

Fish and Water Operations Group Notes

Water Year 2026 – March 25, 2026

Members Attending

- Reclamation – Randi Field, Levi Johnson
- DWR – Tracy Hinojosa, Bryant Giorgi
- USFWS – Matt Nobriga, Leif Goude
- NMFS – ~~Darren Howe~~, (Acting: Kyra Fitz)
- CDFW – ~~Kristal Davis-Fadtke~~,
- SWRCB – ~~Matthew Holland, Diane Riddle~~, (Acting: Aaron O’Callaghan)
- NGO – Ashley Overhouse, Devon Pearse,
- PWA – ~~Deanna Sereno, Scott Petersen~~,
- PWA - ~~Chandra Chilmakuri~~

Topics/Actions

Approval of Meeting Notes from last week: Approved

Upcoming Meetings

Delta Action Team (DAT, meets weekly on Tuesdays): 03/31/2026

Drought Response Year (DRY) Team:

American River Group (ARG meets monthly on third Thursday, and as needed):

Clear Creek Technical Team (CCT meets quarterly on third Thursday):

Sacramento River Group (SRG) (meets monthly on the fourth Thursday or more often as needed): met on 03/26/2026

Stanislaus Watershed Team (SWT meets monthly on third Wednesday):

Annual Report Team

Shasta Operations Team (SHOT): 04/13/2026

Relevant Assessments

- 20260324 Combined Salmon and Smelt Assessment
- 20260323 Fish and Water Operations Outlook
- 03242026 DAT Notes

Operational Updates

- CVP: Lewiston Dam releases at 350 cfs (start of elevated baseflow on 3/19 with multiple peaks through mid April, max peaks up to 1,700 cfs). Whiskeytown Dam releases at 275 cfs. Keswick Dam releases at 4,000. Nimbus Dam releases at 1,500 cfs (decrease to 1,100 on 3/26). Goodwin Dam releases at 200 cfs (D1641 controlling). Jones Pumping Plant exporting 3,500 cfs (OMRI -5,000 cfs controlling; Port Chicago X2 controlling;) Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 767 TAF. Delta Cross Channel is closed (closed on 10/30/25).
- SWP: Feather River (Oroville-Thermalito Complex) releases decreasing from 3,500 to 2,500 cfs today (3/25); will continue to step down releases by 200 cfs per day, until we reach 1,750 cfs on Monday, 3/30). Clifton Court Forebay allotment is 2,900 cfs today. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 1048 TAF.
- Hydrology Update: Extended dry period continues. A possible system moving in over the next week.

Upcoming Actions, Updates or Discussion Items

- Reclamation:
 - No upcoming actions or updates.
 - Shasta Pulse Flow
- DWR:
 - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- USFWS:
 - No upcoming actions, updates or discussion items.
- NMFS:
 - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- ~~CDFW~~:
 - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- SWRCB:
 - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- NGO:
 - No upcoming actions or updates.
 - Port Chicago Compliance
 - Winter-run Chinook salmon take
- PWA:

- No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- FAWOG
 - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.

Discussion Items

- Shasta Pulse Flow

At the SRG Pulse Flow meeting on 3/17 a request was made by the Coleman National Fish Hatchery (CNFH) for a pulse flow out of Keswick of 10,000 cfs from Friday, March 20 through Sunday, March 22 and from Friday, April 3 through Sunday, April 5 to support hatchery fall-run smolts releases. At the SRG Pulse Flow meeting on 3/24 a similar request was made by the CNFH for an immediate pulse flow from Keswick to support hatchery fall-run smolts. There was a robust discussion during these SRG Pulse flow meetings on this proposed March pulse flow operation. Under Action 5, Shasta Spring pulse flow actions are anticipated to be considered for deployment in April - May and to benefit primarily non-hatchery juvenile salmon. An assessment for a March pulse action has not been developed and Reclamation is not considering a pulse flow action this March.

Shasta Spring Pulse Flow planning is anticipated to continue through the SRG and additional ad-hoc SRG Pulse flow meetings will assess potential pulse flows in April and May as needed. Further discussion is anticipated this summer regarding earlier potential pulse flow actions in support of salmonid outmigration, which may be considered under the Proposed Action's adaptive management process.

Follow up discussion – are triggers for an action separated (i.e. longfin smelt analysis for spring outflow).

In the discussions and analysis in changing Shasta operations. When water is released Reclamation looks downstream and how it would cascade into other parts of the operation. The water released isn't looked at independently, the whole system is considered and how operations might be effected downstream.

- Port Chicago Compliance

A question was expressed to seek additional information on evaluating conditions for Port Chicago to be complaint by the end of the month.

Reclamation does not currently have any further information since yesterday's meeting. We are currently monitoring salinity and flow to address D1641. Taking that into consideration for compliance days and assessing what alternatives for the remaining day for PCT. There is currently no report or quantitative component to share.

- Winter-run Chinook salmon take

Typically, at this time, we see a lot of winter-run Chinook salmon but are currently not. We are mostly seeing fall-run.

Reclamation is tracking a few different species of hatchery & natural spring-run, hatchery & natural winter-run, hatchery & natural steelhead, green sturgeon, larval smelt and their distribution to inform operations. Currently not risking exceedance.

In the assessments, different origins of species are tracked separately to comply with take threshold under the Biological Opinion (BO) for Reclamation and DWR and the Incidental Take Permit (ITP) for DWR. The threshold is a bit higher on the federal side than the state side.

Action Items

- No Action Items.

Elevation Items

- No Elevation Items.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 1st, 2026, 2-2:50 p.m.