

Fish and Water Operations Group Notes

Water Year 2026 – April 8th, 2026

Members Attending

- Reclamation – ~~Randi Field~~, Levi Johnson
- DWR – Tracy Hinojosa, Bryant Giorgi
- USFWS – Matt Nobriga, Leif Goude
- NMFS – ~~Darren Howe~~ (Acting: Paula Higginson)
- CDFW – ~~Kristal Davis-Fadtke~~
- SWRCB – Matthew Holland, Diane Riddle
- NGO – ~~Ashley Overhouse~~, Devon Pearse, (Acting: Jon Rosenfield)
- NOD PWA – Thaddeus Bettner, Jeff Sutton
- SOD PWA - Scott Petersen, ~~Deanna Sereno~~
- State PWA - Chandra Chilmakuri

Topics/Actions

Approval of Meeting Notes from last week: Approved

Upcoming Meetings

Delta Action Team (DAT, meets weekly on Tuesdays): 04/07/2026

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):

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

Annual Report Team

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

Relevant Assessments

- 20260406 Combined Salmon and Smelt Assessment
- 20260406 Fish and Water Operations Outlook

- 040726 DAT Notes
- American River Pulse Flow Operation Plan

Operational Updates

- CVP: Lewiston Dam releases at 950 cfs. Whiskeytown Dam releases at 250 cfs. Keswick Dam releases at 10,000 cfs (pulse flow; decrease on 4/14 to 6,500 cfs). Nimbus Dam releases at 1,500 cfs (increase on 4/9 to 2,000 cfs and increase on 4/11 to 5,000 cfs for storage management). Goodwin Dam releases at 1,400 cfs. Jones Pumping Plant exporting 3,500 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 778 TAF. Delta Cross Channel is closed (closed on 10/30/25).
- SWP: Feather River (Oroville-Thermalito Complex) releases at 1,050 cfs. Clifton Court Forebay allotment is 600 cfs (ITP condition of 8.12.1 is controlling);. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 1020 TAF.
- Hydrology: Potential system coming tomorrow, 4/9, through Sunday. Peak precipitation occurring on Friday through Saturday.

Upcoming Actions, Updates or Discussion Items

- Reclamation:
 - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- DWR:
 - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- USFWS:
 - No upcoming actions or discussion items.
 - Update: Larval Smelt
- 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.
 - Discussion: Shasta Storage Management
 - Discussion: Pulse Flows

- NOD PWA
 - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- SOD PWA
 - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- State PWA
 - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.

Discussion Items

- Update: Larval Smelt

USFWS released approximately 35,000 Delta smelt larvae into the Sacramento River near Sherman Lake. Number of smelt is not anticipated to show up in any catches. Release tested delayed mortality, monitored over 5 days where approximately 71% to 86% of survival occurred.

- Discussion: Shasta Storage Management

NOD PWA, SOD PWA, and NGO representatives seek further information from Reclamation on Bin year determination. Reclamation notes the apparent different interpretations.

- Discussion: Pulse Flow

NOD PWA states their support for the current pulse flow but would like to view the draft temperature management plan (TMP) before supporting another pulse. NOD PWA has additional concerns with fall operations with winter-run protections and fall-run returns.

NGO would like to have discussions on what would indicate another pulse flow occurring or not occurring.

Reclamation will develop their April CVP Outlook Forecast and continue to work with the SRG to analyze additional pulse flow operations (including possible impacts to Shasta and the TMP). April forecast will be used to develop the draft TMP.

NOD PWA asks if the updated forecast and other information will come before the agency makes any decision on additional pulse flow operations. Reclamation will proceed through Governance (SRG) to consider the operations.

Action Items

- No Action Items.

Elevation Items

- No Elevation Items.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 15th, 2026, 2-2:50 p.m.