



Water Operations Management Team Notes

September 23, 2020

Members Attending

Kristin White, Liz Kiteck, Molly White, Mike Ford, Kaylee Allen, Matt Nobriga, Garwin Yip, Carl Wilcox, Kristal Davis-Fadtke, Diane Riddle

Members Not Attending

Erik Ekdahl, Howard Brown

Topics/Actions

- Approval of the 9/16/2020 WOMT Meeting Notes: approved.
- Operational Updates
 - CVP: Trinity finished the Lower Klamath augmentation flow and is back to a 450 cfs release; Keswick at 6,800 cfs, Folsom at 1,750 cfs; New Melones at 200 cfs; Delta at 5 units, 4,300 cfs, issues yesterday with the motor on the lower cleaner that needed to be replaced and should be fixed today, Delta targeting 3,500 cfs outflow and salinity, may see some reduction, continuing federal exports through Banks pumping for the next few days and should conclude by the end of September.
 - SWP: Feather River increase an extra 500 cfs from 2,100 cfs to 2,600 cfs today; Delta exports at 1,500 cfs +/- adjusting in real-time depending on Delta conditions.
- Relevant Assessments
 - Revised Operational Outlook
 - Clear Creek Technical Team: monitoring temperatures and assessing current releases.
 - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group: Next meeting Thurs. 9/24
 - Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team (USST): Met this AM
 - Feather River Operations Group: Next meeting on 10/1
 - American River Group: Special meeting tomorrow, anticipate a request for a power bypass next week.
 - Stanislaus River Watershed Team: Next Meeting Wed. 10/21
 - Delta Summer/Fall Habitat Tracking: no updates, next meeting Oct. 2
- Upcoming Actions
 - Reclamation:
 - Determining flow at Keswick, discussion today for a decision on Friday that would result in a potential cut next week.

- Keswick reduction was to 6,800 cfs, not the anticipated 6,600 cfs. We found 3 additional redds dewatered than anticipated at a 6,500 cfs release and flows were held at 6,800 cfs. Agency representatives on the USST are participating and the consultation process appears successful.
 - DWR:
 - Barker Slough video provided to WOMT. CDFW expressed interest in a site visit if others would like to accompany.
 - Plan and request for concurrence for herbicide application in Clifton Court Forebay for early November. Anticipated to occur in concert with a 5-day pumping and fish facility outage and at a time of zero exports.
 - FWS: none.
 - NMFS: none.
 - CDFW: Surveys are in the field with Fall Mid-Water Trawl and Bay Studies. No Delta Smelt, fair number of longfin in the Bay.
 - SWRCB: Email related to Term 91 and notice that SPW went negative. Continuing to monitor. No immediate concerns on lifting Term 91. Potential need when rice decomposition flows occur. Electronic notification system should facilitate a change. Anticipate a lift on curtailments this week.
- Discussion Items:
 - Shasta Fall Flows:
 - Rice decomposition is naturally moving into the fall with delayed diversions due to the smoke and fires. Question on whether Reclamation will ask for a delay by allowing their project water to be used through the end of November rather than 10/31 per their contract. This would mean supporting November demands from Keswick. Based on preliminary information it appears to lower demands in late October and potentially increase demands in November. We are uncertain on whether to attempt to enter into a letter agreement or other contract mechanism to request the delay. We are working to gather more information.
 - Based on current information (at the time of the WOMT meeting), releases without a delay may see an increase in demands up to 1,000 cfs in late October, holding 6,000 cfs through the end of October and then we would reduce to 4,000 cfs or less in November (following ramping rates), depending on Delta conditions that may allow lower releases.
 - Holding 6,000 cfs through October would prevent dewatering of an additional 2 winter-run redds, although may increase fall-run redd dewatering during the drop from the end of October into November. At this time, the impact to fall-run redd dewatering is unclear, any may be small.
 - With a contractual delay, we would be able to decrease flows the last 2 weeks of October to around 5,000 cfs and potentially need to hold 4,750 cfs from Keswick through November to support demands.
 - November water cost is potentially larger. Cold water cost in October is potentially more valuable.

- We are working to better understand SRSC diversions in the last two weeks of October without a request to delay as well as the potential demands in November if a delay is requested.
- Rice decomposition smoothing was included in the Biological Assessment as a potential conservation measure for fish. There is an existing contract to address needed SRSC diversion through October 31. We have only extended the period once before, during drought, for different circumstances. The consideration this year is whether to maintain typical historical conditions as where a delay would be a change from historical conditions.
- There are potential considerations for Term 91 holders as Reclamation providing water may delay lifting of Term 91 in November.
- Decision space would first determine whether an action is beneficial to fish (considering both winter-run and fall-run) before we take subsequent actions.
 - DWR's Clifton Court Forebay herbicide application requests will need to come from Reclamation.
 - Feedback on Interest-Based Negotiation Training to KW
- Elevation Items
 - Elevation Issues: none
 - Director Meeting Topics: none

Next Meeting

- Wednesday, Sept. 30, 1 pm, Teams "Call" Only