



# Water Operations Management Team Notes

February 9, 2022

## Members Attending

Kristin White, Liz Kiteck, Molly White, Lenny Grimaldo, Jana Affonso, Matt Nobriga, Garwin Yip, Kristal Davis-Fadtke, Josh Grover, Diane Riddle

## Topics/Actions

- Approval of the 02/02/2022 Meeting Notes: Approved.
- Upcoming Meetings
  - Clear Creek Technical Team (meets quarterly on third Thursday of the month): 2/17
  - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (tentatively meets monthly on fourth Thursdays): 2/24
  - Feather River Operations Group (meets monthly on first and third Thursdays): 2/17
  - American River Group (meets monthly on third Thursday, and as needed): 2/17
  - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (meets monthly on third Wednesday): 2/16
  - Salmonid Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 2/15
  - Smelt Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 2/15
- 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. Nimbus (American River) releases are 2,000 cfs. Goodwin (Stanislaus River) releases are at 1,500 cfs, reducing to 900 cfs on Friday; results of DWR Feb. 1 inflow forecast indicate San Joaquin River Index has gone to critical, so now targeting monthly average flow of 1,140 cfs at Vernalis, rather than 2,280 cfs (D1641). Reclamation's Delta pumping is at 2 units targeting 1,800 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 328 TAF.
  - SWP: Oroville-Thermalito Complex (Feather River) releases were at 3,250 cfs; increasing to 3,500 cfs today; because of dry conditions assessing the need for additional releases; operating to X2 salinity standard at Chipps Island (D1641); DWR

was exporting 300 cfs through Clifton Court Forebay yesterday, may reduce to 100 cfs, exports are assessed daily and modified, if necessary. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 589 TAF.

- Because the water year type changed to dry in the February forecast that was issued by DWR yesterday (2/8), Barker Slough Pumping Plant (BSPP) requirements for larval longfin smelt (LFS) entrainment are now in effect as part of the ITP. Concurrently, a larval LFS was detected in survey at Station 716 yesterday (2/8) as well. Because the larval LFS was detected the same day as the water year type changed to dry, the SMT is reviewing whether ITP Condition 8.12, restricting BSPP to a maximum 7-day average diversion of less than 60 cfs, will indeed be triggered at this point and will be following up to let DWR know.
- Relevant Assessments
  - 20220208 Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook 2/8/22 – 2/14/2022
  - 20220208 Proposed Action Assessment Final
  - ITP SaMT Risk Assessment Summary 8 Feb 2022 DRAFT
  - ITP SMT Risk Assessment Summary 8 Feb 2022 DRAFT
- Upcoming Actions
  - Reclamation:
    - Water transfer meetings kicking off Friday (2/11); agencies and contractors invited.
    - Reminder that initial determination on “Shasta Critical Year” will be on February 15; because 90% exceedance values are used, the expectation is that it will be a “Shasta Critical Year.”
    - Initial allocations for CVP will come out on February 18 or 23, depending on whether they can be completed before the holiday weekend.
  - FWS: Experimental release of 12,800 more Delta smelt planned for today (2/9) and tomorrow (2/10) (6,400 each day) at Belden’s Landing in Suisun Marsh.
  - CDFW: No actions.
  - NMFS: No actions.
  - DWR: No actions.
  - SWRCB:
    - SWRCB meeting on February 15 will address the revised draft order on reconsideration of the 2021 TUCP and Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan; SWRCB staff will also provide a drought update based on the February hydrologic forecast.

- As conditions continue to get drier, curtailments are being reimposed; will be needing to respond to requests for exceptions to curtailments from CVP water rights submitted by their contractors.
- Hydrology Update (Reclamation and DWR)
  - Complete change from January 1 forecast—one of driest Januarys on record with going on seven weeks of no precipitation, drying soils, and sublimation of snowpack. And no significant precipitation in the forecast.
- Discussion Items
  - Drought Relief Year (DRY) Team: Following up on the Action Item from last week (2/2) for WOMT members to consider specific charge to provide direction for DRY Team during WY 2022, WOMT discussed the 2021 Drought and Dry Years Action Report and suggested that the DRY Team could work to prioritize the recommendations in the report and continue to develop actions that were not fully fleshed out in the report. The group also discussed that it would be helpful to review the LTO guidance document that establishes the DRY Team to reference the roles and responsibilities of the DRY Team.
  - Action Item: WOMT members will review the LTO Implementation Team Charter for the DRY Team.
- Elevation Items
  - No items to elevate to the Directors.

## Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 16, 1-2 p.m.