



Water Operations Management Team Notes

December 2, 2020

Members Attending

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

Topics/Actions

- Approval of the 11/18/2020 Meeting Notes (No Thanksgiving Week WOMT): approved with removal of the “draft” designation.
- Operational Updates
 - CVP: Trinity at 300 cfs; Sacramento River at 3,600 cfs and decreasing to 3,500 cfs on Friday and looking for opportunities to reach 3,250 cfs, maybe next week; American River at 1,250 cfs; Stanislaus River at 200 cfs; Delta exports at 1,000 cfs and reducing Friday to 800 cfs reflecting dry conditions. Federal San Luis at 380 TAF.
 - SWP: Dry conditions are below average for this time of the year and nothing is anticipated in the next week or so. Feather River is reducing releases from 2,450 cfs and chipping away with a 200 cfs cut every day to Friday for a target of 1,650 cfs. Will reassess further reductions based on hydrology and delta needs. Delta exports at 2,000 cfs and gradually reducing looking forward. With the reduction in exports, OMR is at -2,800 cfs and with further reductions will be trending more positive as the dry conditions prevail. State San Luis at 563 TAF.
- Relevant Assessments
 - Revised Operational Outlook:
 - Clear Creek Technical Team: temperatures are set for the winter.
 - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group: Next week meeting on TDM comparisons
 - Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team: drafting a spring pulse study plan, next meeting 12/16
 - Feather River Operations Group: Next meeting 12/3

- American River Group: Next meeting 12/17
- Stanislaus River Watershed Team: Next meeting Wed. 12/16, planning winter instability flows for Jan./Feb.
- Delta Cross Channel Operations: Closed for the season
- OMR: No elevation from SaMT nor SMT.
- Upcoming Actions
 - Reclamation:
 - Developing information in the SRTTG to feed into the next technical working session with the SWRCB
 - Drought toolkit meeting today.
 - DWR: On 12/1, issued 2021 initial SWP water supply allocation of 10%.
 - FWS: none
 - NMFS:
 - Awaiting e-mail from Reclamation to confirm DWR's Enhanced Predatory Fish Removal and Relocation Study is consistent with the Proposed Action.
 - Winter-Run JPE and potential decrease in survival from thiamine deficiency.
 - CDFW:
 - November FMWT Index for LFS is 21.7. Based on this index, one adult longfin in salvage in December would trigger ITP Condition 8.3.3 and initiate OMR management at a 14-day average of no more negative than -5,000 cfs and SMT may advise a more protective OMR. Detections of adult longfin in salvage have been rare in the last few years. The trigger would adjust with updated indexes, but we are more positive than -5,000 cfs. December is the last survey so the annual index would be available by the end of December or early January. FMWT will be surveying December 1 through 11.
 - SWRCB:
 - Middle River salinity gage was out and information should be provided to the Board. DWR is gathering data and will provide a notification.
 - No coordination is anticipated on Term 91
- Discussion Items:
 - Redd Dewatering Update: No information yet.
 - Thiamine Deficiency and the JPE: NMFS coordination meeting with the Science Center and the potential effects on juvenile winter-run Chinook salmon survival. Tomorrow is the kickoff meeting for recommendations from the PWT to NMFS.

The effects aren't known from Red Bluff to the Delta. There is a reduction in survival to Red Bluff. Raised in SaMT on whether it would be accounted for in the JPE. The concern is whether fish entering the Delta will be lower than current methods. Thiamine studies are underway at LSNFH. It is not clear whether ETF survival numbers are substantially affected by thiamine and whether there are additional effects downstream. Relatively uncommon in California, but there is a history in the Great Lakes and Denmark. It is related to prey availability in the ocean.

- December Directors Kickoff Meeting, beginning on December 17 and recognize that not all Directors may be available. Agenda:
 - Reservoir Storage and Outlook (Reclamation and DWR): Consider slides that show historical Decembers and the range of possibilities.
 - OMR Flow Management (Reclamation): review what triggers the first flush and the start of OMR, a summary of Dec./Jan. actions. Storm flex is not anticipated for December based on precipitation forecasts and first flush requirements.
 - Winter-Run (NMFS): Include JPE and Thiamine Considerations. Provide feedback to Garwin on slide provided today.
 - Longfin Smelt and Daily Density Triggers (CDFW, Kristal): Provide feedback to Kristal on draft slides provided today.
 - Delta Smelt Larval Actions (FWS): any updates.
 - WY 2021 Directors Meeting Frequency: propose weekly and cancellations if no topics arise.
- Topic for Next Week: Continued FMWT Index Updates
- Elevation Items
 - Elevation Issues: none.

Next Meeting

- Wednesday, Dec. 9, 1 pm, Teams "Call" Only