



Water Operations Management Team Notes

April 17, 2024

Members Attending

- Reclamation: Elizabeth Kiteck
- USFWS: Jana Affonso, Matt Nobriga
- CDFW: Kristal Davis-Fadtke
- NMFS: Barb Byrne (acting)
- DWR: Molly White, Lenny Grimaldo
- SWRCB: Craig Williams (acting)

Topics/Actions

- Approval of meeting notes from last meeting: 4/10/24
- Upcoming Meetings:
 - Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) (weekly on Tuesday): 4/23/24
 - Smelt Monitoring Team (SMT) (weekly on Tuesday): 4/23/24
 - Feather River Operations (monthly first and third Thursdays): 4/18/24
 - American River Group (monthly on third Thursday, and as needed): 4/25/24
 - Stanislaus Watershed Team (monthly on third Wednesday): 4/17/24
 - Clear Creek Technical Team (quarterly on third Thursday): 6/13/24
 - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (SRTTG) (monthly on fourth Thursday): 4/25/24
- Relevant Assessments
 - Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook: 4/16/24 – 4/22/24
 - Proposed Action Assessment: 4/16/24
 - SaMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary: 4/16/24
 - SMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary: 4/16/24

- Operational Updates
 - CVP: Trinity River release is 1000 cfs and peaking at 8,500 cfs on 4/23, then slowly decreasing until August 4th. Sacramento River (Keswick) release is 8,000 cfs. Clear Creek (Whiskeytown) managed release is 200 cfs. American River (Nimbus) release is 4,000 cfs. Stanislaus River (Goodwin) release is 500 cfs and pulse flows are scheduled through mid May. Reclamation's Delta Pumping is at 1 unit targeting 970 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 941 TAF.
 - SWP: Feather River (Oroville-Thermalito Complex) release is 5,000 cfs. Clifton Court Forebay exports are 600 cfs. State share of San Luis Reservoir is at 555 TAF.
 - Hydrology Update (DWR and Reclamation): Warm and dry this week.

Upcoming Actions, Updates, and Discussion Items

- Reclamation:
 - No actions, updates, or discussion items.
- FWS:
 - No actions, updates, or discussion items.
- CDFW:
 - Providing operations plans to SMT and SaMT.
 - No actions, or updates.
- NMFS:
 - No actions, updates, or discussion items
- DWR:
 - No actions, updates, or discussion items.
- SWRCB:
 - No actions, updates, or discussion items.

Discussion Items

- CDFW: Wants to make sure operational scenarios are presented to the technical teams to allow SaMT and SMT to assess the risk of proposed operations.
- DWR: The IOP conditions should be included in the operational scenarios.
- CDFW: At SaMT, CDFW recommended continuing operating to a positive OMRI this week to benefit LAD winter-run. This recommendation is consistent with the projected range of OMRI for the week based on anticipated operations.

- Additionally, CDFW noted that an OMRI of -2,500 cfs was not assessed by SaMT this week. The risk assessment conducted by the technical teams will help inform the biological rationale for IOP implementation of the 100 TAF and an understanding of what would have been controlling absent the 100 TAF.
- DWR: is at minimum exports and is abstaining as the 100 TAF is a federal requirement under the IOP.
- NMFS: Requested clarification on SaMT's role in risk assessments for operations under the IOP; the IOP order says "the Salmon Monitoring Team shall communicate their advice to WOMT, and WOMT shall deliberate to seek agreement on project operations."
- Biological Rationale for IOP implementation over the next week (No change from the 4/10 meeting):
 - CVP export reductions through 4/23 will contribute to improved conditions for rearing and out-migrating winter-run, spring-run chinook salmon, and steelhead.
 - Increased outflow after March 31st is generally beneficial to longfin smelt.
- WOMT will reassess weekly.

Elevation Items

- No elevation items.

Action Items

- Prepare for the biological rationale in the coming weeks pursuant to the IOP.

Next Meeting

- Wednesday, April 24, 1-1:50pm