



## Water Operations Management Team Notes

December 23, 2020

### Members Attending

Kristin White, ~~Liz Kiteck~~, Molly White, ~~Mike Ford~~, ~~Kaylee Allen~~, ~~Jana Affonso~~, Matt Nobriga, Howard Brown, ~~Garwin Yip~~, ~~Kristal Davis Fadtke~~, Josh Grover, Erik Ekdahl, Diane Riddle

### Topics/Actions

- Approval of the 12/16/2020 Meeting Notes: Approved.
- Operational Updates
  - Storm late this week 1-2in precipitation, Feather watershed likely to benefit the most, cold storm resulting in less runoff. Some uncertainty remains about a second storm's location in the northern valley, which is projected early next week. This storm event is unlikely to affect Vernalis, so storm unlikely to affect OMRs.
  - CVP: 3250 cfs release at Keswick for the winter unless needing to go up for Delta conditions later this winter. Trinity holding at 300cfs, Clear Creek at 215 cfs. Nimbus at 1250 cfs but would like to reduce in the new year, Nimbus would be looking to go to 1185 but minimum may be less and this will be a discussion in early January. San Luis storage 380 TAF CVP share, DCC gates will likely stay close next big tides is end of next week should not need to open, pumping 1 unit (800cfs).
  - SWP: 1450 cfs total to the Feather River, reducing 100cfs to 1350cfs, then another decrease next week to 1250cfs. In Delta, 3000 cfs pumping and will adjust based on hydrology. San Luis 540 TAF SWP share. Delta OMR conditions -3500 daily, trending more negative with increased pumping.
- Relevant Assessments
  - Revised Operational Outlook
  - Clear Creek Technical Team: met last week, next meeting 3/11
  - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group: WY21 first meeting not scheduled
  - Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team: next meeting 1/16

- Feather River Operations Group: Last meeting 12/17, next meeting 1/7
- American River Group: 1/7 ad hoc meeting to discuss January releases, regular meeting 1/21. Staff are encouraged to provide input on appropriate flows, Reclamation would like good input and there is a very broad range of effects including CWP for steelhead and fall run dewatering for Chinook salmon. Hopeful that any release in January can be held through March, contingent on Delta requirements, but would like to stay at these conditions through winter.
- Stanislaus River Watershed Team: next meeting 1/20, planning winter instability flows for Jan./Feb.
- Delta Monitoring Working group: next meeting 12/29
- January Directors Meeting: weekly on January 7, may be canceled as necessary. DWR fixing the invitation. There seemed to be interest this year in Directors meeting, so perhaps we ensure some minimum frequency (monthly) to keep updating them on hydrology and fish conditions, so if we end up in a difficult condition they are familiar with ongoing conditions. Schedule at least the second week meeting since forecast will be available. They anticipate hearing back from WOMT in January based if conditions remain dry.
- OMR: No elevation from SaMT nor SMT.
- Upcoming Actions
  - Reclamation:
    - Reclamation sent out a request for drought toolkit actions to WOMT. It would be great if you could share with staff and ensure good responses from WOMT members or a coordinated response from agencies. This is a preliminary step, so any actions and ideas that people may have are helpful now. We are not evaluating feasibility at this time but we want to build a good list of actions to move forward with. We may need to use this list for 2021. If you don't have the requested supporting information, that is OK. Reclamation will be drafting through May but we want to get the process moving forward. The Plan will be a living document, so more ideas can come in later.
  - DWR:
    - Sent an email regarding Barker Slough aquatic vegetation infestation and continuation of a extension for removal on an as needed basis for remainder of water year. DWR will also be working on long term plan for resolving this issue with USBR and NMFS. As an interim step, DWR, Reclamation and NMFS are working together on a WY 2021 plan that should be confirmed today.
    - Revised Comprehensive Operations Plan (COP) should be shared by the end of the year to SWRCB.

- FWS: No updates
- NMFS: No updates
- CDFW:
  - Interim winter-run Chinook salmon JPE is targeted to come out next week.
- SWRCB:
  - SWRCB (regarding potential lifting of term 91 curtailments) is seeing patterns similar to what operators are observing in hydrology and operations, but considerable uncertainty. SWRCB monitoring storms closely. As conditions swing around, SWRCB evaluating shifts in Term 91 and will identify when they lift and reimpose curtailments, as necessary. SWRCB is likely to lift curtailments today. If there is a need to reimpose Term 91 curtailments after 1/1/2021, this may require paper letters to diverters and could experience a delay due to teleworking staff. SB staff will continue to track real time conditions closely with operators.
- Discussion Items:
  - Monitoring during COVID: Are any monitoring staff being considered essential for the covid vaccine? No one has heard about this yet.
  - Directors Meeting: anticipate updating them on hydrology and fish conditions, talk about this at the meeting prior to the 1/7 WOMT meeting. Discussion about having bi-weekly director meetings to provide fish and hydrology updates even if no issues are elevated.
  - Is there an update on meteorology and hydrology at each SWRCB meeting? Not necessarily, but there were during the drought. If there is information that WOMT would like shared at a SWRCB meeting, Erik and Diane would be happy to work to find the right balance to get this onto the agenda. What is the typical lead time? Typically clerk needs a powerpoint the week before for board member review, if part of a board agenda there are some other legal requirements.
- Elevation Items
  - Elevation Issues: None

## Next Meeting

- Wednesday, Dec. 30, 1 pm, Teams “Call” Only