

# Water Operations Management Team Notes

Water Year 2025 – December 18, 2024

## Members Attending

- Reclamation: Levi Johnson (not in attendance), Elizabeth Kiteck
- USFWS: Jana Affonso (not in attendance), Matt Nobriga
- CDFW: Kristal Davis-Fadtke, Brooke Jacobs (not in attendance)
- NMFS: Garwin Yip (not in attendance), Howard Brown (not in attendance), Kristin Begun (Acting)
- DWR: Tracy Hinojosa
- SWRCB: Matthew Holland (not in attendance), Dianne Riddle (not in attendance), Craig Williams (Acting)

## Topics/Actions

- Approval of Meeting Notes from last week: Approved
- Upcoming Meetings
  - Salmonid Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 01/07
  - Smelt Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 01/07
  - Feather River Operations Group (meets monthly first and third Thursdays): 01/09
  - American River Group (meets monthly on third Thursday, and as needed): 01/16
  - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (meets monthly on third Wednesday): 01/15
  - Clear Creek Technical Team (meets quarterly on third Thursday): 03/20
  - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (meets monthly on fourth Thursday): 01/09; USST (as needed): met on 10/08
  - Shasta Planning Group (as needed): met on 10/08
  - Winter-run JPE Team (as needed): 12/20
- Relevant Assessments
  - Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook 12/17/24 – 12/23/24
  - 20241217 Proposed Action Assessment
- Operational Updates

- CVP: Trinity River release is 300 cfs. Clear Creek (Whiskeytown Dam) release is 200 cfs. Sacramento River (Keswick) release is 4,000 cfs. American River (Nimbus) release is 2,000 cfs. Stanislaus River (Goodwin) release is 200 cfs. Reclamation's Delta export is currently 5 units which is approximately 4,200 cfs and will be decreasing tomorrow to 2 units which is approximately 1,800 cfs, because of the first flush trigger. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 509 TAF. Delta Cross Channel Gates are closed.
- SWP: Feather River (Oroville-Thermalito Complex) releases are at 1,750 cfs. Clifton Court Forebay exports are at 7,000 cfs and will be decreasing to 500 cfs tomorrow because of the first flush action. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 900 TAF.
- Hydrology Update (DWR and Reclamation)
  - Dry and foggy for rest of week. First storm within a series of storms is moving in on Saturday and will stay possibly through Christmas.

## Upcoming Actions, Updates, and Discussion Items

- Reclamation:
  - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- USFWS:
  - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- CDFW:
  - No upcoming actions or updates.
  - First Flush Trigger
- NMFS:
  - No upcoming actions or updates.
  - Winter-run JPE Preliminary Memo
- DWR:
  - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- SWRCB:
  - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.

### Discussion Items

- Winter-run JPE Preliminary Memo
  - NMFS: Wanted to inform the group that the Winter-run JPE group met last Friday and will have a second meeting this Friday. The sub team plans to issue a preliminary memo to CDFW and to NMFS with the JPE value by the end of the

year. A final JPE value will be sent out via a memo in January once there are updated numbers available for the equation.

- SHOT Representatives
  - Water board has identified a representative for SHOT.
  - Reclamation, USFWS, CDFW, NMFS, and DWR will provide representatives in following meetings.
- OMR Trigger Discussions
  - CDFW: CDFW wanted to walk through new permit conditions and language in Condition of Approval 8.17 -OMR Action Response Timing with WOMT. This condition requires DWR to adjust south Delta exports within 3 days of an OMR action being triggered. This condition also requires combined project exports, exports scheduling, and OMR to be discussed at WOMT each week. The intent of this Condition of Approval is that combined project south Delta exports will not increase the risk to protected fish species after an OMR trigger is met. CDFW is looking to hear from DWR on the scheduling of decreasing exports due to first flush, which was triggered on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The requirement is to reduce exports to achieve the OMR value by tomorrow the 19<sup>th</sup>, however, a delta smelt was detected in salvage yesterday. CDFW is seeking clarification on the situation of seeing a delta smelt in salvage and how that gets factored into the response time to implement the required export reduction.
  - DWR: DWR has scheduled to drop to 500 cfs on the 19<sup>th</sup> and Reclamation is also reducing cfs for first flush trigger. The detection was yesterday, and DWR is already dropping exports tomorrow. DWR is unsure if they would have been able to react faster than that since they verified yesterday morning and couldn't affect exports yesterday. In terms of having to coordinate the -2,000 cfs, it is not going to be met unless both projects are operating. Reclamation is going to need at least 2 days to respond and the timing can be longer around weekends and holidays. After the end of the first flush action, DWR is looking at a -5,000 OMR season controlling exports for the next 6 months. DWR's interpretation of the 3-day response time is to schedule jointly with the projects and time needed for the smelt to move upstream. DWR believes what they are doing is reasonable and their management and contractors are supportive of how DWR responded.
  - CDFW: Is there is a possibility to be more nimble when we see delta smelt salvage, which indicates risk of entrainment, which the intent of condition is to address, and move quicker if possible?
  - DWR: Given the circumstances and being a joint action, DWR believes they responded in this particular instance as quickly as expected.

## Elevation Items

- No elevation items.

## Action Items

- No action items.

## Next Meeting

- *Wednesday, January 08, 2025, 1-1:50 p.m.*