



# Water Operations Management Team Notes

**October 25, 2023**

## Members Attending

- Reclamation: Levi Johnson, Liz Kiteck
- USFWS: Jana Affonso
- CDFW: Brooke Jacobs, Kristal Davis-Fadtke
- NMFS: Barb Byrne (Acting)
- DWR: Molly White, Lenny Grimaldo
- SWRCB: Matthew Holland

## Topics/Actions

- Approval of Meeting Notes from last week: N/A
- Confirmation of WOMT Membership for WY 2024
- Upcoming Meetings
  - Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT)(weekly on Tuesday): 10/31
  - Smelt Monitoring Team (SMT)(weekly on Tuesday): 11/7
  - Feather River Operations (monthly first and third Thursdays): 11/2
  - American River Group (monthly on third Thursday, and as needed): 11/16;  
Ad Hoc meeting scheduled for 10/27
  - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (monthly on third Wednesday): 11/15
  - Clear Creek Technical Team (quarterly on third Thursday): 11/15
  - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (monthly on fourth Thursday): 11/16;  
Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team (as needed): Not currently scheduled
- Relevant Assessments
  - Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook 10/24/23 – 10/30/23
  - Proposed Action Assessment 10/24/23

- Operational Updates
  - CVP: Trinity River releases are at 300 cfs. Sacramento River (Keswick) releases are currently at 6500 cfs and expected to decrease beginning November 1. Clear Creek is at 200 cfs. American River (Nimbus) releases are at 2,500 cfs. Stanislaus River (Goodwin) releases will peak at 1,500 cfs this Thursday, then decrease; Vernalis flows expected to meet 2,000 cfs monthly average. Reclamation's Delta pumping is at 1 unit targeting 800 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 725 TAF. Delta Cross Channel (DCC) gates closed M-F to help with salinity (X2).
    - There is currently very low dissolved oxygen in Lake Natoma (due to releases from Folsom Reservoir of water with low dissolved oxygen), and Reclamation is releasing water from Nimbus Dam spillway to oxygenate releases into the Lower American River. Operators are also experimenting with releases from the lower Folsom Dam outlets to assess potential dissolved oxygen impacts in Lake Natoma.
    - A power bypass is planned for the American River to reduce water temperatures to support fall-run Chinook Salmon spawning. The power bypass would begin October 30<sup>th</sup> and reach a maximum bypass of 500 cfs on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Reclamation is determining how to balance the power bypass for temperature reductions with possible impacts to dissolved oxygen.
  - SWP: Feather River (Oroville-Thermalito Complex) releases 2,450 cfs. Clifton Court Forebay gates were closed for weed treatment Monday and Tuesday, resulting in 0 exports, and SWP exports resumed today at 300 cfs and are projected to remain at 300 cfs until the end of the month. State share of San Luis Reservoir is at 703 TAF.
- Hydrology Update (DWR and Reclamation): No systems forecasted in the near-term forecast.
- Upcoming Actions or Updates
  - Reclamation:
    - No actions or discussion items.
  - FWS:
    - No actions or discussion items.
  - CDFW:
    - No actions or discussion items.
  - NMFS:
    - No actions or discussion items.
  - DWR:
    - Requested a discussion of Fall X2 compliance for October.

- SWRCB:
  - No actions or discussion items.
- Discussion Items
  - DWR and Reclamation provided an operations update, X2 location, and actions that have been taken to meet the October requirement.
    - The Fall X2 requirement in the Proposed Action and ITP for this year is a monthly average location of  $\leq 80$  km for September and October. The September average was 78km, but October is projected to be between 80-81 km.
    - Delta outflow average to date in October has been around 9,100 cfs, which was anticipated to be sufficient to manage X2; however, higher tides due to a low-pressure system this past weekend have pushed X2 farther upstream than expected.
    - Delta outflow is projected upwards of 12,000 cfs for the rest of the month and salinity is improving, but it is uncertain if significant improvement for the last week of the month will be sufficient to meet the monthly average.
    - Actions to decrease X2 include:
      - DCC gates – Delta Cross Channel gates have been closed during the week (M-F) and open on weekends since September.
      - SWP and CVP have reduced to minimum exports with combined exports at 1,200 cfs.
      - Increasing upstream releases could shift X2 westward, but would have storage impacts and potential fishery issues as temporary increases in flow could dewater redds.
  - WOMT discussed and agreed that this is not an elevation item for the Directors, but it is important for the Directors to be aware of this potential exceedance for broader understanding and to give them an opportunity to ask questions.
- Action Items
  - WOMT agreed to begin meeting no later than the first Wednesday of each water year.
  - DWR and Reclamation will put together talking points and circulate to WOMT for review prior to Directors' Meeting tomorrow (10/26/23).
    - Talking points were sent out to WOMT on 10/26/23. During the meeting, the Fall X2 item was shared for Director's awareness. The Directors did not have any feedback for the WOMT team.
  - DWR and Reclamation will provide the actual monthly average X2 location in October at next week's WOMT meeting.

- Elevation Items
  - No elevation items.

## **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, November 1, 1-1:50 p.m.