



Water Operations Management Team Notes

June 2, 2021

Members Attending

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

Members Not Attending

Molly White, Josh Grover

Topics/Actions

- Approval of the 5/26/2021 Meeting Notes: Approved.
- Upcoming Meetings
 - Clear Creek Technical Team (meets quarterly): 6/18
 - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (currently meeting weekly): 6/3, 6/10
 - 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 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 6/1 meeting. Next meeting 6/8.
- Operational Updates
 - CVP: Lewiston (Trinity River) releases are 800 cfs; will decrease to summer flows of 450 cfs by 6/19. Whiskeytown (Clear Creek) releases are 125 cfs as part of a flow schedule associated with a planned pulse flow in mid -June. Keswick (Sacramento River) releases are 7,100 cfs. Nimbus (American River) releases are 1,000 cfs; increasing to 1,250 cfs tomorrow (6/3) and again to 1,750 cfs on Friday (6/4) for Delta outflow. Goodwin (Stanislaus River) releases are 750 cfs for Vernalis flow objective; increasing to 1,000 cfs likely on Sunday for Delta outflow. CVP pumping is at one unit for ~800 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 283 TAF.

SWP: Oroville (Feather River) releases are 1,850 cfs; increasing to 2,050 cfs tomorrow (6/3) for Delta outflow. SWP exports are ~300 cfs. Daily OMR for today is projected to be ~1,640 cfs. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 597 TAF. The three south Delta agricultural barriers are closed. DWR is wrapping up permitting for the emergency drought barrier; will start construction tomorrow and anticipate completion in July.

- Relevant Assessments
 - 20210601 fish and water operations outlook MTs
 - 20210601 Proposed Action Assessment MTs
 - ITP SaMT Risk Assessment DRAFT Summary 01 June 2021
 - ITP SMT Risk Assessment DRAFT Summary 01 June 2021
- Upcoming Actions
 - Reclamation: The Delta Cross Channel gates will be opened Friday (6/4) and closed Monday (6/7). May be opened again the following weekend, depending on water quality conditions. Reclamation and DWR are exploring options to combine CVP and SWP pumping to a single facility during the summer to avoid cycling the pumps at the CVP's Jones Pumping Plant.
 - FWS: No actions.
 - NMFS: NMFS provided interim technical assistance to Reclamation advising that, pending finalization of the Lower American River summer/fall temperature management plan, daily average water temperature at Hazel Ave should not exceed 70°F. Reported out on investigative efforts looking into potential contributing factors (e.g., pathology, in addition to water temperature) to the high pre-spawn mortality of winter-run Chinook salmon.
 - DWR: Wrapping up permitting for emergency drought barrier; construction anticipated to begin tomorrow (6/3) and completion anticipated in July.
 - CDFW: CDFW will be issuing a minor amendment to the ITP to incorporate Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) operations into the project description. Provided update that, at about 5% into the winter-run Chinook salmon spawning season, 61% of fresh female carcasses observed to date are unspawned. CDFW has requested a redistribution of flows out of Oroville to increase flows in the low flow channel to attract spring-run Chinook salmon upstream to the Feather River Hatchery in support of reaching mitigation production goals and to provide thiamine injections to promote egg survival.
 - SWRCB: Received the final Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan last Friday and have 10 days to respond; the response should be coming out shortly. Had an informational item yesterday on notices of water unavailability. The SWRCB is working on possible emergency regulations related to curtailments. On 6/1, the SWRCB issued an order conditionally approving the TUCP (TUCP Order). The TUCP Order and other TUCP-related documents are available online at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/tucp/index.html.

- Discussion Items:
 - Larval Delta smelt monitoring: This week the Smelt Monitoring Team (SMT) determined an end to the labor-intensive sampling for larval Delta smelt at both salvage facilities, based on no expectation of further salvage of larvae this season. The “Guidance Document - Old and Middle River Management Implementation” says that the SMT may review monitoring data to inform the start and end of larval sampling. No objections were raised within the SMT, and WOMT had no concerns.
 - TUCP for fall operations: Acknowledging that there is uncertainty about whether or not another TUCP may be needed beginning in September, WOMT discussed options for early submittal of a TUCP request that could be contingent on certain conditions occurring rather than waiting to submit a TUCP request once those conditions have occurred. SWRCB WOMT members advised DWR and Reclamation that a TUCP for fall operations should be submitted by the end of June.
 - TUCP reporting/compliance: The TUCP request and NMFS/FWS letter regarding the TUCP request mention WOMT as a coordinating forum for operations under the TUCP. Accordingly, WOMT members agreed to add a TUCP check-in as a standing item for the weekly WOMT agenda. Upcoming reporting deadlines include: 6/5: Weekly report on transfers (per Item 1.d.ii of TUCP Order) and CVP and SWP Delta exports (per Item 1.d.iii of TUCP Order). 7/20: Report on water conserved as a result of the changes approved by the TUCP Order (per Item 4 of TUCP Order).
 - Drought Relief Year (DRY) Team: Reclamation plans to kick off the DRY Team meetings next Thursday, 6/10. The DRY Team will coordinate monitoring activities associated with the TUCP and Drought Contingency Plan.
 - Action Item: Diane to send Reclamation the names of SWRCB staff who will participate in the DRY Team.
- Elevation Items
 - No elevation items for directors from WOMT.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 9, 1 pm – 2 pm.