



Water Operations Management Team Notes

September 30, 2020

Members Attending

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

Topics/Actions

- Approval of the 9/23/2020 WOMT Meeting Notes: approved.
- Operational Updates
 - CVP: Trinity at 450 cfs, temps are looking good. Keswick at 6,800 cfs; Clear Creek at 200 cfs going to 225 cfs, fire is close to IGO gage which is delaying repair of that gage, we expect to go back to 200 cfs when heat wave is over to preserve cold water; American River is holding at 1,750 cfs and holding 58°F through mid-October, contemplating cut after heatwave to 1,500 cfs; Stanislaus holding at 200 cfs, with pulse flow in mid-October through early November; Delta pumping at full pumping ~4,300 cfs, evaluating next week if we need to take any action to meet October Delta outflow requirement.
 - SWP: Oroville releases are at 2,600 cfs, holding into October. 2,200 cfs pumping in the Delta, reducing in a week due to higher Delta outflow requirements, expect to be in the ~1,000 cfs range for October.
- Relevant Assessments
 - Revised Operational Outlook
 - Clear Creek Technical Team: monitoring temperatures and assessing current releases.
 - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group: Next meeting Thurs. 10/22
 - Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team: Met this AM; Next meeting 10/6
 - Feather River Operations Group: Next meeting on 10/1
 - American River Group: Next meeting 10/15; Power bypass request anticipated.
 - Stanislaus River Watershed Team: Next Meeting Wed. 10/21
 - Delta Summer/Fall Habitat Tracking: no updates, next meeting Oct. 2
- Upcoming Actions
 - Reclamation: Drought tool kit meeting being set for mid-October. Submitting the Comprehensive Operations Plan today, which addresses water level and salinity in

south delta. Responding to SWRCB request for Sacramento River temperature protocol today.

- DWR: Filing an extension of Section 10 permit with USACE for additional 500 cfs export capability for July through September, to offset impacts due to curtailment for fishery purposes. Permit expires as the end of September, filing an extension with USACE for July 2021.
 - FWS: Sent out final draft of Delta Smelt Supplementation Strategy.
 - NMFS: no upcoming actions
 - CDFW: Carl's last WOMT meeting. We will all miss Carl.
 - SWRCB: no upcoming actions
- Discussion Items:
 - Fall Flows/Rice Decomp: Reclamation's analyses show dewatering of two winter-run redds and a 2.2% decrease in fall-run redd dewatering if we delay rice decomp (alternative 6a), with neutral storage change. USST met at 11am today, CDFW provided a strong recommendation for delaying rice decomp. Got general support from USFWS. NMFS did not provide a recommendation at the meeting, but there's an email that supports both of the alternatives. Garwin and Howard noted they are in line with CDFW's recommendation. SWRCB is in the same position as NMFS and supports CDFW and USFWS recommendation to implement alternative 6a. As Reclamation is developing the contract terms, we will be using the very helpful CDFW inputs on why this action makes sense and bound the agreement to these inputs and ensure we don't cause an additional pull on storage. We are going to try and bound the storage and quantity impacts, including the depletions to the best of our ability. We are looking to delay rice decomp effecting the first two weeks of November. SWRCB doesn't necessarily see a Term 91 concern, but wants to ensure there's not a more protracted impact as a result of this action. SWRCB will let us know by tomorrow afternoon if they have any concerns.
 - American River Temperature Management – Issue is in connection with what is the base operation when the power bypass request is submitted. The base operation cannot be something Reclamation cannot meet without power bypass, thus the base case cannot say we will meet 56°F.
 - DCC/Mokelumne: Reclamation's process in evaluating gate closures is that we have to: determine impacts to water quality (which DWR has to run DSM2, which can take up to 2 weeks but we are expediting for this request); 2) evaluate whether it qualifies under our BiOps; and, 3) provide public notice due to boating use, and we avoid closing on weekends due to recreational impacts (which Reclamation's public notice requires a 4 day prior internal notice). Recommend that the DCC guidance document should be updated to better address this issue for the future. CDFW sent out the alternatives, including addressing weekends. Given timelines, may not be time to address first pulse, but maybe other three.
 - Barker Slough/Clifton Court Forebay: Potential mechanical harvesting/herbicide application, respectively, in November, which is outside of in-water work window that ends on October 31. Will coordinate with agencies on documentation to make these happen. NMFS noted the bar needs to be pretty high to show it doesn't have any effects that were not analyzed in the BiOps.

- Whiskeytown – Fires in the area are currently 0% contained. Reclamation will be monitoring for potential impacts to equipment and operations. Reclamation will keep WOMT informed if the risks increase.
- Elevation Items
 - Elevation Issues: None
 - Director Meeting Topics: None

Next Meeting

- Wednesday, Oct. 7, 1 pm, Teams “Call” Only