

Delta Monitoring Workgroup

Meeting Record 06/04/2024

Working Group Members in Attendance

- Reclamation: Erika Kegel, Cat Pien, Elissa Buttermore, Tony Yang, Nick Bertrand, Grace Easterbrook, Liz Kiteck
- USFWS: Not in attendance
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Erica Meyers
- DWR: Mike Ford, Katie Osborn, Brian Schreier, Nicole Kwan
- SWRCB: Not in attendance
- Water Contractors: Shawn Acuña (MWD), Chandra Chilmakuri (SWC), Darcy Austin (SWC), Tom Boardman (WWD), Heidi Williams (Valley Water), Jennifer Buckman (ARSC), Cindy Meyer (SLDMWA), Deanna Sereno (CCWD)

Review Operations Outlook (Reclamation, DWR)

- There is a heat wave today (6/4) through Thursday (6/6) and temperatures will likely reach the 100's in the Central Valley.
- On the Stanislaus River, flows are currently 950 cfs and will ramp down through the rest of June to reach base flows of 250 cfs.
- Combined SWP and CVP Delta exports are approximately 5,100 cfs; SWP and CVP are coordinating exports to avoid exceeding the 14-day averaged -3,500 cfs OMR requirement.
- Vernalis daily average flows are slowly decreasing.
- DCC Gates are currently closed (as of 6/3) and will be opened on Friday morning (6/7) until Monday morning (6/10).
- CVP shares at San Luis were 769,000 acre-feet on Monday, 6/3.
- On the Feather River, flows out of Oroville have increased from last week to about 3,600 cfs; any releases match inflows for storage management. Flows are expected to drop in a couple of days.
- Clifton Court is currently exporting 1,600 cfs; all exports are driven by OMR requirements. A modification request has been submitted to operate at a 14-day average no more negative than -5,000 cfs. Operations will be directed after WOMT discussion on Wednesday, 6/5.
- X2 requirements for June are estimated at 20 days for Chipps Island.

- Refer to the Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook for more information.

Additional Questions or Comments

- Questions: DCC Gates seem to usually be open in June due to D-1641, but they will be closed again after this weekend. When will the gates be open for the season?
 - Answer: DCC Gates will be open for the season after June 15th. According to D-1641, the gates can be operated intermittently until then.

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: What is the rationale for operating to -3,500 cfs? What does “beneficial to steelhead” mean in the PA Assessment?
 - Answer: This is based on Tillotson model outputs which show greater take of steelhead under and OMR of -5,000 cfs compared to -3,500 cfs. This information can be found in the Natural Origin Steelhead Table (6c) on pages 11 and 12 of the PA Assessment.

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