



Water Operations Management Team Notes

January 27, 2021

Members Attending

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

Topics/Actions

- Approval of the 1/20/2021 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; possible further flow reduction being considered. Goodwin (Stanislaus River) at 200 cfs. CVP pumping at 2 units for ~1600 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 395 TAF. Peak inflow projections: Shasta 7,300 cfs Thursday; 14,000 cfs by Monday. Folsom 4,200 cfs on Thursday. New Melones 1,600 cfs on Thursday. Cold storm so not much immediate inflow.
 - SWP: Oroville (Feather River) at 1,250 cfs. Oroville inflow expected to peak at about 2,500 cfs late Thursday, maybe another peak on Monday morning of 2,400 cfs. Stormy weather expected through early next week, but after next few days, storm is trending northerly and coastal. SWP Delta exports at 1,500 cfs. Barker Slough diversions at 40-60 cfs. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 623 TAF and holding fairly steady. Yesterday, OMR was approximately -2,650 cfs (daily), -2,670 cfs (5-day), and -2,300 cfs (14-day).
- Relevant Assessments & Upcoming Meetings
 - 20210126 Fish and Water Operations Outlook
 - 20210126 Proposed Action Assessment
 - Clear Creek Technical Team (*meets quarterly*): 3/11
 - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group: Monthly meetings starting 2/25.
 - Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team:

- USST Spring Flows Planning Subgroup: 2/11
 - USST regular meeting: weekly meetings starting 3/3
- Feather River Operations Group (*meets first and third Thursday*): 2/4
- American River Group (*meets monthly*): ad-hoc meeting 1/28; regular meeting 2/18.
- Stanislaus River Watershed Team (*meets monthly*): 2/17
- Delta Monitoring Working group (*meets weekly*): No direct input from 1/26 meeting, but stakeholders requested chance to weigh in again if a new risk assessment is produced at Friday's ad-hoc SMT meeting. Next meeting 2/2.
- Upcoming Actions
 - Reclamation: Friday is the temperature modeling workshop. Working on letter to SWRCB re: using flexibility in D-1641 regarding meeting Collinsville standard in February. In order to include updated hydrology due to storms, the draft letter will not be circulated to WOMT until late Wednesday, 2/3. Reclamation requests 24-hour turnaround on comments so it can get final letter to the SWRCB by COB Friday, 2/5.
 - DWR: Plan to submit Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) to CDFW on Monday, 2/1. Will share with WOMT at that time.
 - FWS: No actions.
 - NMFS & CDFW: We issued our JPE letters.

SWRCB: Planning for informational 2/16 workshop for the Board; date still awaiting final confirmation.
- Discussion Items:
 - Hydrology update: Storm coming in; significant rainfall today and tomorrow. Again later this weekend, but more focused on the northern part of the State. Most of stormy week will be captured in February's Bulletin 120. DWR and Reclamation are optimistic that the recent storm makes for a less dire WY 2021 hydrology, but still going to be on the drier side. Not seeing much of a response in Delta inflows so not expecting an OMR storm flex opportunity in the next week. Northern Sierra got ~1" of rain on Tuesday.
 - Informational Update to SWRCB: All WOMT member agencies open to participating in the (likely) 2/16 Board informational item on current Bay-Delta hydrology, operations, and fisheries conditions. WOMT presenters will meet before the 2/3 WOMT to coordinate on presentations, and will share draft slides at the 2/10 WOMT. Time TBD, but likely 40+ minutes. Tentative agenda items were discussed. SWRCB will confirm presentation by next WOMT meeting.
 - Smelt Monitoring Team (SMT):

- Longfin Smelt: Condition 8.4.2 of the ITP was triggered based on observation of longfin smelt larvae in surveys. Because of uncertainty about operations and Delta conditions due to the storm, SMT has scheduled an ad-hoc meeting for Friday, 1/29 to review the latest information. The SMT may provide an updated risk assessment, and, if warranted, recommend an OMR flow limit between -1,250 and -5,000 cfs per the ITP.
 - Delta Smelt: The SMT is concerned about the potential formation of a turbidity bridge in the south Delta and will discuss again at the ad-hoc SMT meeting on Friday, 1/29. The SMT asked WOMT for clarification on the timing of when actions for turbidity bridge avoidance could be implemented.
 - DECISION: WOMT directs the SMT to consider the intent of the action and assess risks accordingly. Any clarifications to the Proposed Action based on this year's implementation should be added to the LTO guidance document(s) used by the SMT.
 - Any operational changes recommended at the 1/29 SMT should be shared by CDFW (for longfin smelt) and FWS (for Delta smelt) with the Projects as soon as possible after the SMT meeting. No ad-hoc WOMT meeting is expected unless there is *not* consensus at the SMT.
- Drought planning
 - Group continued last week's discussion on how to coordinate on drought planning.
 - DECISION: WOMT agreed that Reclamation would task Cindy Meyer (currently leading the Drought Toolkit team) with drafting a charter for the Drought Relief Year (DRY) Team, and that Cindy, in coordination with the LTO Interagency Coordination Team, would manage that effort, including potential membership from the WOMT member agencies.
 - ACTION ITEM: Kristin to task out DRY Team coordination to Cindy Meyer.
 - ACTION ITEM: Howard to send Cindy his thoughts on the DRY Team charter.
 - WOMT will revisit issue in mid-February, after the February forecast is out, to assess need for a DRY Team in WY 2021.
- Elevation Items
 - No elevation items for directors; Directors' meeting will be cancelled.

Next Meeting

- Wednesday, February 3, Teams "Call" Only:
 - 12:30 pm-1 pm: WOMT subgroup meets to plan for WOMT update to the SWRCB

- 1 pm-2 pm: regular WOMT meeting