

# Water Operations Management Team Notes

January 17, 2023

## Members Attending

- Reclamation: Elizabeth Kiteck, Levi Johnson
- USFWS: Jana Affonso, Matt Nobriga
- CDFW: Kristal Davis-Fadtke, Brooke Jacobs
- NMFS: Garwin Yip
- DWR: Molly White, Chris Wilkinson (Acting)
- SWRCB: Matthew Holland

## Topics/Actions

- Approval of Meeting Notes from last meeting: 1/17/24
- Upcoming Meetings
  - Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) (weekly on Tuesday): 1/23/24
  - Smelt Monitoring Team (SMT) (weekly on Tuesday): 1/23/24
  - Feather River Operations (monthly first and third Thursdays): 1/18/24
  - American River Group (monthly on third Thursday, and as needed): 1/18/24
  - Stanislaus Watershed Team (monthly on third Wednesday): 2/21/24
  - Clear Creek Technical Team (quarterly on third Thursday): 3/21/24
- Relevant Assessments
  - Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook 1/16/24 – 1/21/24
  - Proposed Action Assessment 1/16/24
  - SaMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary 1/16/24
  - SMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary 1/16/24
- Operational Updates
  - CVP: Trinity River release is 300 cfs. Sacramento River (Keswick) release is 5,000 cfs. Clear Creek (Whiskeytown) release is 200 cfs. American River (Nimbus) release is 1,750 cfs. Stanislaus River (Goodwin) release is 1,000 cfs. Reclamation's

Delta pumping is at 4 units, targeting 3,600 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 820 TAF.

- SWP: Feather River (Oroville-Thermalito Complex) releases are 1,750 cfs. Clifton Court Forebay exports are 1,800 cfs, which is the state's proportion of the ITP COA 8.4.2. State share of San Luis Reservoir is at 386 TAF.
- Hydrology Update (DWR and Reclamation): The 6-day forecast is predicting heavy rain throughout California. In Eureka, Sacramento valley, San Francisco, and Monterey Bay areas 2 - 3 inches are expected, in Redding 4 - 6 inches, and in the Sierras 3 - 4 inches. The rest of California is expected to receive ½ - 1 inch.
- Upcoming Actions, Updates, and Discussion Items
  - Reclamation:
    - No actions or updates.
    - Discussion item: WOMT emailing list.
  - FWS:
    - No actions or updates.
    - Discussion item: likelihood of first flush conditions being triggered with rain forecasted over the next few days.
  - CDFW:
    - No actions or updates.
    - Discussion item: likelihood of first flush conditions being triggered with rain forecasted over the next few days.
  - NMFS:
    - No actions, updates, or discussion items.
  - DWR:
    - No actions or updates.
    - Discussion item: The SMTs latest recommendations regarding longfin smelt.
  - SWRCB:
    - No actions, updates, or discussion items.
- Discussion Items
  - WOMT emailing list:
    - Reclamation noted that the decision email that went out on Friday (1/12/24) did not include operators (i.e., Randi Field). It is important for operators to be included, at minimum, on decision emails coming out of

this group so they can be kept up to date on decisions and/or actions. Requested to have Randi Field added to WOMT emailing list.

- CDFW recommended reviewing the current WOMT emailing lists and updating accordingly.
- Likelihood of first flush conditions being triggered with rain forecasted over the next few days:
  - DWR noted that turbidity at Freeport is currently at 173 FNU. Flow thresholds have not yet been reached, but this is being monitored. Currently, temperatures are in the low to mid-twenty degrees F so there is uncertainty if flow thresholds will be met, but it is possible. For Verona, it is possible that flow triggers could be met with forecasted precipitation over the next few days, or early next week (i.e., Monday).
  - FWS asked for clarification on next steps if triggers were met. Specifically, if an additional WOMT meeting would need to be held or if the action would be automatically on-ramped if the thresholds were met.
    - DWR confirmed that there would not be a need to hold an additional WOMT meeting, and that the action would be implemented if the conditions are triggered.
- SMT latest recommendations regarding longfin smelt:
  - DWR noted that currently releases are operating under the ITP COA 8.4.2 for Longfin smelt presence in South delta. Based on new forecasts for QWEST they would like to revisit the risk assessment for Longfin smelt.
  - CDFW added that the SMT met yesterday and based on their assessment on the hydrologic forecast at that time. The SMT can evaluate updated forecasts.
  - DWR will request an off-cycle SMT meeting tomorrow (1/18/24) to reassess entrainment risk for Longfin smelt.
- Elevation Items:
  - No elevation items.
- Action Items:
  - Agencies review WOMT emailing lists and update.
    - Add Randi Field (Reclamation Operator) – completed 1/18/24.
- Post-Meeting Decision:
  - The SMT met for an off-cycle meeting on Thursday (1/18/24) to reassess the risk of entrainment to Longfin smelt in response to updated precipitation and

hydrologic forecasts. The SMT provided the following recommendations to WOMT on 1/18/24: SMT recommends the State's share of OMRI be limited to -5,000 cfs on a 7-day average under COA 8.4.2, Larval and Juvenile Longfin Smelt Protection if the 3-day average QWEST remains above +3,000 cfs. If the 3-day average QWEST falls below +3,000 cfs, then SMT recommends the State's share of OMRI be limited to -3,500 cfs on a 7-day average.

- SWP ITP COA 8.1.3 requires WOMT to evaluate recommendations from SMT and make the final operational decision. It was suggested that WOMT confirm the decision via email. WOMT agency representatives responded accordingly:
  - NMFS abstained.
  - FWS abstained.
  - Reclamation abstained.
  - DWR accepted.
  - CDFW accepted.
  
- Next Meeting:
  - Wednesday, January 24, 1-1:50 p.m.