



Water Operations Management Team Notes

March 16, 2022

Members Attending

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

Topics/Actions

- Approval of the 03/09/2022 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): 4/20
 - Salmonid Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 3/22
 - Smelt Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 3/22
- 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 1,250 cfs and will reduce to 1,200 cfs Friday. Goodwin (Stanislaus River) releases are at 300 cfs. Reclamation's Delta pumping is at 3 units targeting 2,700 cfs, reducing to 1 unit tomorrow. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 313 TAF.
 - SWP: Oroville-Thermalito Complex (Feather River) releases are at 2,500 cfs. DWR is exporting 600 cfs at Banks Pumping Plant. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 584 TAF.
- Relevant Assessments

- 20220315 Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook 3/15/22 – 3/21/2022
- 202203015 Proposed Action Assessment Final
- SaMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary for 15 Mar 2022 DRAFT
- DRAFT SMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary 15 March 2022
 - The State Water Contractors, Inc. (SWC) brought up an issue at the Delta Monitoring Workgroup (DMW), wanting to raise two concerns to WOMT. The first concern is that the -1,250 OMR recommendation by the SMT, based on presence of Longfin Smelt (LFS) larvae in the South Delta, seemed too severe this year, given the conditions.
 - WOMT discussed the process for raising issues to WOMT through the DMW. There was discussion about whether the role of the DMW should be to provide feedback to DWR and Reclamation, instead of raising issues to WOMT. It was noted that the SWP ITP states the DMW will provide information to Permittee and Reclamation on species abundance, species distribution, life stage transitions, and relevant physical parameters. One suggestion was that, if no agency would formally elevate a concern from the water contractors to WOMT, the issue could still be discussed and resolved through WOMT, if WOMT chose to act on the concern. Another suggestion was that if there was an issue raised to WOMT by water contractors, then there should be a recommendation accompanying the concern. For example, is there another piece of information out there that should be considered in the weekly assessments, but that is not being considered?
 - Additionally, there was discussion about elevation to WOMT, in general. The prevailing understanding was that if there are issues to be elevated to WOMT, then WOMT members should be briefed prior to the weekly WOMT meeting. Also, regarding process for elevating, a WOMT member agency would first elevate to WOMT and if WOMT couldn't resolve, then it would go to the Directors.
 - DWR will not be elevating the issue of concern about the OMR recommendation. However, DWR did want to discuss the second concern, raised by the SWC, about the broader distribution of LFS not being considered by the SMT when it made the recommendation, because the entrainment effects were small, relative to the size of the seaward LFS population. However, CDFW communicated that the proportion of the population entrained is not considered by the SMT because the purpose of the SMT's risk assessment is to achieve minimization of LFS entrainment independent of their entire distribution. CDFW indicated that overall distribution of LFS should be discussed at the SMT as part of the risk assessment.

- Upcoming Actions

- Reclamation:
 - Reclamation and DWR submitting the April 1-June 30, 2022 TUCP this Friday (3/18).
- FWS:
 - Yesterday (3/15), there was release of 108,810 juvenile San Joaquin River Restoration program hatchery spring-run Chinook salmon.
- CDFW:
 - No actions.
- NMFS:
 - No actions.
- DWR:
 - No actions.
- SWRCB:
 - No actions.
- Hydrology Update (DWR and Reclamation)
 - Up to a half-inch of rain this weekend, then drying and warming conditions next week.
 - Northern 8 stations logged 0.6 inches in yesterday's (3/15) storm.
 - Average rainfall in April is 4 inches, so there could still be additional precipitation this Water Year, despite the historically dry 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.
 - Still on track to submit TUCP for April 1-June 30, 2022 this Friday (3/18).
- Discussion Items
 - No discussion items.
- Elevation Items
 - No items to elevate to the Directors; however, Directors may still choose to meet.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, March 23, 1-2 p.m.