



Water Operations Management Team Notes

October 6, 2021

Members Attending

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

Topics/Actions

- Approval of the 9/29/2021 Meeting Notes: Approved.

- Upcoming Meetings
 - Clear Creek Technical Team (meets quarterly): December 2021
 - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (now meeting approximately monthly): 10/28
 - Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team -- Spring management of spawning locations (no regular schedule): 10/12
 - Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team – Flow smoothing (no regular schedule): Tentative hold on 11/10
 - Feather River Operations Group (meets first and third Thursdays): 10/7
 - American River Group (meets monthly on third Thursdays, and as needed): 10/21
 - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (meets monthly on third Wednesday): 10/20
 - SaMT (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 10/12
 - SMT (meets weekly on Tuesdays starting in November): Tentatively 11/2

- Operational Updates
 - CVP: Lewiston (Trinity River) releases are 450 cfs. Whiskeytown (Clear Creek) releases are 200 cfs. Keswick (Sacramento River) releases are 6,800 cfs. Nimbus (American River) releases are 550 cfs. Goodwin (Stanislaus River) releases are 200 cfs. Reclamation's Delta

pumping is at 2 units today (~1,800 cfs); likely to stay there but will decrease to 1 unit (~800 cfs) if needed for salinity; Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 36 TAF.

SWP: Oroville-Thermalito Complex (Feather River) releases are 1,250 cfs; may be reduced starting next week. DWR is exporting ~400 cfs through Clifton Court Forebay. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 200 TAF.

- Relevant Assessments
 - 20211005 fish and water operations outlook
 - Error on p. 2; indicated DCC Gates closed on 10/4 when they were open; DWR to correct.
 - 20211005 Proposed Action Assessment Final
 - Error in table on p. 2; percentages of natural winter-run “Yet to Enter Delta” and “In Delta” transposed. SaMT will correct in next assessment.
- Upcoming Actions
 - Reclamation:
 - Waiting for approval for water exchange between Folsom and New Melones; if it comes today, will schedule the water release for the weekend.
 - Received request for power bypass at Folsom; seeking approval from Regional Director Ernest Conant tomorrow (10/7), with hope to implement at some level on Monday (10/11); not sure which alternative will be approved.
 - Only received comments on Shasta Coldwater Pool report outline from NMFS. Draft by end of next of week for agency review; comments on first review draft due by 10/22.
 - Reclamation is hosting the 2nd meeting of the “Central Valley Water Temperature Modeling Platform: Modeling Technical Committee” tomorrow (10/7). Because of the large invitee list, the invitation is being managed via a registration link and you need to register to receive the meeting details.
 - FWS: No actions.
 - CDFW: No actions.
 - NMFS: No actions; However, noted a recent action of Reclamation, FWS and NMFS reinitiating ESA consultation on Friday, October 1.
 - DWR: No actions.

- SWRCB:
 - Weather system coming in; planned update to curtailment status today due to projected additional supplies based on California Nevada River Forecast Center data.
 - Notice released for October 20 curtailment workshop focusing on wet season issues, including suspension of curtailments, wet season return flows, Delta residence time effects, and use of additional demand data sources.
 - The SWRCB has been and will continue to issue curtailment status updates at least weekly, and more often as needed.
 - Mill and Deer Creek curtailments: Plan if no voluntary agreements in discussions this Friday (10/8), then order will be issued on Monday (10/11) to take effect on 10/15.

- 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.

- DWR and Reclamation are continuing to coordinate on a TUCP for 2022 and plan to reach out to WOMT agencies in the next week or so. Current plan is, still, to submit the TUCP to the SWRCB by December 1 for changes effective February 1.

- Discussion Items:

- NMFS: check-in on steelhead 6-year study--a shortage of steelhead at the Mokelumne River Hatchery is affecting the ability to get fish for the study; working with CDFW to look for a solution to get fish elsewhere.
- DWR: update on Skinner Fish Facility Operations Manual--completed draft to CDFW, hope to finalize by the end of October; will include protocol for counting dead fish and pilot program on how to deal with large numbers of dead fish.
- SWRCB:
 - Check-in on perspectives for minor lifting of curtailments; will be discussed at workshop on October 20; minor lifting of curtailments that is happening today is data driven.
 - Question about whether rice straw decomp was happening, based on recent uptick in supplemental project water releases. DWR indicated that Feather River Settlement Contractors have been using part of their water allocation for rice straw decomp during October and DWR will continue to work with them for

November and December. SWRCB staff indicated that it would be helpful to have volumes for the Feather River and Sacramento River settlement contractors.

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

Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 13, 1 pm – 2 pm.