



Water Operations Management Team Notes

March 9, 2022

Members Attending

Kristin White, Molly White, Jana Affonso, Matt Nobriga, Howard Brown, Garwin Yip, Kristal Davis-Fadtke, Diane Riddle

Topics/Actions

- Approval of the 03/02/2022 Meeting Notes: Approved.
- Upcoming Meetings
 - Clear Creek Technical Team (meets quarterly on third Thursday of the month): 3/17
 - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (tentatively meets monthly on fourth Thursdays): 3/24
 - Feather River Operations Group (meets monthly on first and third Thursdays): 3/17
 - American River Group (meets monthly on third Thursday, and as needed): 3/17
 - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (meets monthly on third Wednesday): 3/16
 - Salmonid Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 3/15
 - Smelt Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 3/15
- 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 and may be reducing to 1,750 cfs. Goodwin (Stanislaus River) releases are at 600 cfs and will reduce to 500 cfs tomorrow (3/10; for Vernalis based flow). Reclamation's Delta pumping is at 1 unit targeting 900 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 310 TAF; however, the majority is previously moved transfer water.
 - SWP: Oroville-Thermalito Complex (Feather River) releases are at 5,250 cfs and planning a short increase to 5,500 cfs to ensure compliance with meeting the MarchX2 days at Chipps Island. DWR is exporting 300 cfs at Banks Pumping Plant. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 587 TAF.

- There was discussion coming out of the SMT that exports might be increasing, prompting a request for Particle Tracking Model (PTM) runs for next Tuesday (3/15). DWR explained that because there were 14 Chipps Island days in March, based on B120, that there would be a transition from meeting Chipps days beginning next Tuesday (3/15) and that, during the transition, there might be extra water to be picked up in exports.
- Also, Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gate (SMSCG) operations have been suspended to help meet X2.
- Relevant Assessments
 - 20220308 Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook 3/8/22 – 3/14/2022
 - 20220308 Proposed Action Assessment Final
 - SaMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary for 8 Mar 2022 DRAFT
 - DRAFT SMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary 08 March 2022
- Upcoming Actions
 - Reclamation:
 - Met with the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors (SRSC) yesterday (3/8) as part of the “meet and confer.” There is no water for rice decomp; there is question about the availability of transfer water; and the topic of delaying deliveries is moving to the “Sac River meetings,” which began last week. As a result, the conversation has narrowed to focus on potential transfers.
 - Biweekly transfer meeting this Friday (3/11), where focus is on transfers out of the American and Yuba Rivers as being most likely.
 - FWS: No actions.
 - CDFW:
 - Based on Spring Larval Survey (SLS) #5, ITP Condition 8.4.2 (larval and juvenile LFS protection) may be triggered prompting the need to call an emergency SMT meeting this Friday. As of yesterday (3/8), there were 3 of 4 stations that detected LFS.
 - NMFS: No actions.
 - DWR:
 - DWR met with CDFW, in response to a “meet and confer” requirement in the ITP for construction of the West False River Emergency Salinity Barrier to provide an overview of the need to backfill notches in the barriers and recommended backfilling the notches in early April.

- SWRCB:
 - Board Meeting on March 15; still working on developing the agenda.
 - Sacramento River Temperature Management Considerations workshop on March 16.
 - Considering whether Term 91 curtailments will be triggered; they may not be triggered on a sustained basis at this point.
- Hydrology Update (DWR and Reclamation)
 - Most of the March 1 90% exceedance numbers in Bulletin 120 (B120) are worse than the 99% exceedance numbers in the February 1 forecast.
 - Drop in 90% exceedances between the February 1 and March 1 B120 forecasts:
 - Shasta dropped over 500 TAF
 - Folsom dropped 400 TAF
 - Oroville dropped 700 TAF
 - New Melones dropped 150 TAF
 - Questionable hope for precipitation in March, possibly next Monday (3/14) and Tuesday (3/15).
 - Currently almost 4 inches below the historic low for the January-March period.
- TUCP/TUCO & Drought Updates
 - 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 developing a TUCP for the April through June period.
 - Modeling is in process
 - Working on the Biological Review (BR), with a walkthrough scheduled for next Monday (3/14).
 - It is expected that the full TUCP package will be delivered to the SWRCB next Friday (3/18).
 - The draft TUCP includes the following specific modifications:
 - Spring outflow in April – proposed 4,000 cfs outflow (similar to submittal in fall 2021)
 - Outflow in May-June – asking for a 14-day running average of 4,000 cfs, if the drought offramp is not triggered for May and June (May 1 90% B120)

forecast for the Sacramento River Index is less than 8.1 MAF; by comparison, June 2021 TUCP requested change from 4,000 cfs to 3,000 cfs on a 14-day average).

- Relocation of Western Delta Agricultural compliance point from Emmaton to Three Mile Slough for April 1 – June 30.
- Vernalis flow objective of minimum monthly average of 710 cfs when the Habitat Protection Outflow is modified to 4,000 cfs (Stanislaus would be operated to the Stepped Release Plan flows and would rely on input from Stanislaus Watershed Team).
- Will receive final B120 in May and will reassess the potential for a future TUCP submittal later in year.
- The draft TUCP for the April-June 2022 time period does not include a request for modifications of the Delta Cross Channel gate operation.
- The SWRCB is requesting to get input from fish agencies by April 1, ideally as close to March 28 as possible, and cannot approve modifications of D1641 standards retroactively.
- The sooner the fish agencies can get to see the TUCP and BR, the better. Because the walkthrough of the BR is planned for Monday morning (3/14), it would be helpful if the draft BR could be distributed Friday morning, if possible.
- Discussion Items
 - NCWA Drought Coordination Task Force meeting every other week on Tuesday; next meeting is March 15.
- Elevation Items
 - No items to elevate to the Directors.

Next Meeting

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