 AND [three-day Freeport turbidity running avg >=50 NTU OR Smelt Monitoring Team recommendation]	N/A	N/A	1/20/26	N/A
Adult Delta Smelt Entrainment Protection (“Turbidity Bridge Avoidance”) (8.3.2)	After First Flush or Dec. 20 until 3-day average temperatures at Jersey Point (SJJ) or Rio Vista (RVB) exceed 12 °C (53.6 °F)	Not active	Occurs after First Flush or December 20 (whichever comes first) until 3-day average temperature offramp at Jersey Point (SJJ) or Rio Vista (RVB) > 12 °C (53.6 °F) OBI, OSJ, and HOL turbidity >12 FNU Vernalis flow >10,000 cfs (temporary offramp); <8,000 cfs (reinstated)	Daily avg turbidity: OSJ: 5.29 FNU HOL: 2.78 FNU OBI: 2.99 FNU Daily avg temperature: SJW: 12.52 C RVB: 12.20 C	N/A	2/17/2026	Temp offramp reached on 2/12/26
Larval and Juvenile Delta smelt Protection (8.4.1)	After Adult Delta smelt Entrainment Protection ends	Active, not triggered	SLS/20mm Secchi depth for 12 south delta stations <= 1m Rio Vista flows >55,000 cfs or Vernalis flows >8,000 cfs (temporary offramp); <40,000 cfs (Rio Vista) or <5,000 (Vernalis) action reinstated	SLS 4 Secchi avg = 150 cm	Secchi is likely to decrease in the coming week	2/17/26	N/A

Table 3c: Longfin Smelt

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
Adult LFS Protection (8.3.3)	Dec. 1 - end of February	Active, not triggered	Cum. salvage > (Age 1+ LFS Index/20) +1 = 125	Cum. Salvage = 0	No salvage expected	2/17/26	August - December Index = 2479.2
Larval and Juvenile Longfin Smelt Entrainment Protection (8.4.2)	Jan. 1 - Jun. 30	Active, not triggered	7-day average QWEST < +1,500 cfs, AND LFS larvae or juveniles in most recent SLS or 20 mm survey at 809 & 812 > 50; OR cumulative salvage > 50 or 75% avg annual salvage 2009-present Rio Vista flows >55,0000 cfs or Vernalis flows >8,000 cfs (temporary offramp); <40,000 cfs (Rio Vista) or <5,000 (Vernalis) reinstated	7-day avg QWEST = 2,800 cfs SLS 4 catch at: 809 = 11 812 = 9	QWest expected to become more positive	2/17/26	N/A

Table 3d: White Sturgeon

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
White Sturgeon Entrainment Protection Action (8.4.7)	Year-round	Active; not triggered Flow Conditions: Not met Survey Conditions: Not Met	YOY WS detected in one of the listed north or central Delta survey stations in the last 90 days Mean total exports for the last 90 days $\geq 14,296.76 + (-0.41) * (90\text{-day average Vernalis flow})$	YOY WS detections= None in last 90 days 90-Day Avg Vernalis flows = 2,456cfs 90-Day Avg Exports = 6,020cfs	YOY detections possible Flow/ Exports conditions unlikely to meet criterion	02/17/26	Survey and Conditions not met WY 2026 salvage = 0

Table 3e: OMR

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
OMR Storm Flex (8.5)	Start of OMR – Onramp of Larval and Juvenile DS Protection Action (8.4.1) or last day of February (whichever occurs first)	Not active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delta is in excess • QWEST is > +1,500 cfs • X2 is < 81 km • Daily average turbidity at OSJ, HOL, and OBI are <12 FNU • Higher level of outflow available for diversion due to storm flows • Measurable amount of precipitation has occurred • None of COA's are controlling operations (8.2.1, 8.3.2, 8.3.3, 8.4.2, 8.4.3, 8.4.4, 8.4.5, 8.4.7) • Cumulative loss at CVP and SWP of yearling CNFH LFR Chinook salmon (as yearling CHNSR surrogates) is < 0.5% with any of the release groups 	7-day avg QWEST = 2,800 cfs X2 = 55 km Daily avg turbidity: OSJ: 7.85 FNU HOL: 5.52 FNU OBI: 5.59 FNU Cumulative Loss of yearling SR surrogates: 224.05	N/A	2/17/2026	COA 8.4.1 on-ramped on 2/12/26

