

# Water Operations Management Team Notes

Water Year 2025 – April 9, 2025

## Members Attending

- Reclamation: Present
- USFWS: Present
- CDFW: Present
- NMFS: Acting (Represented but no Member Present)
- DWR: Present
- SWRCB: Present

## Topics/Actions

- 3/25/2025 and 04/01/2025 Ad Hoc Meeting Notes: Approved
- 3/26/2025 and 4/2/2025 Meeting Notes: Approved
- Upcoming Meetings
  - Salmonid Monitoring Team (SaMT, meets weekly on Tuesdays): 4/15
  - Smelt Monitoring Team (SMT, meets as needed on Tuesdays, met on): 01/28
  - Feather River Operations Group (meets monthly first and third Thursdays): 4/17
  - American River Group (meets monthly on third Thursday, and as needed): 4/17
  - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (meets monthly on third Wednesday): 4/16
  - Clear Creek Technical Team (meets quarterly on third Thursday): 6/19
  - Sacramento River Group (meets monthly on the fourth Thursday or more often as needed): 4/24
  - Shasta Operations Team (SHOT, meeting frequency and timing TBD) – 4/14
  - Winter-run JPE Sub-Team (as needed): met on 12/20
- Relevant Assessments
  - 20250408 Fish and Water Operations Outlook
  - Spring-run Weekly Assessment 20250408
  - 20250407 Winter-run Proposed Action Assessment

- Operational Updates
  - CVP: Trinity River release is 2,800 cfs, with a pulse flow scheduled until 4/15. Clear Creek (Whiskeytown Dam) release is 2,550 cfs. Sacramento River (Keswick) release is 5,000 cfs, with a reduction to 4,600 cfs by 4/11 for installation of ACID Diversion Dam. American River (Nimbus) release is 7,000 cfs and will be decrease to 5,350 on 4/12. Stanislaus River (Goodwin) release is 600 cfs and will be increasing to 850 cfs on 4/10. Jones PP Delta exports are currently 4 units at approximately 3,500 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 838 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 12,500 cfs. Clifton Court Forebay exports are at 2,600 cfs. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 1.001 MAF.
- Hydrology Update
  - Warm weather coming this weekend, which will trigger additional snowmelt. No rain in the forecast.

## Upcoming Actions, Updates or Discussion Items

- Reclamation:
  - Discussion Item: Winter-run Assessment.
  - No upcoming actions or updates.
- USFWS:
  - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- CDFW:
  - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- NMFS:
  - Discussion Item: Stanislaus and San Joaquin Spring-Pulse Flow Planning
  - No upcoming actions or updates.
- DWR:
  - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- SWRCB:
  - Discussion Item: Clarification for State Operations.
  - No upcoming actions or updates.

## Discussion Items

- Winter-run Assessment
  - There was a juvenile hatchery Winter-run salmon observed at SWP on April 4, which triggered the annual loss threshold. There haven't been any natural origin Winter-run observed since March 24. Reclamation prepared assessments on larval and juvenile delta smelt entrainment and winter-run Chinook salmon loss thresholds. Updated information included seasonal observations and historical trends, as well as hydrodynamic information. Overall, Reclamation concluded that export modifications to achieve an OMR more positive than -5,000 cfs are unlikely to reduce loss or change population level effects. The assessment also included updates on the Tillotson model; those results are also present on SacPAS.
- Stanislaus and San Joaquin Spring-Pulse planning
  - The March minimum release in the American River triggered a small Spring-Pulse flow, which is roughly 4,000 cfs for two days. The PA states that the fish agencies should provide input on the timing, which was provided to the Reclamation operator last Friday.
  - The spring pulse flow on the Stanislaus River will begin in mid-April. The April 90% exceedance forecast, which determines the yeartype for Stepped Release Plan implementation, was Dry.
  - NMFS asked for clarification on the spring delta outflow on the Federal PA; what is the exceedance forecast that is used to determine the year type for that action? NMFS noted that mention of a Wet year offramp for spring Delta outflow implies the 50% exceedance forecast, since the Sacramento 40-30-30 yeartype is Above Normal based on the April 75% and 90% forecasts. NMFS will follow up offline to confirm.
- Clarification for State Operations
  - SWRCB asked for clarification on what will be controlling State operations starting tomorrow. Is the ITP spring outflow action to be implemented based on the San Joaquin I:E formulation, since the outflow index went below 44,500?
    - DWR responded that the 3-day outflow will be below 44,500 starting tomorrow and SWP will be operating to the ITP Condition of Approval 8.12.1 (spring outflow action).
  - Spring outflow will be controlling tomorrow, with SWP exports down at 600 cfs.
- Federal operations
  - Reclamation noted that the spring outflow action in the federal PA is different from the ITP spring outflow action and is offramped in a Wet year type.

- NMFS reported that the issue of the OMR limit has already been elevated to the Directors and is being handled at that level.
- WOMT Charter
  - Subcubs will be meeting on Friday and will have an update next week.

#### **Action Items**

- Subcubs provide update on the draft WOMT charter.

#### **Elevation Items**

- No elevation items.

## **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 1-1:50 p.m.