



# Water Operations Management Team Notes

October 27, 2021

## Members Attending

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

## Topics/Actions

- Approval of the 10/20/2021 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 – Flow smoothing (no regular schedule): Tentative hold on 11/10
  - Feather River Operations Group (meets first and third Thursdays): 11/4
  - American River Group (meets monthly on third Thursdays, and as needed): 11/18
  - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (meets monthly on third Wednesday): 11/17
  - Salmonid Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 11/2
  - Smelt Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays starting in November): 11/2
- Operational Updates
  - CVP: Lewiston (Trinity River) releases are 300 cfs. Whiskeytown (Clear Creek) releases are 200 cfs. Keswick (Sacramento River) releases are at 6,000 cfs today and will reduce to 4,600 cfs by 11/2; eventually, 3,250 cfs is intended, with low rampdown rate. Nimbus (American River) releases are 550 cfs. Goodwin (Stanislaus River) releases are changing rapidly due to continuing Fall Pulse Flow through 11/4; Reclamation's Delta pumping is at 3 unit (5 units tomorrow if canal can accommodate capacity; change orders between 5 and 4). Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 20 TAF and going up.

- SWP: Oroville-Thermalito Complex (Feather River) releases are currently 1,900 cfs, were as high as 3,150 cfs over weekend and expected to reduce to 1,250 cfs later this week. DWR is exporting 6,680 cfs through Clifton Court Forebay, possibly through weekend. Because of weed spray in Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) next week, zero allotment on 11/4 and 11/5. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 187 TAF.
- Relevant Assessments
  - 20211026 Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook 10/26/21 – 11/01/2021
    - NMFS provided redline edits and comments to the weekly outlook, including (1) edited “Winter-run Chinook Salmon eggs and alevin in gravel” by striking “eggs and”; (2) added comment: “The latest emergence date for shallow redd monitoring was 10/22/2021. Should check to see if there are any expected alevin left in the gravel.”; (3) added comment: “For consistency, should identify update dates for Clear Creek and Sacramento River.”; (4) edited table numbering and added comment: “Where are tables 3b and 3c?”; (5) added comment: “Are the following (status 2-4) really associated with COVID-19?”; and (6) added comment: “The assessment indicated that the cones were pulled on 10/22 in anticipation of high-water flows.”
  - 20211026 Proposed Action Assessment Final
    - Reclamation provided new text to replace the first paragraph in the DCC gates recommendation:
 

“The DCC gates were initially ordered to be closed on Oct 25 to meet Rio Vista flows. The late October storm event made this closure unnecessary for Rio Vista but then made it necessary due to high flows to prevent scouring. Gates may continue to be closed once flows are low enough to reduce straying of Mokelumne River fall-run Chinook Salmon attracted by lower river Mokelumne flows but this is still being evaluated.”
- Upcoming Actions
  - Reclamation: meeting on Friday. Ernest Conant will be presenting at NCWA meeting on Friday (10/29); Reclamation and DWR will present a hydrology and operations update at SWRCB meeting next Tuesday (11/2); Folsom Reservoir may be turning over with huge inflow from storm, so may be stopping bypass.
  - FWS: has response to notify and confer email from Reclamation on DWR’s CCF herbicide treatment, ready to be signed by Bay-Delta FWO Field Supervisor Donnie Ratcliff.
  - CDFW: No actions.
  - NMFS: No actions.
  - DWR: Herbicide application in Clifton Court Forebay on 11/4; presentation to SWRCB next week.
  - SWRCB:

- DWR Division of Flood Management, will present on improvements to forecasting during the November 16 Board meeting as part of drought updates.
  - Previously lifted curtailments remain lifted.
  - Term 91 curtailments were lifted yesterday.
  - Workshop on Term 91 approach to issuing curtailments tentatively scheduled for December 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](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/tucp/index.html).
  - Agency discussions on Biological Review for 2022 TUCP were held last week.
  - Reporting caught up, except for reports due in December and March.
- Hydrology Update (DWR and Reclamation):
  - 72-hour rain totals demonstrate impressive rainfall for October.
  - 8-station index, October 26, about 160 TAF of storage gained in Lake Oroville, hoping for system in November, based on models showing unstable conditions.
  - Achieved 300 TAF in Folsom, getting back to reasonable spot.
  - Only 35 TAF increase in Shasta but turned around the direction (New Melones and Trinity also went up, but less than Folsom).
  - One Year vs. One Day comparison demonstrates impressive rainfall amounts during weekend storm compared to the entire 2021 Water Year.
  - Water into Tisdale Weir, possibly for the first time ever in October.
  - Closed DCC gates
  - “Cyclone bomb” resulted in new historic low pressure, surpassed low of 1977.
- Discussion Items:
  - WOMT edits to weekly assessments: because of the edits that WOMT members had identified to this week’s Proposed Action Assessment and Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, WOMT discussed the process for conveying edits to the assessments back to the Salmon and Smelt Monitoring Teams (Teams) responsible for the assessments; agreed that WOMT edits to assessments would be documented in the WOMT meeting notes and as redline edits in the assessments, which would be sent back to the Teams. In sending changes back to the Teams, the WOMT members making the changes would make themselves available to describe the changes to the respective Team, as needed.

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

## **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, November 3, 1 pm – 2 pm.