



Water Operations Management Team Notes

March 30, 2022

Members Attending

Kristin White, Liz Kiteck, Molly White, Lenny Grimaldo, Jana Affonso, Matt Nobriga, Howard Brown, Kristal Davis-Fadtke, Josh Grover, Acting: Matt Holland

Topics/Actions

- Approval of the 03/23/2022 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): 4/28
 - 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): 4/5
 - Smelt Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 4/5
- 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. Reclamation's Delta pumping is at 3 units targeting 2,700 cfs; reducing to 2 units tomorrow (3/31) targeting 1,800 cfs and reducing to 1 unit Friday (4/1) targeting 900 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 324 TAF.
 - SWP: Oroville-Thermalito Complex (Feather River) releases are at 3500 cfs. DWR is exporting 2,000 cfs at Banks Pumping Plant; scheduled to be at 0 cfs tomorrow (3/31) and 600 cfs on Friday (4/1). State share of San Luis Reservoir is 585 TAF.
- Relevant Assessments

- 20220329 Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook 3/29/22 – 4/4/2022
- 202203029 Proposed Action Assessment Final
- SaMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary for 29 Mar 2022 DRAFT
- DRAFT SMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary 29 March 2022
 - Reclamation raised concern that the advice from the SMT, in the Proposed Action Assessment, recommending an OMR Index of $-1,250$ cfs on a seven-day average for the protection of larval Delta Smelt did not seem to follow the criteria for making such a recommendation, based on Delta smelt protections from the Proposed Action, the ITP, or the guidance document for the SMT.
 - WOMT further discussed questions about how the assessment was made leading to the operational recommendation and specifically whether PA protections for larval Delta smelt from the March 2020 Reclamation memo were considered by the SMT when they made their recommendation. However, based on feedback from SMT members, it was the Particle Tracking Model runs and the detection of DS in the central Delta that was the basis for the assessment of risk, not the March 2020 Reclamation memo.
 - Additional discussion focused on the appropriate process that the SMT should be following at this point, now that the Interim Operations Plan (IOP) has been approved by the court, and which factors or triggers for larval and juvenile Delta smelt protection in the March 2020 Reclamation memo that modified the PA or in the ITP should be used in the assessment. There was agreement among WOMT members that the question should be raised to the respective legal counsel of the WOMT agencies.
 - WOMT did not accept the advice from the SMT for protection of larval Delta smelt because they did not believe it was consistent with the PA or the March 2020 memo and there was no ITP condition triggered.
 - WOMT also received the operational advice of OMR no more negative than $-1,250$ cfs on a 7-day average, based on triggering ITP Condition 8.4.2 for larval and juvenile longfin smelt protection. DWR acknowledged that exports would be in accordance with their proportional share, as described in ITP Condition 8.10.
- Upcoming Actions
 - Reclamation:
 - Plan to submit draft Sacramento River Temperature Management plan next week; possibly Tuesday.
 - The draft plan will go to all agencies, including the Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (SRTTG), at the same time.

- Sacramento River Settlement Contractors (SRSC) expect no settlement water available to transfer south of Delta this year
 - FWS:
 - No actions.
 - CDFW:
 - No actions.
 - NMFS:
 - No action.
 - DWR:
 - No actions.
 - SWRCB:
 - Planning to act on TUCP, won't be issuing the order Friday (4/1), but early next week.
- Hydrology Update (DWR and Reclamation)
 - Nothing in near term forecast.
 - Solidly ending March as driest January-March period on record.
- 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.
 - Order for reconsideration: Reporting on Conditions 2 and 4 due April 1.
 - Updated Drought Contingency Plan in response to SWP ITP: still 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.
 - Once the projects are under a TUCO, the Delta outflow requirement will be 4,000 cfs, but outflow could temporarily get higher than 4,000 cfs due to runoff from local precipitation. Exports will remain at minimum health and safety pumping to stay consistent with the TUCO.
- Discussion Items
 - No additional discussion items.
- Elevation Items

- No items to elevate to the Directors.

Next Meeting

- Wednesday, April 6, 1-2 p.m.