



Water Operations Management Team Notes

August 25, 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 8/18/2021 Meeting Notes: Approved.

- Upcoming Meetings
 - Clear Creek Technical Team (meets quarterly): September 2021
 - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (currently meeting weekly on Thursdays): 8/26
 - Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team (currently meeting weekly on Wednesdays): 9/1
 - Feather River Operations Group (meets first and third Thursdays): 9/2
 - American River Group (meets monthly on third Thursdays, and as needed): 9/16
 - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (meets monthly on third Wednesday): 9/15

- Operational Updates

CVP: Lewiston (Trinity River) releases are 450 cfs. Whiskeytown (Clear Creek) releases are 150 cfs. Keswick (Sacramento River) releases are 7,000 cfs; decreasing to 6,800 cfs tomorrow (8/26). Nimbus (American River) releases are 800 cfs. Goodwin (Stanislaus River) releases are 350 cfs. Reclamation is pumping with one unit for exports of ~1,000 cfs (250 cfs of which is Contra Costa Water District & Yuba Water Agency transfer water and 200 cfs of which is Stockton East Water District transfer water) through the CVP's Jones Pumping Plant. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is -22 TAF. An approval from the SWRCB for a consolidated place of use for up to 150 TAF is expected soon and will allow for exchanges in San Luis Reservoir.

SWP: Oroville-Thermalito Complex (Feather River) releases are 1,250 cfs. DWR is exporting ~350 cfs through Clifton Court Forebay. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 322 TAF.

- Relevant Assessments
 - 20210824 fish and water operations outlook

- Upcoming Actions
 - Reclamation: Received request for a power bypass test at Shasta Dam and will run test for about six hours on Sunday (8/29) morning to minimize the power cost. Test results will be considered and additional power bypass operations, if requested and if approved, might begin later next week (the week of 8/30). Based on recent information, Keswick releases may hold at 6,800 cfs through early October (rather than decreasing to 6,200 cfs) to avoid dewatering some winter-run Chinook salmon redds.
 - FWS: No actions.
 - CDFW: No actions.
 - NMFS: No actions.
 - DWR: Will post latest update to the Drought Contingency Plan by Tuesday, 8/31.

SWRCB: Will provide update on curtailments on Friday, 8/27, and expect to provide weekly updates on curtailments. Working to issue draft emergency regulations for Mill Creek and Deer Creek on 9/1 for public comment.

- TUCP/TUCO & Drought Updates:

The Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP), TUC Order (TUCO), and related documents (including information reported by Reclamation and DWR) are available online at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/tucp/index.html.

- No updates.
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- Discussion Items:
 - Curtailments and return flows: Reclamation, DWR, and the SWRCB have been coordinating on (a) options to measure return flows in the field for comparison to return flow estimates in Calsim 3, and (b) options to update the return flow assumptions in Calsim 3 if warranted.
 - Curtailments and precipitation: The SWRCB also invited input on options for incorporating precipitation into decision-making regarding curtailments.

- Upcoming drought planning: DWR and Reclamation directors are meeting on 8/27 to discuss upcoming drought planning and some upcoming meeting milestones include:
 - 10/1: The ITP requires that, after a dry or critical year, Reclamation and DWR meet and confer with agencies and water contractors on voluntary measures to be considered if dry conditions continue into the following year.
 - 9/21-22: SWRCB meeting
 - Reclamation and DWR starting to plan for a presentation (expected on 9/21; SWRCB to confirm) regarding planning for continued dry conditions; invite ideas and participation from the other WOMT member agencies.
 - SWRCB staff will likely provide a drought update at that meeting as well; scope and scale TBD, but likely to include updates on curtailment orders and outcomes so far.
 - NMFS, FWS, and CDFW need time to consider potential contributions; will revisit this topic at next week's WOMT meeting.

- Elevation Items
 - No elevation items for directors from WOMT.

Next Meeting

- Wednesday, September 1, 1 pm – 2 pm.