

Fish and Water Operations Group Notes

Water Year 2026 – April 22nd, 2026

Members Attending

- Reclamation – ~~Randi Field~~, Levi Johnson
- DWR – ~~Tracy Hinojosa, Bryant Giorgi~~ (Acting: Priscilla DeLamare)
- USFWS – Matt Nobriga, ~~Leif Goude~~
- NMFS – Darren Howe
- CDFW – ~~Kristal Davis-Fadtke~~
- SWRCB – ~~Matthew Holland~~, Diane Riddle
- NGO – Ashley Overhouse, ~~Devon Pearse~~
- 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): 04/21/2026

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): 04/14/2026

Stanislaus Watershed Team (SWT meets monthly on third Wednesday):
04/15/2026

Annual Report Team

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

Relevant Assessments

- 20260420 Combined Salmon and Smelt Assessment

- 20260420 Fish and Water Operations Outlook

Operational Updates

- CVP: Lewiston Dam releases varying between 1,100 cfs to 2,200 cfs (Trinity ROD flows). Whiskeytown Dam releases at 225 cfs. Keswick Dam releases at 6,000 cfs. Nimbus Dam releases at 7,500 cfs (storage management). Goodwin Dam releases varying between 750 cfs to 1,250 cfs (Stepped Release Plan Spring Pulse through early May). Jones Pumping Plant exporting between 900 cfs to 2,600 cfs (D1641, 4/13 to 5/13). Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 780 TAF. Delta Cross Channel is closed (closed on 10/30/25).
- SWP: Feather River (Oroville-Thermalito Complex) releases at 5,000 cfs. Clifton Court Forebay allotment is 1,200 cfs (D1641). State share of San Luis Reservoir is 980 TAF.
- Hydrology: Elevated flows from recent precipitation and will decrease over the coming dry period.

Upcoming Actions, Updates or Discussion Items

- Reclamation:
 - No upcoming actions or updates.
 - Discussion: April 2026 CVP 90% Exceedance Forecast
 - Discussion: Sacramento Draft Temperature Management Plan
 - Discussion: Sacramento River 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, updates, or discussion items.

- 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

- Discussion: April 90% Exceedance Forecast

Reclamation presented its current April 2026 CVP 90% Exceedance Forecast summary to highlight items of interest that have been coming up at the technical teams, including bin year determination; additionally, this provided an opportunity for questions and discussions. Using FAWOG as the appropriate group to discuss these forecasts and the system trade-offs, different impacts of upstream releases and SOD exports, and what factors and assumptions are captured in the forecast. Reclamation is working with the technical teams on guidance documents that will clarify on the Governance structure. A question for this group is if there is interest/value in having a guidance document for FAWOG.

Forecast is identifying a projected end-of-April Shasta storage of 4090 TAF (4.09 MAF). This forecast is based on the 90% inflow forecast provided by DWR that projects through September. We do incorporate current conditions as best as possible but there are some limitations. Currently, Shasta inflows are tracking better than the 90% exceedance. For identifying a bin year, Shasta storage is above 3.7 MAF and Reclamation expects that to be carried to the end-of-April. Expected water deliveries under Action 5 of the LTO, combined with meeting regulatory requirements, projects an end-of-September storage at 2.2 MAF. Additionally, these results are affected by what can be released from Trinity reservoir to support Shasta and what can be released from Folsom for in-basin use. One of the goals in the forecast is to have an end-of-December Folsom target of 300 TAF. In these projections, Reclamation has not been able to get there, falling slightly under 300 TAF.

With the anticipated diversion, projected Shasta storages and other considerations, Reclamation is identifying this as a Bin 2A year type. Forecast development faced challenges with lack of snowpack and a dry March. CVP storage elevations remain high, but April conditions are variable, large systems have come through, and that could trigger additional Delta requirements. As April conditions play out, it will inform the May 1st B120 and the CVP forecasts. Finally, these projections are not accounting for another potential pulse flow on the Sacramento River.

Question: Concerns about fall operations with the increased flows on redd dewatering and river temperature effects with a decrease in coldwater pool. Important to coordinate actions with NMFS and CDFW to think about the fall operations on the species with operations throughout the summer and into the fall and carryover storage. When do these conversations happen?

We can move into the Draft Temperature Management Plan discussion to talk through that.

- Discussion: Sac Draft Temperature Management Plan

SRG meeting will occur this Thursday. Reclamation informed the SRG participants working on spring pulses yesterday that it is unlikely that there will be a draft Temperature Management Plan available to share and review at this upcoming April SRG meeting. However, there will be many items for the SRG to discuss (i.e. Temperature Profile information, Governance documents discussions, TMP review logistics). Typically, Reclamation would want a draft Temperature Management Plan following the April forecast. Reclamation anticipates a coordinated ad hoc SRG meeting next week once initial temperature runs are finished and the TMP is being drafted. SRG will be a technical forum to discuss the potential effects of temperature model runs. A Final TMP would typically be produced in May after the SRG reviews a final draft.

Question: Would the recent storms effect this forecast and possibly change the bin?

Likely to affect CVP and SWP watersheds differently and uncertain how that will propagate into future forecast. With these storm systems along with increase and prolonged inflows, Reclamation, for example, is not able to store all that water in Folsom as space in the reservoir is not available because reservoirs are nearing full capacity. At Shasta, inflows are being stored.

Question: Are there new temperature profiles available in Shasta and are the coldwater conditions improved?

Recent data was not showing huge changes but Reclamation hasn't seen the most recent data. Unfortunately, good storage may not indicate good coldwater pool this year. On the American, inflow temperatures are similar to what is being released.

- Discussion: Pulse Flow

Reclamation deployed a pulse flow but does not anticipate having additional resources to assess further conditions with and without one. Reclamation will continue to utilize the SRG team and make a determination on further exploration of pulse flows. However, due to the April forecast and how the coldwater pool is setting up, we are focusing on temperature management planning efforts and do not want our teams spending substantial additional resources looking at pulse flows.

Action Items

- No Action Items.

Elevation Items

- No Elevation Items.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 29th, 2026, 2-2:50 p.m.