

Delta Monitoring Workgroup

Meeting Record 05/21/2024

Working Group Members in Attendance

- Reclamation: Randi Field, Nick Bertrand, Elissa Buttermore, Grace Easterbrook, Erika Kegel, Brian Mahardja, Tony Yang
- USFWS: Not in attendance
- NMFS:
- CDFW: Erica Meyers
- DWR: Mike Ford, Brian Schreier, Farida Islam, Katie Osborn
- SWRCB:
- Water Contractors: Shawn Acuña (MWD), Chandra Chilmakuri (SWC), Darcy Austin (SWC), Tom Boardman (WWD), Deanna Sereno (CCWD), Cindy Meyer (SLDMWA), Heidi Williams (Valley Water), Sarah Piramoon (Valley Water), Yuan Liu (CCWD), Jenny Buckman (ARSC)
- Kearns & West: Brittani Bohlke, Marlys Jeane

Review Operations Outlook (Reclamation, DWR)

- Reclamation proposes CVP operations are limited to a 14-day average OMRI flow no more negative than -3,500 cfs.
- On the Sacramento River, a change order today (5/21) increased Keswick Dam releases to 12,000 cfs and holding there for four days. Releases will decrease to 7,500 cfs by 5/27 to conclude the third and final spring pulse flow.
- On the American River, a change order today (5/21) reduced Nimbus Dam releases to 4,000 cfs and anticipating further cuts down to 3,500 cfs by 5/23 to account for dynamic and unpredictable inflows into Folsom Lake.
- On the Stanislas River, the spring pulse flow sequence will decrease slightly for the Memorial Day holiday schedule and safety reasons. But moving into the beginning of June there will be a longer, slower ramp down to come off spring pulse flow activity.
- Freeport daily average flows yesterday were just below 22,000 cfs.
- Vernalis daily average flows yesterday were about 8,600 cfs and are forecasted to remain above 6,000 cfs throughout the rest of the week.
- Maintenance activities at JPP started Monday (5/20) and will conclude on Wednesday (5/22); so the outage for Thursday has been canceled and exports will resume to 3,500 cfs when maintenance is complete.

- DCC gates are closed. The gates are traditionally opened for Memorial Day weekend, but Freeport flows are above thresholds for standard operating procedures (>20,000 cfs). Projections today (5/21) indicate flows will continue to be high over the holiday weekend, therefore DCC gates will likely remain closed for facility protection.
- Flows on the Feather River out of Oroville Dam are at 6,650 cfs today (5/21) and will slowly begin to decrease to about 3,000 cfs by the end of the week.
- Clifton Court exports are 800 cfs today (5/21) after fish facility maintenance concluded. Exports are expected to remain around this level until Vernalis flows decrease below 6,000 cfs, likely next week.
- Forecasts for June X2 requirements at Port Chicago are estimated at 2 days, but there are 6 carryover days. At Chipps Island, the estimate is around 20 days of requirements and there are no carryover days.
- Refer to the Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook for more information.

Additional Questions or Comments

- No additional questions

Review PA Assessment (Reclamation)

Reclamation 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