Action	Timeframe	Current Action Status	Threshold(s)	Current Relevant Data	Weekly Trend	Last Updated	Comments
End of OMR Management (8.6)	Jun. 1 – Jun. 30	Not in effect	Smelt: Daily mean water temperature at Clifton Court Forebay (CLC) is > or equal to 25°C for 3 consecutive days Salmonids: Daily mean water temperature is > 22.2 C at Mosssdale and Prisoners Point for 7 days (can be non-consecutive).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Spring Outflow (COA 8.12.1)	April 1 – May 31	Not in effect	Critical year: ratio of Vernalis flow to SWP and CVP combined exports shall be 1 to 1. Dry year: ratio of Vernalis flow to SWP and CVP combined exports shall be 2 to 1. Below Normal year: ratio of Vernalis flow to SWP and CVP combined exports shall be 3 to 1. Above Normal/Wet year: ratio of Vernalis flow to SWP and CVP combined exports shall be 4 to 1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 4: Fish monitoring gear efficiency and disruptions. Status Categories: [1] Active (ongoing sampling), [2] Partial Interruption (some sampling interruptions), [3] Interrupted (sampling fully suspended), [4] Not Active (sampling not scheduled), [5] Unknown (information unconfirmed)

Monitoring survey	Region	Notes (as of 2/17/2026)	Status
SWP regular counts, CWT reading	Delta	Active	1
CVP regular counts, CWT reading	Delta	Active	1
Smelt Larval Survey	Delta	Active	1
LES	Delta	Active	1
20mm Survey	Delta	Not Active	4
Fall Mid-water Trawl	Delta	Not Active	4
Summer Townet Survey	Delta	Not Active	4
Bay Study	Delta	Active	1
DJFMP- Chipps and Sacramento Trawls	Delta	Active	1
DJFMP- Seines	Delta	Active	1
EDSM	Delta	Active	1
EMP	Delta	Active	1
Mossdale Trawls	Delta	Active (USFWS)	1
USGS Flow monitoring	Delta	Active	1
Red Bluff Diversion Dam Rotary Screw Trap (RST)	Sacramento River	Active	1
Knights Landing RST	Sacramento River	Partial Interruption	2
Tisdale RST	Sacramento River	Active	1
GCID RST	Sacramento River	Not Active	4
Mill Creek RST	Mill Creek	Active	1
Deer Creek RST	Deer Creek	Active	1
Yuba River (Hallwood) RST	Yuba River	Active	1
Butte Creek Carcass Surveys	Butte Creek	Not Active	4
Butte Creek RST	Butte Creek	Active	1
Yolo Bypass Rotary Screw Trap	Yolo Bypass	Active	1
Yolo Bypass Beach Seine	Yolo Bypass	Active	1
Yolo Bypass Fyke Trap	Yolo Bypass	Active	1

Monitoring survey	Region	Notes (as of 2/17/2026)	Status
Redd dewatering and stranding surveys	Sacramento River	Active	1
Sacramento Carcass and Redd Surveys (fall-run Chinook Salmon)	Sacramento River	Active	1
Lower Sacramento RST	Sacramento River	Not Active	4
Feather River (upper DWR) RST	Sacramento River	Active	1
Feather River (lower CDFW) RST	Sacramento River	Active	1
Feather River Carcass Survey (fall-run Chinook Salmon)	Sacramento River	Active	1
Sonar, telemetry (sturgeon)	Feather River	Active	1
Egg mats (sturgeon)	Feather River	Active	1
SJRRP CDFW Field Monitoring	San Joaquin River	Active	1
SJRRP USFWS and USBR Field Monitoring	San Joaquin River	Active	1
Stanislaus Fish Weir	San Joaquin River	Active	1
Stanislaus River Carcass Survey (steelhead)	San Joaquin River	Not Active (ended 1/12/26)	4
Tuolumne Carcass Survey	Tuolumne River	Not Active	4
Merced Carcass Survey	Merced River	Not Active	4
Tuolumne RST	Tuolumne River	Active	1
American River Carcass Survey	Sacramento River	Not Active	4

* Qualitative larval sampling efforts for both the CVP and SWP have concluded and have been removed from the list as of 10/7/25.