



# Water Operations Management Team Notes

April 14, 2021

## Members Attending

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

## Topics/Actions

- Approval of the 4/7/2021 Meeting Notes: Approved with final edits from Reclamation.
- Upcoming Meetings
  - Clear Creek Technical Team (meets quarterly): 6/18
  - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (monthly starting in February): ad-hoc meeting 4/15; 4/22
  - Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team (weekly starting in April): 4/15, 4/22
  - Feather River Operations Group (meets first and third Thursdays): 4/15; 5/6
  - American River Group (meets monthly on third Thursdays, and as needed): 4/15
  - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (meets monthly on third Wednesday): 4/21
  - Delta Monitoring Working group (meets weekly): No input from 4/13 meeting. Next meeting 4/20.
- Operational Updates
  - CVP: Lewiston (Trinity River) at 300 cfs; the ROD pulse flow begins Friday and will run through the second week of June with peak flows of up to approximately 4,000 cfs. Lewiston releases will drop to the summer flow of 450 cfs after the pulse. Whiskeytown (Clear Creek) at 225 cfs. Keswick (Sacramento River) increased this morning to 6,000 cfs. Nimbus (American River) releases are steady at 2,000 cfs. Goodwin (Stanislaus River) releases are following a spring pulse flow schedule which includes multiple peaks through early May. CVP pumping is at one unit for ~800 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 424 TAF.
  - SWP: No precipitation in the forecast through 4/22; might be something developing in late April but too far out to count on. Oroville (Feather River) releases are at 1,300 cfs and release reductions are planned in the next week. The Feather River Settlement Contractors are expected to begin taking water later this week from

Thermalito Afterbay. Inflow at Clifton Court Forebay is ~500 cfs. OMR for today is projected to be ~-1,100 cfs. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 651 TAF.

- Relevant Assessments
  - 20210413 Fish and Water Operations Outlook MT's
  - 20210413 Proposed Action Assessment MT's
  - ITP SaMT Risk Assessment DRAFT Summary 13 April 2021
  - ITP SMT Risk Assessment DRAFT Summary 13 April 2021
    - The ITP SMT Risk Assessment will include the operational range that is in the Outlook. However, there have been times in the SMT meeting where operators have indicated that they will most likely operate to a more restrictive range and that has been taken under consideration by the SMT and reflected in the notes. CDFW agrees that the operational range in the risk assessment should be consistent with what is in the outlook and that is the forecasted operation that the SMT considers for risk to species.
  
- Upcoming Actions
  - Reclamation: NCWA is holding a dry year task force meeting every other Wednesday morning to discuss dry year issues. Reclamation, DWR, NMFS and the State Board are regular attendees and provide general updates. Later today, all WOMT member agency directors (except FWS) are meeting with the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors to discuss Sacramento River operations and drought.
  - FWS: The FWS Bay-Delta Office Field Supervisor position is open on USAJOBS.
  - NMFS: Heads-up that NMFS will be releasing the Species in the Spotlight Five-year Action Plan (including actions for winter-run Chinook salmon) in the next few weeks. Some highlights from the many efforts associated with Shasta Temperature Management include:
    - An effort with the Sacramento River Science Partnership to develop a biological monitoring plan for WY 2021 to monitor drought impacts to winter-run Chinook salmon.
    - An effort evaluating how power bypass scenarios at Shasta in April and May may preserve cold water pool; that effort is also considering maximum temperature thresholds during the power bypass period to mitigate potential impacts to gonad development or pre-spawn egg mortality in holding winter-run adults.
  - DWR: On 4/9, DWR notified the Feather River Settlement Contractors that, based on the April 1 Bulletin 120 runoff forecast, the drought criteria were triggered and that their deliveries will be reduced by 50% in the coming contractual period.
  - CDFW: The remaining fall-run Chinook salmon releases this year from Feather River Hatchery and Nimbus Hatchery will all be trucked to San Pablo Bay or San Francisco Bay. The Mokelumne River Hatchery will release approximately 450,000 fall-run Chinook salmon (25% marked with adipose fin-clip and coded wire tag) on 4/16.

- SWRCB: Received a letter from Reclamation re: planned Shasta temperature operations prior to the finalization of the Shasta Temperature Management Plan. The SWRCB plans to respond today.
- Discussion Items:
  - Hydrology & Operations Outlook: The April Bulletin 120 came out on 4/8. Compared to the March update, the 90% exceedance forecast looks about the same while the 50% exceedance forecast looks drier.
  - Ad-hoc SRTTG meeting on 4/15: At this meeting, Reclamation is hoping for feedback on a few key features of the WY 2021 Shasta Temperature Management Plan:
    - Timing of the core egg incubation window
    - Maximum water temperature during the planned spring power bypass, and
    - Water temperature targets on the “shoulders” of the core egg incubation window
  - SWRCB 4/21 workshop planning: Coordination on presenters for the fish agencies.
- Elevation Items
  - No elevation items for directors; no Directors Meeting needed this week for WOMT issues.

## Next Meeting

- Wednesday, April 21, 1 pm – 2 pm.