



Delta Monitoring Workgroup

Meeting Record 04/02/2024

Working Group Members in Attendance

- USBR: Randi Field, Nick Bertrand, Erika Kegel, Cat Pien, Brian Mahardja, Elissa Buttermore
- USFWS: Leif Goude
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Erica Meyers
- DWR: Mike Ford, Brian Schreier, Farida Islam
- SWRCB: Matt Holland
- Water Contractors: Shawn Acuña (MWD), Darcy Ausin (SWC), Heidi Williams (Valley Water), Sarah Piramoon (Valley Water), Tom Boardman (WWD), Cindy Meyer (SLDMWA), Scott Petersen (SLDMWA), Deanna Sereno (CCWD), Yuan Liu (CCWD), Jennifer Buckman (ARSC)

Review Operations Outlook (USBR, DWR)

- Effective 4/1-4/3, CVP and SWP operations limited to a 14-day average OMRI flow of no more negative than -2,500 cfs per the 3/29 Director's meeting.
- Inflow/export ratio constraints per Section 8.17 of the ITP are temporarily off ramped/suspended from 4/1-4/3 due to the three-day average Delta outflow exceeding 44,500 cfs.
- Awaiting operational direction from WOMT on 4/3 for the remainder of the week.
- On the Sacramento River, Keswick releases are at 4,000 cfs to accommodate for ACID Dam installation. The specific date for increasing flows again is uncertain.
- On the American River, Nimbus releases this week are at 4,000 cfs and likely holding but may decrease to 3,000 cfs for storage conservation.
- On the Stanislaus River, Goodwin releases were 800 cfs early in the day and 400 cfs at the end of the day. Flows are anticipated to fluctuate between 300 cfs to 1,200 throughout the month for a spring pulse flow.
- Freeport daily average flows yesterday were approx. 43,100 cfs.

- Vernalis daily average flows yesterday were approx. 4,500 cfs.
- USBR is targeting JPP exports at 900 cfs for the remainder of the week.
- Clifton Court exports are at 3,800 cfs and will remain there through 4/3. The high flow offramp of 44,500 cfs for three-day average may not be extended past Thursday (4/4); when it ends there will be a decrease in SWP exports to around 600 cfs for minimum health and safety flow levels.
- Preliminary estimates for X2 requirements in April are 15 days for Port Chicago and 30 days for both Chipps Island and Collinsville.
- Refer to the Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook for more information.

Additional Questions or Comments

- Question: Given where X2 is right now, do you know if the Port Chicago requirements might be met via water quality rather than increasing reservoir releases?
 - Answer: Right now, outflows are around the 45,000 cfs range and water quality looks pretty good. Given the 14-day average water quality, it is certainly possible that the Port Chicago requirements could be met without additional releases, but this is highly uncertain at this time.
- Question: Are concerns for winter-run salmon driving OMRI constraint of no more negative than -2,500 cfs?
 - Answer: It is difficult to speak to that without being a part of the Directors' discussion. WOMT will reevaluate this number tomorrow (4/3) and elevate the decision again if needed.

Review PA Assessment (USBR)

USBR then provided the PA Assessment update. For more information, please refer to the PA Assessment document.

Additional Questions or Comments

- No additional questions.

Review ITP Risk Assessment (DWR)

DWR provided the LFS update. For more information, please refer to the ITP Risk Assessment document.

Additional Questions or Comments

- No additional questions.

Acronyms

- CVP – Central Valley Project

- DCC – Delta Cross Channel
- DOI – Delta Outflow Index
- DWR – California Department of Water Resources
- DCI – Delta Mendota Canal – California Aqueduct Intertie
- DS – Delta Smelt
- FNU – Formazin Nephelometric Unit
- I:E – Inflow to Export
- IOP – Interim Operations Plan
- ITP – Incidental Take Permit
- ITL – Incidental Take Limit
- JPE – Juvenile Production Estimate
- LFS – Longfin Smelt
- NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
- OBI – Old River Bacon Island Station
- OMR – Old and Middle River Tidally Averaged Flow
- PA – Proposed Action (Federal)
- PTM – Particle Tracking Model
- SaMT – Salmon Monitoring Team
- SLS – Smelt Larval Survey
- SMT – Smelt Monitoring Team
- SWP – State Water Project
- SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board
- TFCF – Tracy Fish Collection Facility
- TUCP – Temporary Urgency Change Petition
- TUCO – Temporary Urgency Change Order
- USBR – United States Bureau of Reclamation
- WCS – Winter Run Chinook Salmon
- WOMT – Water Operations Management Team

- WQ – Water Quality
- YOY – Young of Year