



# **Delta Monitoring Workgroup Weekly Meeting**

Meeting Record 11/04/2025

## **Working Group Members in Attendance**

- Reclamation: Erika Kegel, Thuy Washburn, Mackenzie Miner, Chase Ehlo, Cat Pien, Grace Eastbrook, Lillian McCormick
- NMFS: Paula Higginson
- DWR: Mike Ford, Kevin Reece, Katie Osborn
- SWRCB: Matthew Holland
- Water Contractors: Cindy Meyer (SLDMWA), Ron Milligan (SLDMWA), Scott Petersen (SLDMWA), Darcy Austin (SWC), Chandra Chilmakuri (SWC), Jose Rangel (WWD), Alan Rosenthal (WWD), Brad Cavallo (WWD), Steve Micko (MWD), Yuan Liu (CCWD)
- Kearns & West: Marlys Jeane, Michael Ding

## **Review Operations Outlook**

- Clear Creek releases at Whiskeytown Dam are currently 225 cfs.
- Sacramento River releases at Keswick Dam are currently 5,200 cfs, decreasing by about 200 cfs per day and expected to reach 4,000 cfs by 11/10/25, then flows will hold steady.
- Feather River releases at Oroville Dam are currently 2,450 cfs.
- American River releases at Nimbus Dam are 1,000 cfs.
- Stanislaus River releases at Goodwin Dam are 250 cfs. Releases will decrease to 200 cfs starting 11/06/25.
- CCF exports are currently 1,000 cfs and will be maintained at that level for the rest of this week.
- JPP exports are at 4,200 cfs and the anticipated range for the rest of this week will be between 3,500 cfs – 4,200 cfs.
- DCC gates are closed.

### **Additional Questions or Comments**

- DWR noted a high-elevation storm is expected this week, with uncertain impacts on valley conditions. Another storm next week may more directly affect the Delta watershed.

### **Review PA Assessment (Reclamation)**

- The decision to close the DCC gates was made on 10/30/25.
  - In recent weeks, preparations were underway to close the gates, but initial data showed potential exceedances of D-1641 water quality standards at Rock Slough.
  - An increase in migration of Winter-Run Chinook salmon occurred over the past week, making it advantageous to proceed with gate closure.
  - Water quality conditions improved, and lab analyses confirmed no actual exceedances at Rock Slough.
  - The gates will remain closed while Winter-Run continue migrating and Delta water quality remains favorable.

### **Additional Questions or Comments**

- No additional questions or comments

### **Review ITP Risk Assessment (DWR)**

- DWR provided an update on this week's Spring-Run Chinook Weekly Assessment. Key points included:
  - Project conditions are low across the board for routing, exposure, and potential entrainment.
  - OMR flows remain below -5,000 cfs, supporting a low overall entrainment risk.
  - DWR began operating the Georgiana Slough migratory barrier early, ahead of the planned November 15 start, due to repeated exceedances of the Knights Landing index.
    - The barrier is fully operational this year; last season, air line damage from an auto accident prevented the bubble curtain from functioning properly. The first experimental release to test barrier effectiveness is planned for December.
    - Early operation is not intended to set a precedent for future years.

- Monitoring data remain limited as it is still early in the season. About 0.5% of Spring-Run Chinook salmon have been detected at Red Bluff and Knights Landing.
- A few Winter-Run Chinook salmon were picked up in North Delta beach seines near the American River and Freeport area. No salvage or surrogate releases have occurred.

### **Additional Questions or Comments**

- Cindy Meyer (SLDMWA) announced the National Academies of Sciences review of the Long-Term Water Operations webinar, which will be held on Monday 11/10 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. .
  - The review has been underway for the past two years, and the report will be released concurrently with the webinar. Those who did not receive the email notice can register through the National Academies website here: [National Academies Webinar Information](#).

### **Acronyms**

- CVP – Central Valley Project
- DCC – Delta Cross Channel
- DOI – Delta Outflow Index
- DWR – California Department of Water Resources
- DCI – Delta Mendota Canal – California Aqueduct Intertie
- DS – Delta Smelt
- FNU – Formazin Nephelometric Unit
- I/E – Inflow to Export
- IOP – Interim Operations Plan
- ITP – Incidental Take Permit
- ITL – Incidental Take Limit
- JPE – Juvenile Production Estimate
- LFS – Longfin Smelt
- NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
- OBI – Old River Bacon Island Station
- OMR – Old and Middle River Tidally Averaged Flow
- PA – Proposed Action (Federal)

- PTM – Particle Tracking Model
- SaMT – Salmon Monitoring Team
- SLS – Smelt Larval Survey
- SMT – Smelt Monitoring Team
- SWP – State Water Project
- SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board
- TFCF – Tracy Fish Collection Facility
- TUCP – Temporary Urgency Change Petition
- TUO – Temporary Urgency Change Order
- USBR – United States Bureau of Reclamation
- WCS – Winter Run Chinook Salmon
- WOMT – Water Operations Management Team
- WQ – Water Quality
- YOY – Young of Year