



Water Operations Management Team Notes

March 10, 2021

Members Attending

Kristin White, Liz Kiteck, Molly White, Mike Ford, Nobriga, Garwin Yip, Kristal Davis-Fadtke, Josh Grover, Erik Ekdahl, Diane Riddle

Topics/Actions

- Approval of the 3/3/2021 Meeting Notes: Approved.
- Operational Updates
 - CVP: Lewiston (Trinity River) at 300 cfs. Whiskeytown (Clear Creek) at 200 cfs. Keswick (Sacramento River) at 3,500 cfs. Nimbus (American River) at 1,200 cfs; will increase to 3,500 cfs tonight at midnight for 3 days to help meet the Delta outflow requirement. Based on the March Bulletin 120, ten Chipps Days are required in March; have eight carryover days from February so need to meet two more (reminder that meeting “a” Chipps Day with flow requires hitting the flow target as a 3-day average). CVP and SWP are at minimum pumping to help with Delta outflow requirement; the Projects are trying to meet the required Chipps Days while there is some precipitation and runoff in the system. The Delta has gotten ~0.2” of precipitation measured at Stockton; more expected later today. Goodwin (Stanislaus River) releases are at 400 cfs for Vernalis salinity. CVP cycled a pump over the weekend; since Sunday at noon the CVP has been running one unit for ~800 cfs of exports. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 461 TAF.
 - SWP: Oroville (Feather River) releases are at 1,050 cfs. SWP Delta exports are at ~300 cfs and holding. Might see more rain on Sunday. OMR for today is projected to be ~-800 cfs. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 690 TAF.
- Relevant Assessments & Upcoming Meetings
 - 20210309 Fish and Water Operations Outlook
 - 20210309 Proposed Action Assessment
 - DRAFT SaMT ITP Executive Summary 9 March 2021

- SMT ITP Risk Assessment DRAFT Summary 9 March 2021
 - No changes to operations based on SMT advice.
 - Projected joint operations of the CVP and SWP for Delta water quality/outflow management are expected to provide OMR levels of not more negative than -1,000 cfs.
- Clear Creek Technical Team (meets quarterly): 3/11
- Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (monthly starting in February): 3/25.
- Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team:
 - USST Spring Flows Planning Subgroup: 3/10
 - USST regular meeting (weekly starting in April): 4/7
- Feather River Operations Group (meets first and third Thursdays): 3/18
- 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 3/9 meeting. Next meeting 3/16.
- Upcoming Actions
 - Reclamation: SWRCB will be invited to the upcoming Meet & Confer meeting with the Sacramento Settlement Contractors. Reclamation and DWR will be presenting at CAMT next week.
 - DWR: No actions.
 - FWS: No actions.
 - NMFS: No actions.
 - CDFW: No actions.
 - SWRCB: No actions.
- Discussion Items:
 - Hydrology & Operations Outlook:
 - Recent forecasts have repeatedly shown precipitation that arrives weaker than expected, if at all. Current cumulative precipitation for the water year to date in the Sacramento Valley is 19.5”, ~51% of average for the basin. More southern regions have received even less precipitation, as a percentage of their regional average. That said, the snowpack to date is faring better than the precipitation at about 64% of historical average for the northern basin. The 3-month climate outlook shows below-average precipitation for March-May.
 - The Bulletin 120 forecast came out Monday 3/8. The Sacramento and San Joaquin water year types remain Critical. Relative to the February forecast,

the 8RI (an estimate of water year runoff) dropped by ~1.4 MAF in the 90% exceedance forecast and by ~2 MAF in the 50% exceedance forecast.

- DWR & Reclamation are working on evaluating the forecast and updating their operations outlooks. DWR is still concerned about historically low Oroville storage by mid-summer. DWR and Reclamation will be working on a joint operations forecast later this week early into next week; that joint forecast will be incorporated in the updated Drought Contingency Plan. DWR and Reclamation are most concerned about the April Delta outflow requirement (7,100 cfs monthly outflow and possible Chipps Days). The Sacramento River Index (at the 90% exceedance level) looks to be tracking at less than 8.1 which means that the May and June Delta outflow requirement will be just 4,000 cfs.
- The Projects will coordinate with the SWRCB about a potential TUCP as soon as they think one may be needed; likely won't make that call until the middle of next week at the earliest.
- Tracy Fish Collection Facility (TFCF) outages: The CVP's TFCF reported a planned outage on Monday, 3/15, for 4 hours to remove sand from the secondary channel. WOMET discussed whether or not that maintenance-related outage could be timed to coincide with a period of no pumping. Reclamation explained that the operations outlook for the coming week does not anticipate cycling the pumps at Jones Pumping Plant.
- Elevation Items
 - No elevation items for directors;
 - The scheduled Directors' meeting on March 11 will be retained to discuss drought planning efforts.

Next Meeting

- Wednesday, March 17, 1 pm – 2 pm, Teams “Call” Only: