



Water Operations Management Team Notes

February 10, 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 2/3/2021 Meeting Notes: Approved.
- Operational Updates
 - CVP: Whiskeytown (Clear Creek) at 200 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 but will wait for February forecast to be finished. Goodwin (Stanislaus River) at 400 cfs; going up to 600 cfs on Saturday for Vernalis salinity. CVP pumping at 2 units for ~1,900 cfs. Water year type based on the February forecast is Critical in both the Sacramento and San Joaquin basins. There is improvement in hydrology relative to the January forecast but not as much as expected and conditions are still very dry. The Sacramento Valley unimpaired flow forecast is the 8th driest on record; the San Joaquin Valley unimpaired flow forecast is the 10th driest on record. Expecting some precipitation tomorrow and Saturday; the Saturday storm is colder and will fall mostly as snow. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 442 TAF.
 - SWP: Oroville (Feather River) at 1,250 cfs. SWP Delta exports at 2,000 cfs; expected to range between 2,000-2,400 cfs over next few days. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 664 TAF.
- Relevant Assessments & Upcoming Meetings
 - 20210209b Fish and Water Operations Outlook
 - 20210209 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 Thursdays*): 2/18
 - American River Group (*meets monthly on third Thursdays, and as needed*): 2/18.
 - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (*meets monthly on third Wednesday*): 2/17
 - Delta Monitoring Working group (*meets weekly*): No input from 2/9 meeting. Next meeting 2/16.
- Upcoming Actions
 - Reclamation: Sacramento Basin index is Critical, and Reclamation will announce on Friday, 2/12, (via letters, not a press release) that is also a “Shasta Critical” year.
 - DWR: No actions.
 - FWS: Two EDSM crews are conducting EDSM sampling and a third crew is (likely for the last time this year) helping with FCCL broodstock collection.
 - NMFS : No actions
 - CDFW: The third Smelt Larva Survey and the Bay Study are on the water this week. The second Spring Kodiak Trawl Survey was completed last week and no Delta Smelt were caught.
 - SWRCB: The Board meeting on 2/16 will feature the WOMT update on hydrology and fish status.
 - Discussion Items:
 - Recent Hatchery Releases: The group discussed recent hatchery releases and Reclamation referred WOMT members to the convenient compilation of hatchery releases hosted on SacPAS at:
http://www.cbr.washington.edu/sacramento/data/delta_cwt_tables.html
 - DWR and Reclamation request to SWRCB re: February X2 flexibility:
 - D-1641 has a “starting gate” requirement for X2 to be at Collinsville for at least one day between Feb 1 and Feb 14, but when the 8RI is between 650 and 900 TAF that requirement may be offramped.
 - Last week, DWR and Reclamation sent a letter to the SWRCB requesting that the requirement be offramped, given the overall dry hydrology and consistent with the flexibility in D-1641.
 - The SWRCB is considering the request and Board staff on the call described a possible provision for approval that would require OMR levels to not be more negative than -3,500 cfs (on a 5-day running average) during the February 1-14 period. That OMR limit is consistent with the discussion of

longfin smelt risk at the recent Smelt Monitoring Team (SMT) meetings (notes available at: <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/bdo/smelt-water-year-2021.html>).

- SWRCB asked for feedback on that potential provision from WOMT members and no concerns were expressed.
- Board staff expect the response to be released soon.
- Edits to the Fish and Water Operations Outlook or the Proposed Action Assessment: WOMT discussed how to handle comments from WOMT members on the outlook or assessment.
 - DECISION:
 - Corrections/clarifications should be sent to WOMT as an FYI, but will not be discussed at WOMT. Josh will update the document(s) before posting and share revisions with the Salmonid Monitoring Team (SaMT) or Smelt Monitoring Team (SMT), as appropriate.
 - Substantive changes should be sent to, and discussed at, WOMT. Any revisions then follow the process outlined for corrections/clarifications.
- Elevation Items
 - No elevation items for directors; Directors' meeting will be cancelled.

Next Meeting

- Wednesday, February 17, 1 pm – 2 pm, Teams “Call” Only: