

Delta Monitoring Workgroup

Meeting Record 05/28/2024

Working Group Members in Attendance

- Reclamation: Randi Field, Erika Kegel, Cat Pien, Brian Mahardja, Elissa Buttermore, Tony Yang, Nick Bertrand, Grace Easterbrook
- USFWS: Not in attendance
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Erica Meyers
- DWR: Mike Ford, Katie Osborn, Brian Schreier, Farida Islam
- SWRCB: Not in attendance
- Water Contractors: Shawn Acuña (MWD), Chandra Chilmakuri (SWC), Darcy Austin (SWC), Tom Boardman (WWD), Jose Rangel (WWD), Heidi Williams (Valley Water), Jennifer Buckman (ARSC)

Review Operations Outlook (Reclamation, DWR)

- This week, Reclamation and DWR proposes a 14-day average OMRI no more negative than -5,000 cfs.
- Whiskeytown Dam is currently releasing 200 cfs at Clear Creek.
- On the American River, a change order is out for Thursday, 5/30 for Nimbus Dam to reduce releases to 2,500 cfs as inflows to reservoir have waned.
- On the Stanislaus River, flows this past holiday weekend were around 600 cfs for safety issues. Flows will peak on Wednesday, 5/29 at 2,500 cfs as the last component of the spring pulse flow before flows start to decrease in June.
- Freeport daily average flows yesterday were just under 19,000 cfs and are expected to decrease.
- Vernalis daily average flows yesterday were 5,000 cfs and anticipating a decrease in flows by next week as the remaining Stanislaus River spring pulse activity and spring runoff wanes.
- JPP is currently exporting 3,500 cfs; a wide range (2,700-4,200 cfs) suggests uncertainty in the system as a result of pending decisions on controlling factors.
- DCC Gates were closed over the holiday weekend due to high flows at Freeport. Flows have now passed the threshold of concern and will open at 10 am on Friday 5/31 and close on Monday 6/3 for recreational and salinity concerns.

- On the Feather River, flows out of Oroville have decreased to 2,100 cfs and will continue to slowly decrease down to 1,600 cfs later this week.
- Clifton Court is currently operating to I/E ratio constraints (Section 8.17 of the ITP) at 600 cfs until June 1st; afterwards, operations will be directed by WOMT decisions.
- Average Delta outflow is about 15,000-20,000 cfs.
- 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

- Question: The PA Assessment reads, “There was no non-consensus issue to report from the Smelt Monitoring Team,” but this is confusing.
 - Answer: This is a typo; we will remove that sentence.

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