



Delta Monitoring Workgroup Weekly Meeting

Meeting Record 11/12/2024

Working Group Members in Attendance

- USBR: Thuy Washburn, Alexander Vaisvil, Chase Ehlo, Lilian McCormick, Erika Kegel, Grace Easterbrook, Cat Pien
- USFWS: Not in attendance
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Not in attendance
- DWR: Mike Ford, Farida Islam, Katie Osborn
- SWRCB: Not in attendance
- Water Contractors: Darcy Austin (SWC), Chandra Chilmakuri (SWC), Jose Rangel (WWD), Tom Boardman (WWD), Yuan Liu (CCWD), Deanna Sereno (CCWD), Steve Micko (MWD), Ian Buck-Macleod (FWA)
- Kearns & West: Brittani Bohlke, Marlys Jeane

Review Operations Outlook

- At Keswick Dam on the Sacramento River, releases are at 5,000 cfs and ramping down to 4,000 cfs by 11/17.
- At New Melones Dam on the Stanislaus River, releases are at 500 cfs.
- At Nimbus Dam on the American River, releases are at 2,000 cfs and will stay there for the rest of the month.
- At Oroville Dam on the Feather River, releases are at the minimum of 1,750 cfs.
- Tracy pumping plant is exporting 3,500 cfs.
- The DCC Gates closed Tuesday (11/12) and will reopen Friday (11/15). This was done in part to help boost Rio Vista flows to meet the monthly average flow requirement.
- SWP exports at Clifton Court are 800 cfs to 1,000 cfs this week; there were no significant increases in reservoir levels from the storm on Monday (11/11) although it delivered fairly significant snowpack.

- Another storm is anticipated for later this week into the weekend; SWP exports may increase depending on the amount of precipitation.
- Current controlling factors for SWP exports are the monthly average Delta outflow requirement of 4,500 cfs and the Rio Vista monthly average flow requirement of 4,500 cfs.

Additional Questions or Comments

- Question: On the Feather River, could releases of 1,750 cfs from Oroville go lower later on?
 - Answer: No, 1,750 cfs is the minimum flow for the 2024 water year type (Above Normal). If the water year was critically dry, the flows could go lower, but 1,750 cfs is considered the “floor” for this water year, and it will remain as the minimum “floor” for the next several months.
- Question: Are the banks exports planned to be as low as today’s 800 cfs or is there any unanticipated factor driving the low export level for SWP?
 - Answer: Clifton Court exports are low because Oroville releases are so low and we aren’t getting any significant accretions in the system. JPP exports are higher because both Shasta and Folsom releases are higher than Oroville releases.

Review PA Assessment (USBR)

Reclamation provided a brief update on the current monitoring conditions. For more information, please refer to the PA Assessment document.

Additional Questions or Comments

- Question: What kind of fish was salvaged and at which facility?
 - Answer: White sturgeon at SWP.
- Question: At what life stage are the Delta Smelt that will be released on Monday, 11/18?
 - Answer: Those are adult DS.

Review ITP Risk Assessment (DWR)

DWR monitoring reps were not in attendance at today’s DMW meeting to provide an update on longfin smelt monitoring. For more information, refer to the ITP Risk Assessment document.

Additional Questions or Comments

No additional questions or comments.

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
- SRDWSC – Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel
- 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