



Water Operations Management Team Notes

February 24, 2021

Members Attending

Kristin White, Liz Kiteck, Molly White, Mike Ford, Jana Affonso, Matt Nobriga, Garwin Yip, Kristal Davis-Fadtke, Josh Grover, Erik Ekdahl, Matt Holland

Topics/Actions

- Approval of the 2/17/2021 Meeting Notes: Approved.
- Operational Updates
 - CVP: Lewiston (Trinity River) at 300 cfs. Whiskeytown (Clear Creek) at 200 cfs. Keswick (Sacramento River) at 3,250 cfs minimum flow release. Nimbus (American River) at 950 cfs. Goodwin (Stanislaus River) recently dropped back to 200 cfs from 400 cfs. Goodwin releases will increase again (to a peak release of 950 cfs) for a winter instability flow starting on 2/27 and ending on 2/28, after which time releases are expected to hold at 200 cfs unless needed otherwise. CVP pumping has dropped from four units down to two, with plans to drop on Friday 2/26 to one unit for export of ~1,000 cfs, anticipating Delta outflow needs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 475 TAF.
 - SWP: Oroville (Feather River) at 1,250 cfs. The instream flow requirement on the Feather River drops on Monday, 3/1, and releases will drop to 1,050 cfs. SWP Delta exports at ~1,300 cfs. On 2/22, the Delta was declared in “balanced” condition; the D-1641 Delta outflow/water quality standard is controlling exports. Yesterday, OMR was approximately -2,830 (daily), -4,260 cfs (5-day), and -3,980 cfs (14-day). Given the dry conditions, OMR levels are projected to not be more negative than -2,500 cfs. Tides are peaking this weekend. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 709 TAF.
- Relevant Assessments & Upcoming Meetings
 - 20210223 Fish and Water Operations Outlook
 - 20210223 Proposed Action Assessment
 - Clear Creek Technical Team (*meets quarterly*): 3/11
 - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group: Monthly meetings starting 2/25.
 - Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team:
 - USSST Spring Flows Planning Subgroup: 2/24

- USST regular meeting: weekly meetings starting 3/3
 - Feather River Operations Group (*meets first and third Thursdays*): 3/4
 - American River Group (*meets monthly on third Thursdays, and as needed*): 3/18.
 - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (*meets monthly on third Wednesday*): 3/17
 - Delta Monitoring Working group (*meets weekly*): No input from 2/23 meeting. Next meeting 3/2.
- Upcoming Actions
 - Reclamation: Released allocation announcement yesterday.
 - DWR: Updating the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). Expect to submit the DCP to CDFW next week, and will share with WOMT at that time.
 - FWS: No actions.
 - NMFS: No actions.
 - CDFW: No actions.
 - SWRCB: Provided a heads up that the SWRCB will need approximately one month's lead time to process any Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) requested this year, to allow for TUCP preparation, review, and public discourse.
 - ACTION ITEM: Erik to follow-up on some additional process questions.
- Discussion Items:
 - Hydrology/DCP update:
 - Key SWP Concerns: Conditions continue to be dry. DWR shared concerns about historically low projected Oroville storage which impact power operations and temperature blending capabilities by late summer/early fall.
 - Key CVP concerns:
 - *Shasta temperature management*: The current forecast shows Shasta storage 1 MAF away from the storage needed to use the upper gates of the temperature control device. Likely looking at a Tier 4 year for temperature management for winter-run Chinook salmon since at least 2.5 MAF Shasta storage is needed to do better than Tier 4 and Shasta storage is expected to peak at ~2.3 MAF in March. First SRTTG is tomorrow.
 - *Spring outflow*: The current projected operations assume a Delta outflow requirement of 4,000 cfs in May and June. If there is enough precipitation to tip the Sacramento River Index (SRI) in the May 90% exceedance forecast to greater than 8.1, the Delta outflow requirement will increase to 7,100 cfs and may require additional releases of up to ~375 TAF.

- Smelt Monitoring Team (SMT) recommendation: Condition of Approval 8.4.2 of the SWP ITP was triggered. The SMT is recommending that operations target an OMR Index no more negative than -2,500 cfs for the protection of juvenile and larval Longfin Smelt under Condition of Approval 8.4.2.
 - Discussion highlights:
 - CDFW reviewed the overall decision process described in the ITP since this is the first time a SMT recommendation under Condition of Approval 8.4.2 has come to WOMT.
 - If the SWP (per the ITP) and the CVP (per the BA/BiOp) were to have different OMR limits in effect, the ITP describes in Condition of Approval 8.10 how the SWP meets its “proportional share”.
 - The ITP specifies that the OMR limit should be implemented within 3 days of a decision (by WOMT or the CDFW/DWR Directors).
 - ACTION ITEM: CDFW to look into process for calling a special SMT meeting to re-assess conditions in less than a week.
 - Clarification of the SMT rationale and risk assessment was requested.
 - ACTION ITEM: If WOMT members want further clarification on the current SMT recommendation they are encouraged to contact their SMT representative. Additionally, if there are, specific requests for information to be included in future SMT SWP ITP Risk Assessments, send those requests to the CDFW WOMT members.
 - Projected joint operations of the CVP and SWP for Delta water quality/outflow management are expected to provide OMR levels not more negative than -2,500 cfs by Friday, 2/26.
 - DECISION: Consensus at WOMT to implement the SMT recommendation (with Reclamation, NMFS, FWS, and SWRCB abstaining).
- Elevation Items
 - No elevation items for directors; Directors’ meeting will be cancelled.

Next Meeting

- Wednesday, March 3, 1 pm – 2 pm, Teams “Call” Only: