



Water Operations Management Team Notes

May 26, 2021

Members Attending

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

Topics/Actions

- Approval of the 5/19/2021 Meeting Notes: Approved.
- Upcoming Meetings
 - Clear Creek Technical Team (meets quarterly): 6/18
 - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (currently meeting weekly): 5/27, 6/3
 - Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team: 6/16, 6/23
 - Feather River Operations Group (meets first and third Thursdays): 6/3, 6/17
 - American River Group (meets monthly on third Thursdays, and as needed): ad-hoc meeting 5/27 and maybe 6/3; regular monthly meeting 6/17
 - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (meets monthly on third Wednesday): 6/16
 - Delta Monitoring Working group (meets weekly): No input from 5/25 meeting. Next meeting 6/1.
- Operational Updates
 - CVP: Lewiston (Trinity River) releases are at 1,200 cfs; one more small pulse on 5/28 to 2,000 cfs then releases will decrease to summer flows of 450 cfs by 6/19. Keswick (Sacramento River) releases decreased today from 8,550 cfs to 7,550 cfs; will decrease to 7,100 cfs tomorrow (5/27) and are expected to hold at an average of 7,100 cfs for June. Nimbus (American River) releases are at 1,000 cfs. Goodwin (Stanislaus River) releases at 600 cfs. Current flow at Vernalis is 709 cfs. Meeting Emmaton salinity was a challenge last week but salinity conditions are improving this week. CVP pumping is at one unit for ~800 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 313 TAF. Clear Creek decreasing to 125 cfs at midnight tonight as part of a flow schedule associated with a planned pulse flow in early June.
 - SWP: Oroville (Feather River) releases decreased yesterday from 2,250 cfs to 2,050 cfs and again today from 2,050 cfs to 1,850 cfs. Another decrease is planned for

tomorrow (5/27) to 1,750 cfs. SWP exports are ~300 cfs; Daily OMR for today is projected to be ~-1,290 cfs. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 603 TAF.

- Relevant Assessments
 - 20210525 fish and water operations outlook MT's
 - 20210525 Proposed Action Assessment MT's
 - ITP SaMT Risk Assessment DRAFT Summary 25 May 2021
 - ITP SMT Risk Assessment DRAFT Summary 24 May 2021
- Upcoming Actions
 - Reclamation: Reclamation plans to submit a final temperature management plan for the upper Sacramento River shortly. Hoping to include some final sensitivity runs from NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Science Center which may not be ready until Thursday morning. The plan will include a carryover storage of 1.25 MAF in Shasta. Reclamation announced today a reduction in the M&I allocations from 55% to 25%; explained to WOMT that the actual water delivered could exceed the percent-based allocation depending on health and safety needs. Reclamation also officially updated all allocations to agricultural contractors to 0% (effectively there already). Shasta power bypass ended Tuesday, 5/25.
 - FWS: No actions.
 - NMFS: No actions.
 - DWR: Reclamation and DWR are working on the May update to the Drought Contingency Plan (also referred to as the Drought Action Plan, since drought is now a certainty) to submit Friday, 5/28. DWR will post online.
 - CDFW: No actions.
 - SWRCB: Reminder that the SWRCB has meetings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month; heads up that DWR and Reclamation will likely be asked to be at the upcoming meetings to provide technical information relevant to the TUCP. The June 1st meeting also has an informational item on water unavailability; the SWRCB is looking for feedback from agencies on the water unavailability methodology. Notices of water unavailability to all post-1914 rights holders will go out soon. The SWRCB may soon be working on emergency regulations regarding curtailments. The SWRCB will issue an order on the TUCP on or about June 1 that may include a condition related to compliance with federal ESA and California ESA.
- Discussion Items:
 - Shasta power bypass: Reclamation shared information on the recent power bypass at Shasta Dam. The bypass was successful in slowing loss of cold water pool; the current cold water pool in Shasta Reservoir is comparable to that available during the 2014 and 2015 drought despite lower overall reservoir storage. WOMT members did note some concerns about higher-than-usual pre-spawn mortality of winter-run Chinook salmon.

- Gravel injections below Keswick Dam: CDFW and NMFS both expressed support for continued injection of gravel immediately below Keswick Dam. Reclamation reported that there were some internal questions about capacity at that site but that augmentation might still occur there this year.
 - Drought barrier update: Contract awarded to Kiewit; construction will start June 1 pending permitting. Objective is to complete installation by the end of June.
 - American River water temperatures: CDFW contemplating evacuating Nimbus Fish Hatchery steelhead to Mokelumne River Hatchery and at least some of the steelhead currently rearing at Nimbus need to stay on medicated feed for 10 days before moving. CDFW tracking recent temperature modeling results closely and are concerned that recent results, showing an ability to meet 69 degrees F at Hazel, may not reflect the latest reservoir conditions and operations outlook. Reclamation reported that temperature modeling will be discussed in detail at tomorrow's (5/27) ad-hoc ARG meeting.
- Elevation Items
 - No elevation items for directors from any of the technical teams or WOMT.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 2, 1 pm – 2 pm.