



# Water Operations Management Team Notes

March 23, 2022

## Members Attending

Kristin White, Liz Kiteck, Molly White, Matt Nobriga, Acting: Barb Byrne, Kristal Davis-Fadtke, Josh Grover, Diane Riddle, Matt Holland

## Topics/Actions

- Approval of the 03/16/2022 Meeting Notes: Approved.
- Upcoming Meetings
  - Clear Creek Technical Team (meets quarterly on third Thursday of the month): 6/16
  - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (tentatively meets monthly on fourth Thursdays): 3/24
  - Feather River Operations Group (meets monthly on first and third Thursdays): 4/7
  - American River Group (meets monthly on third Thursday, and as needed): 4/21
  - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (meets monthly on third Wednesday): 4/20
  - Salmonid Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 3/29
  - Smelt Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 3/29
- 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 1,200 cfs. Goodwin (Stanislaus River) releases are at 300 cfs. Reucing to 250 tomorrow. Reclamation's Delta pumping is at 1 unit targeting 800 cfs; increasing to 2 units Friday (3/25). Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 317 TAF.
  - SWP: Oroville-Thermalito Complex (Feather River) releases are at 2,500 cfs. DWR is exporting 600 cfs at Banks Pumping Plant; planning to reduce to 300 cfs on Friday (3/25). State share of San Luis Reservoir is 583 TAF.
- Relevant Assessments

- 20220322 Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook 3/22/22 – 3/28/2022
  - FWS recommended that the Weekly Outlook should recognize that Delta smelt spawning has begun, instead of referring to the spawning of Delta smelt as hypothetical (“Delta smelt with a migratory life history are expected to have moved upstream and water temperatures are within the range for spawning”), considering that the Spring Kodiak Trawl caught ripe Delta smelt last week.
- 202203022 Proposed Action Assessment Final
- SaMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary for 22 Mar 2022 DRAFT
- DRAFT SMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary 22 March 2022
- Upcoming Actions
  - Reclamation:
    - There was no Meet and Confer meeting with the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors this week.
    - Biweekly transfers meeting will be held this Friday (3/25).
    - Working on responding to a request from the SWRCB this week for forecast information from the TUCP.
    - There will need to be further discussions on management of San Luis Reservoir and potential for a Consolidated Place of Use (CPOU).
  - FWS:
    - No actions.
  - CDFW:
    - No actions. Reported out on a couple of monitoring updates: First, five larval Delta smelt were collected at Station 716 in 20 mm survey #1, which is not triggering anything because Barker Slough Pumping Plant (BSPP) is already under larval longfin smelt (LFS) protections in response to ITP Condition 8.12; Second, in response to shift in Delta outflow, there was a drop in Folsom releases of 500 cfs over two days, caused stranding of salmonids; CDFW crews began monitoring on March 18 and counted 700 mortalities (70% fall-run Chinook salmon and 30% steelhead); estimated loss of steelhead fry in the thousands. Cramer Fish Sciences (CFS) is also doing fish rescues in response to changes in flow. Action Item: NMFS will share link to the CFS report on fish rescues when it is made available.
  - NMFS:
    - A lot going on with Shasta planning; working on technical assistance letter for the SWRCB in response to the 2022 TUCP.

- DWR:
  - No actions.
- SWRCB:
  - Working on TUCP order for April through June.
  - Comment period on TUCP closes April 6.
  - Tentatively planning a Water Unavailability staff workshop for May 6; notice has not gone out yet.
  - Projections for curtailments moving forward and a meeting on curtailments is needed.
- Hydrology Update (DWR and Reclamation)
  - Some moisture in forecast for Monday or Tuesday; not expected to be significant.
  - On track to break record for historically dry January-March period.
- TUCP/TUCO & Drought Updates
  - Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP), TUC Order WR 2022-0095 (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).
  - Ongoing work on Interim Operations Plan (IOP) and planning for Shasta operations.
  - Updated Drought Contingency Plan in response to SWP ITP: considering delaying the March update to combine it with information being developed as part of IOP planning. An April Drought Contingency Plan will also include the information required by Condition 3 of the February 2022 TUCO.
- Discussion Items
  - No additional discussion items.
- Elevation Items
  - No items to elevate to the Directors; however, Directors may still choose to meet.

## Next Meeting

- Wednesday, March 30, 1-2 p.m.