



# Water Operations Management Team Notes

March 17, 2021

## Members Attending

Kristin White, Liz Kiteck, Molly White, Lenny Grimaldo, Jana Affonso, Matt Nobriga, Howard Brown, Garwin Yip, Kristal Davis-Fadtke, Josh Grover, Diane Riddle

Member update: Lenny Grimaldo replaces Mike Ford as the DWR alternate for Molly White.

## Topics/Actions

- Approval of the 3/10/2021 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) is in the process of ramping down from 3,500 cfs; releases will decrease to 1,200 cfs shortly after midnight tonight. The recent increases at Nimbus did help with outflow and the Projects have met the two additional Chipps days needed for March. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 449 TAF. CVP pumping shifted from a single smaller unit to a single larger unit for export of ~1,000 cfs. Expecting a bit of precipitation tomorrow into Friday – ~0.5” in the valley and more in the mountains as a mix of rain and snow.
  - SWP: Oroville (Feather River) releases are at 1,050 cfs. About 1” of precipitation projected for tomorrow in the Feather River basin. Inflows to Oroville are projected to peak around 6,400 cfs Thursday night. SWP Delta exports are at ~1,900 cfs. OMR for today is projected to be ~-2,460 cfs. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 685 TAF.
- Relevant Assessments & Upcoming Meetings
  - 20210316 Fish and Water Operations Outlook
  - 20210316 Proposed Action Assessment
  - ITP SaMT Risk Assessment DRAFT Summary 16 March
  - ITP SMT Risk Assessment DRAFT Summary 16 March
    - The current weekly operations forecast projects a range of potential OMR levels that includes -2,500 cfs. If needed (i.e., if OMR is projected to be more

negative than -2,500 cfs), the SWP will modify operations pursuant to the SMT advice (for the protection of juvenile and larval Longfin Smelt under Condition of Approval 8.4.2) according to the proportional share provision in Condition of Approval 8.10.

- Clear Creek Technical Team (meets quarterly): 3/18
- Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (monthly starting in February): 3/25.
- Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team:
  - USST Spring Flows Planning Subgroup: 3/17; 3/24
  - 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; 4/21
- Delta Monitoring Working group (meets weekly): No input from 3/16 meeting. Next meeting 3/23.
- Upcoming Actions
  - Reclamation: Met on Friday, 3/12, to discuss Shasta modeling scenarios. The next Meet and Confer meeting with the Sacramento Settlement Contractors is scheduled for tomorrow at 4pm. Still working with DWR on finalizing the joint forecast, pending the outcome of various coordination efforts.
  - DWR: Still working on joint operations forecast for the Drought Contingency Plan. The Drought Contingency Plan will be shared with agencies next week.
  - FWS: No actions.
  - NMFS: FWS will be releasing winter-run Chinook salmon Battle Creek jumpstart fish tomorrow 3/18 in the fourth and final release. Tomorrow's release is ~38,000, bringing the total number released to ~200,000-220,000 fish. All jumpstart fish are coded-wire tagged and uniquely marked with a left pelvic fin clip.
  - CDFW: Reported out on several hatchery releases that partially satisfy the requirements of Condition of Approval 8.6.4 regarding the spring-run Chinook hatchery surrogates loss threshold.
    - 3/10/21: Coleman National Fish Hatchery released 1,290,150 fall-run Chinook; 25% were coded-wire tagged. The first of two Coleman National Fish Hatchery releases to satisfy this ITP condition.
    - 3/19/21: The Feather River Hatchery will release 0.5 million spring-run Chinook; 100% are coded-wire tagged. The first of two Feather River Hatchery releases to satisfy this ITP condition.
    - There is a 0.25% cumulative loss threshold at the salvage facilities for each release group.
  - SWRCB: No actions.

- Discussion Items:
  - Hydrology & Operations Outlook:
    - Not much change since last week. Over the next week, up to 1” of precipitation is projected on the Sierra spine. Colder, so much of that may fall as snow. With parched soils, there are concerns that the snowmelt runoff will be reduced relative to runoff that would be seen with the same snowpack after a wetter year.
  - Tracy Fish Collection Facility (TFCF) outages: The CVP’s TFCF was able to perform the maintenance planned for Monday, 3/15, during a planned period of no CVP export pumping. The interagency group managing LTO implementation will discuss how to best manage salvage outages issues going forward.
  - DCC testing: The DCC gates were opened for 1-2 hours in February as part of maintenance testing. Another test was planned for 3/24. NMFS and Reclamation are discussing how to minimize the impacts of the DCC gate opening associated with the testing, which is postponed to May. SWRCB is also interested in this discussion.
  - Directors meeting items: The Directors requested an update on the Drought Contingency Plan, once it is released, which means the next Directors meeting will be Thursday, 3/25. In addition to an overview of the Drought Contingency Plan, WOMT members agreed to provide an update on Shasta temperature management planning. A subset of WOMT members will meet from noon-1pm on Wednesday, 3/24 to review materials for the 3/25 Directors’ meeting.
- Elevation Items
  - No elevation items for directors; this week’s Directors’ meeting will be cancelled.
  - The scheduled Directors’ meeting on March 25 will be retained to discuss drought planning.

## Next Meeting

- Directors’ Meeting Prep: Wednesday, March 24, 12 pm – 1 pm
- Regular WOMT: Wednesday, March 24, 1 pm – 2 pm