



Water Operations Management Team Notes

January 5, 2022

Members Attending

Lenny Grimaldo, Jana Affonso, Garwin Yip, Kristal Davis-Fadtke, Josh Grover, Erik Ekdahl, Diane Riddle

Topics/Actions

- Approval of the 12/15/2021 Meeting Notes: Approved.
- Upcoming Meetings
 - Clear Creek Technical Team (meets quarterly on third Thursday of the month): 1/20
 - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (tentatively meets monthly on fourth Thursdays): 1/27
 - Feather River Operations Group (meets monthly on first and third Thursdays): 1/6
 - American River Group (meets monthly on third Thursday, and as needed): 1/20
 - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (meets monthly on third Wednesday): 1/19
 - Salmonid Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 1/11
 - Smelt Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 1/11
- Operational Updates
 - CVP: Lewiston (Trinity River) releases are 300 cfs. Whiskeytown (Clear Creek) releases are 200 cfs. Keswick (Sacramento River) releases are at 3,250 cfs, may see increase due to side flows. Nimbus (American River) releases are 5,000 cfs, actively evacuating for flood storage (encroached). Goodwin (Stanislaus River) releases decreased to the base flow of 200 cfs on January 1, 2022; there are possible future increases due to side flows.. Reclamation's Delta pumping is at 4 units, targeting 3,500 cfs; planning to increase to 5 units, targeting 4,200 cfs tomorrow. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 113 TAF.
 - SWP: Oroville-Thermalito Complex (Feather River) releases are currently 950 cfs. DWR is exporting 2400 cfs through Clifton Court Forebay to target the 14-day average OMR flow of -5,000 cfs. Looking forward CCF is scheduled 1600-1700 cfs, depending on Vernalis. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 532 TAF.

- Relevant Assessments
 - 20220104 Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook 1/4/22 – 1/10/2022
 - 20220104 Proposed Action Assessment Final
- Upcoming Actions
 - Reclamation: The Water Temperature Modeling Platform, Modeling Technical Committee meeting #3 will be held tomorrow (1/6).
 - FWS: Another experimental release of 12,800 Delta smelt planned for mid-next week, at the same location as the first release near Rio Vista. After this release, third release planned for early February, and possibly additional releases with the goal of releasing a total of approximately 45,000 fish.
 - CDFW: The interim winter-run Chinook salmon Juvenile Production Estimate (JPE) letter was sent to NMFS and CDFW by the IEP Winter-run Project Work Team (PWT) last Friday (12/31), which sets the TTP Condition 8.6.3 daily loss threshold as 7.92 for January; if the daily loss threshold is met, it would require the SWP to reduce exports to its proportional share of achieving an OMR flow of -3,500 cfs.
 - NMFS: NMFS anticipates the final JPE letter being issued by the Winter-run PWT around January 15 and the NMFS concurrence letter following by early February.
 - DWR: Will be reassessing the updated forecast next week on the need for a TUCP in February and then report back to the SWRCB.
 - SWRCB:
 - 2021 TUCP and 2022 TUCP workshop held today.
 - Unless further direction from the SWRCB, comments are due Friday (1/7).
 - Curtailments remain suspended through 1/10, then the SWRCB may reassess the need for reinstating them.
 - Workshop on Sacramento River temperature management being planned for March (date TBD). Agency staff and academia will be requested to participate to address outcome from management actions last year.
- 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 additional updates beyond those included above.
- Hydrology Update (Reclamation and DWR)
 - Recent precipitation mostly focused to the north; chance of rain event this Friday.

- Discussion Items

- Interim JPE letter: IEP PWT, JPE sub-team, met and agreed, conceptually, about how the interim JPE was calculated; the letter also included discussion of temperature dependent mortality modeling and thiamine deficiency. Whereas the JPE really doesn't include those factors in its calculation, the need to coordinate across the agencies on the importance of temperature dependent mortality and thiamine deficiency as factors affecting the winter-run population was also discussed.

Also, there was a discussion about whether it was possible to get the final JPE recommendations letter out prior to January 15. The two factors important in finalizing the JPE are for the Winter-run PWT to hold a final meeting and for a final sample of rotary screw trap data from monitoring at Red Bluff Diversion Dam to be included. CDFW and USFWS agreed to reach out to their staff involved in scheduling the Winter-run PWT meeting and finalizing the RST monitoring data from RBDD, respectively, to see if the date of the final JPE calculation and letter could be moved up.

- DRY Team update (Cindy Meyer, Reclamation): since activated last summer, the DRY Team has developed a Drought Toolkit and a 2021 Drought Action Information Plan, which were distributed to the DRY Team for update last week. The DRY Team is also developing a draft Drought and Dry Year Actions report, which is being coordinated so there is a single report for the Drought Action Information Plan (required by the LTO Proposed Action) and the Drought Contingency Plan (required by the SWP ITP) to be completed by February 1. Because the DRY Team charter identifies the role of WOMT in convening and deactivating the DRY Team, the DRY Team is also looking for direction from WOMT on whether it can be deactivated or should remain active for the current water year.

Elevation Items

No elevation items for Directors from WOMT.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 12, 1-2 p.m.