



## Water Operations Management Team Notes

January 13, 2021

### Members Attending

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

### Topics/Actions

- Approval of the 1/06/2021 Meeting Notes: Approved.
- Operational Updates
  - CVP: Whiskeytown (Clear Creek) at 215 cfs. Lewiston (Trinity River) at 300 cfs. Keswick (Sacramento River) at 3,250 cfs minimum flow release. Nimbus (American River) at 1,185 cfs. Reclamation is looking to reduce Nimbus releases given Critical Sacramento Basin year type based on the January forecast and a required minimum release that is <1,185 cfs. Reclamation expects to issue a change order on Friday morning for a flow reduction on Wednesday (1/20). CVP pumping at ~800 cfs and holding. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 377 TAF. Forecast shows no precipitation except for some tentative precipitation possible next weekend. Reclamation is working on their operations forecast this week.
  - SWP: Oroville (Feather River) at 1,250 cfs. SWP exports are at 1,500 cfs and holding. DWR reiterated that the forecast shows some potential for precipitation late next week, but it's tentative and it may be too far north to help much. Tides are filling the Delta and that is worsening water quality, particularly in the Bethel/Jersey Island area. Yesterday, OMR was approximately -1,900 cfs (daily), -3,100 cfs (5-day), and -2,600 cfs (14-day). State share of San Luis Reservoir is 613 TAF. DWR is working on their operations forecast this week.
- Relevant Assessments
  - 20210112 Fish and Water Operations Outlook
  - 20210112 Proposed Action Assessment
  - Clear Creek Technical Team (*meets quarterly*): next meeting 3/11
  - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group: WY21 first meeting not scheduled

- Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team: next meeting 1/20 to introduce Spring Pulse flow from the subteam to full USST
- Feather River Operations Group (*meets biweekly*): next meeting 1/21
- American River Group (*meets monthly*): 1/14 ad hoc meeting to discuss January releases, regular meeting 1/21.
- Stanislaus River Watershed Team (*meets monthly*): next meeting 1/20, planning winter instability flows for Feb.
- Delta Monitoring Working group: Had meeting 1/12, no input; next meeting 1/19.
- Upcoming Actions
  - Reclamation: All WY 2020 annual reports completed and distributed. While feedback on those reports is welcome, Reclamation noted that feedback will be considered when developing the WY 2021 reports and the WY 2020 reports will not be revised.
  - DWR: Because of a dry WY 2020 and a dry-to-date WY 2021, DWR will be submitting a drought contingency plan to CDFW per a condition of the ITP. DWR is using previous drought plans as a framework and sees the plan as a dynamic document that will be updated as needed.
    - Action Item: DWR to share the drought plan with WOMT once submitted to CDFW.
  - FWS: No actions.
  - NMFS: CDFW and NMFS will receive final recommendations from the Winter-run JPE Subteam (subteam meets this Friday) and will jointly issue a final JPE letter to Reclamation and DWR shortly thereafter.
  - CDFW: No actions.
  - SWRCB: No actions.
- Discussion Items:
  - Hydrology update
    - Northern Sierra 8-station precipitation index for water year 2020 was the 9<sup>th</sup> driest on record (2014 was the 8<sup>th</sup> driest). 2021 water year-to-date (Oct-Jan 11) precipitation is the 4<sup>th</sup> driest on record; tracking with historically critical years such as 2014. Just over 9” of precipitation in the Northern Sierra.
    - Precipitation forecasts show dry conditions for the next few weeks.
    - Reclamation and DWR are monitoring the January 8RI which informs February starting gate conditions for winter/spring Delta requirements (such as X2).
  - Drought planning
    - DROUGHT TOOLKIT: Reclamation has scheduled a meeting tomorrow (1/14) to review outline of drought toolkit, including drought actions

suggested by WOMT members and others. Focus for tomorrow's meeting is not to discuss each idea, but to assign volunteers to flesh out a process and timeline for each action.

- Reclamation is cleaning up the list of actions and will try to distribute prior to the meeting.
- Right now, if suggested, the action is in the toolkit, since the toolkit is not about WY 2021, but about a compilation of all possible tools.
- DROUGHT PLAN FOR WY 2021: General consensus among WOMT members that there is also a need to work on specific drought actions that can feasibly be implemented in WY 2021, assuming the dry hydrology continues. Discussion on process for WY 2021 drought actions planning scheduled for next week's WOMT, which will be extended a half-hour to accommodate that discussion.
- SWRCB coordination: SWRCB staff need to coordinate with Reclamation/DWR/NMFS re: hydrologic and 2020 Shasta Cold Water Pool Report updates to the Board; will follow up offline.
- Delta Monitoring update: FWS reported that Lodi office is again operating with reduced crews due to COVID. All salmon monitoring is occurring except for the Mossdale Trawl. EDSM sampling is down to a single crew (compared to the usual three crews), and this week that single crew will be helping the Fish Conservation and Culture Laboratory with capturing Delta smelt for the captive population. SWRCB reported that they will work with appropriate DWR/Reclamation and CDFW staff on needed communication to ensure that the SWRCB is notified of changes in Delta monitoring. FWS relayed an update from the SMT that Bay Study is suspended until February.
- Elevation Items
  - No elevation items for directors.

## Next Meeting

- Wednesday, Jan. 20, 1 pm, Teams "Call" Only