



## Water Operations Management Team Notes

January 20, 2021

### Members Attending

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

### Topics/Actions

- Approval of the 1/13/2021 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 950 cfs. CVP pumping at 2 units for ~1600 cfs; not sure how long exports will stay at that level. Goodwin (Stanislaus River) at 200 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 384 TAF.
  - SWP: Oroville (Feather River) at 1,250 cfs. SWP exports are at 1,500 cfs. Delta water quality still a concern. In a “draining” period of tides coupled with a high pressure system. Peak tides will occur near the end of the month. Bethel gage malfunctioning; DWR is troubleshooting. Yesterday, OMR was approximately -1,918 cfs (daily), -1,930 cfs (5-day), and -2,500 cfs (14-day). State share of San Luis Reservoir is 623 TAF. Weather forecast has precipitation coming as early as Thursday and moving southeast, with a bigger storm on Sunday/Monday. Feather River basin may receive 1.25-1.5” of precipitation.
- Relevant Assessments
  - 20210119 Fish and Water Operations Outlook
  - 20210119 Proposed Action Assessment
  - Clear Creek Technical Team (*meets quarterly*): next meeting 3/11
  - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group: Starting in February, meetings will occur on the fourth Thursday of each month. First meeting of WY 2021 is 2/25.
  - 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*): next meeting 1/21.
  - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (*meets monthly*): next meeting 1/20
  - Delta Monitoring Working group: No input from 1/19 meeting; next meeting 1/26.
- Upcoming Actions
    - Reclamation: Drought toolkit meeting occurred 1/14; action items from that meeting to be completed by end of the month. On the American River, Reclamation has concerns about the February FMS flow; will be discussed at ARG tomorrow. Proposed Action has a provision to modify the FMS flow if the calculated minimum flow doesn't meet intended objectives. This issue may be elevated to WOMT next week.
    - DWR: Condition 8.12 of ITP triggered by detection of larval longfin smelt at Station 716, which restricts pumping at Barker Slough to no more than 60 cfs on a 7-day average. DWR reduced Barker Slough pumping to 60 cfs.
    - FWS: No actions.
    - NMFS & CDFW: WR PWT put out final JPE recommendation last Friday. NMFS and CDFW coordinating re: issuing final JPE letters. NMFS and CDFW will issue concurrent, but separate, letters and anticipate them going out before next Tuesday's SaMT meeting. Final JPE in effect for operations as of the date of the final JPE letters (which will be received by DWR and Reclamation on the day they are signed). CDFW does not expect that a JPE-based trigger will be hit before the final letter is issued.
    - SWRCB: No actions.
- Discussion Items:
    - Hydrology update: No appreciable precipitation since last week, but a promising forecast. A small storm forecast for this weekend, with tentative but potentially significant precipitation at the end of the month into early February.
    - February D-1641 requirements: The Projects shared concerns about an element of the X2 requirement that could apply in early February, depending on the January 8 River Index (8RI). If the January 8RI comes in between 650-900 TAF, there is existing flexibility in D-1641 for the Executive Director of the SWRCB to use discretion on whether that early February element of X2 is required. SWRCB encouraged the Projects to proactively submit the proposal since the requirement in question (if in effect) must be met by February 14, and to include in the proposal context on hydrology/storage and feedback from the fish agencies. Reclamation will work with DWR to draft a letter describing the uncertainties and circulate to WOMT so that if needed, the proposal is ready to go to the SWRCB with WOMT support.

Proposal will focus on the February requirement for now; will deal with March requirements later, if needed.

- EDSM update: EDSM back up to 3 crews this week. Two crews doing limited sampling in 6 of 8 strata. Remaining crew continuing to help FCCL with broodstock collection.
  - Informational Update to SWRCB: Plans are in place for Reclamation and DWR to provide an update on the Shasta CWP report and hydrology update to the Board. SWRCB suggested that it may be beneficial to also include some updates on DWR's Drought Contingency Plan (pursuant to ITP) and other drought planning activities, as well as for the fish agencies to provide an update on species status and biological concerns related to current hydrology. Target is to provide these updates at the 2/16 Board meeting. General support for this by WOMT.
    - ACTION ITEM: Agencies to come to next week's WOMT meeting ready to confirm or decline participation in this update to the Board.
  - Stanislaus Watershed Team (SWT): SWT is interested in flexibility to shift some of the spring Stepped Release Plan volume into February, but that effort is complicated by disagreements about Vernalis flow requirements under D-1641. SWT encourages WOMT to encourage the SWRCB and Reclamation to resolve the issue of Vernalis flow requirements.
- Drought planning
  - At 1/14/21 Drought Toolkit meeting, focus was to solicit volunteers to take lead to fill out the template summary for each potential proposed action.
  - WOMT discussed a possible structure for drought planning, which would include at least three teams:
    - Drought Toolkit Team (*existing*) -- Flesh out actions for Drought Toolkit but not responsible for specific-year drought plans
    - A proposal to develop a new team (Drought Relief Year Team, or "DRY Team" was suggested as a name) comprised of representatives from the WOMT member agencies (lead and alternate, as for WOMT); to be convened in drought years.
    - WOMT (*existing*) -- Make decisions as needed.
  - Discussion highlights:
    - Coordination with PWAs critical for success, especially for voluntary actions.
    - Suggestion that WOMT should stay a decision-making body and not take on plan drafting.
    - Reminder that lot of drought options aren't Project related, so the new team should not limit themselves to actions associated with operations. Actions may address both water supply and fisheries issues.

- Staff on the new team should function in a technical and policy role; responsibilities and decision-making authority should be specified in a clear charter document.
- Communication and coordination key, especially if drought actions affect regulatory requirements, e.g. in a TUCP.
- Elevation Items
  - No elevation items for directors; Directors' meeting will be cancelled.

## Next Meeting

- Wednesday, Jan. 27, 1 pm-2:30pm (*extended time for drought planning*), Teams "Call" Only