



Notes

Water Operations Management Team
September 9, 2020

Members Attending

Kristin White, Molly White, Mike Ford, Kaylee Allen, Jana Affonso, Howard Brown, Garwin Yip, Kristal Davis-Fadtke, Diane Riddle

Topics/Actions

- Approval of the 9/2/2020 WOMT Meeting Notes: approved.
- Operational Updates
 - CVP: Trinity at 450 cfs, Lower Klamath flows are still under consideration with an additional discussion tomorrow for a decision by Friday that could start flows Saturday; Keswick at 7,000 cfs and holding for the next week, next discussion is Tuesday; American River is holding at 2,000 since prior WOMT meeting and temperatures are looking ok; Stanislaus holding at 200 cfs and D.O. is ok; Delta pumping at full pumping ~4,300 cfs and monitoring of salinity may result in adjustments; San Luis at 274 TAF; transferring 500 AFD for groundwater substitution; today is the last day scheduled for cross valley water, but there may be additional water in upcoming weeks.
 - SWP: San Luis at 690 TAF, pumping allotment at 550 cfs to manage salinity in the Western Delta, anticipate slight increase in the next few days; North Complex Fire/Bear Fire, east and south of Lake Oroville, projected to be up to 250,000 acres as of this morning; no risks to Oroville Dam or its related structures at this time; River valve opened at 1,000 cfs to supplement storage from Thermalito Afterbay to meet the needs in the complex and downstream; Fisheries folks have contacted NMFS and are coordinating with the hatchery as the addition of flows from the river valve may result in hatchery temperature dropping below 48°F; changes in wind conditions today may redirect the fire. Releases are 2,100 cfs total and maintaining 800 cfs in the low flow channel.
- Relevant Assessments
 - Revised Operational Outlook
 - Clear Creek Technical Team: Next regular meeting Thurs. 9/17
 - Sacramento River
 - Temperature Task Group: Next meeting Thurs. 9/24, update meeting today
 - Scheduling Team: Next meeting Tuesday

- Feather River Operations Group: Met on Thurs. 9/3, next meeting on 9/17
- American River Group: Next Meeting Thurs. 9/17
- Stanislaus River Watershed Team: Next Meeting Wed. 9/16
- Delta Summer/Fall Habitat Tracking: no updates
- Klamath Fall Flow Augmentation Meeting: No indication on need as of Monday, decision on Friday
- Upcoming Actions
 - Reclamation:
 - Clear Creek: temperature compliance changes on the September 16 from 60°F to 56°F; No current plan to increase flows.
 - American River: flows and fish ladder pickets installing Thursday of next week; email to ARG should go out today, ramp to 900 cfs for the pickets then back up to 2,000 cfs. This should be the last year we do this and we could include a short presentation as an agency update in December.
 - Stanislaus River: Discussion on the release of flows; Reclamation did not approve that agreement.
 - Sacramento River Temperatures: Changes last week to prepare for the heat wave to close the lower (PRG) gates. We did not see the expected temperature response and found middle gates were not closing correctly. Friday ROV identified a 2ft and 8ft gap. We reset the sensors and closed them again. We saw a response, but not a full response, so we are inspecting, and also deploying the temperature curtain from 2015. We expect that in place within the next week.
 - Sacramento River Flows: Great feedback from NMFS, CDFW, and FWS on next steps. Next week will require a decision on where we want to hold. Additional input of the next few days will be helpful. Look at time period to October 2.
 - Drought Contingency Plan: Reclamation will be kicking off the action and looking for brainstorming. The need under Tier 3 and need for a toolkit likely overlap. DWR has ITP drought requirements to consult with the agencies by October 1 as a dry year action.
 - DWR:
 - Suisun Marsh Gate Operation: typically, depending upon salinity under D-1641, starts in October. The Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement sets forth operation as early as September should certain stations in the Suisun Marsh exceed specific salinity standards. Three stations have exceeded the standards, and yesterday, the flashboards were installed and the gates are in a tidal operation. The last time DWR operated the gates in September was 2015.
 - Barker Slough Weed Removal: Notice on Friday to CDFW on weed removal activities outside of ITP. Future notifications will be copied to WOMT. Temperatures are below 25°C and a designated biologist is required to monitor weed removal. DWR provided additional information to CDFW and weed removal resumption has been approved. DWR will review

historical weed removal activities and notify NMFS of any activity prior to July 1.

- FWS: EDSM off the water today due to smoke; no Delta Smelt caught since Aug. 13. Kaylee to provide a catch comparison graphic.
- NMFS: none
- CDFW: none
- SWRCB: none
- Discussion Items:
 - Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team (USST): Many of the meetings related to the Sacramento River include the same individuals. Consider a combination of the groups so that tradeoffs can be connected and assessed. The SRTTG is rather large while the USST is a smaller subset. The USST also addresses pulse flows. Consider timing on addressing this now or in the future. Proposal is to hold the current structure for now and rethink this winter.
 - Fall flow reductions: WOMT discussed the need for considering potential winter-run redd dewatering scenarios earlier in the planning process and possibly even approaches to modify the timing of redd construction. This year had lower flows than 2019 during the same time period yet there are more shallow water redds and later than those observed in 2019. Additional discussion is necessary on relationships between timing and location of redd construction and reservoir operations, including conservation measures outlined in the 2020 Record of Decision.
- Review Elevation Items
 - Elevation Issues: none
 - Director Meeting Topics: none

Next Meeting

- Wednesday, Sept. 16, 1 pm, Teams “Call” Only