



# Water Operations Management Team Notes

April 6, 2022

## Members Attending

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

## Topics/Actions

- Approval of the 03/30/2022 Meeting Notes: Approved.
- Upcoming Meetings
  - Shasta Planning Group (meets weekly on Fridays): 4/8
  - 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):
    - 4/7 (rescheduled from March) and 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): 4/12
  - Smelt Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 4/12
- 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 1,000 cfs. Goodwin (Stanislaus River) releases are at 200 cfs. Reclamation's Delta pumping is at 1 unit targeting 900 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 334 TAF.
  - SWP: Oroville-Thermalito Complex (Feather River) releases are at 2,500 cfs, ramping down at 200 cfs per day; targeting 1,500 cfs this weekend. DWR is

exporting 600 cfs at Banks Pumping Plant. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 593 TAF.

- Relevant Assessments
  - 20220405 Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook 4/5/22 – 4/11/2022
  - 20220405 Proposed Action Assessment Final
  - SaMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary for 5 Apr 2022 DRAFT
  - DRAFT SMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary 05 Apr 2022
  
- Upcoming Actions
  - Reclamation:
    - The Draft Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan will be distributed by the end of the day today (4/6) or early tomorrow (4/7) to the SWRCB, SRTTG, and NMFS.
    - The SRTTG meeting tomorrow (4/7) will be an opportunity to answer questions about the plan. Reclamation is also interested in hearing about any potential early season temperature management actions as part of the discussion.
    - The biweekly NCWA meeting is next Tuesday (4/12).
  - FWS:
    - No actions.
  - CDFW:
    - No actions.
  - NMFS:
    - No actions.
  - DWR:
    - DWR will issuing the April 1 Bulletin 120 this Friday (4/8).
  - SWRCB:
    - SWRCB meeting on April 19 to discuss TUCP, draft Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan and drought update.
    - Issued TUCO on Monday (4/4); comments due today (4/6).
    - Going to be issuing update on the Water Unavailability Methodology used for curtailments and it would be helpful to have the Exchange Contractor delivery schedule to put into the methodology.

- Hydrology Update (DWR and Reclamation)
  - No significant precipitation in near term forecast.
  - It appears that temperature records will be broken tomorrow (4/7) and Friday (4/8).
  
- 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).
  - Reclamation submitted reporting on Conditions 2 and 4 from Reconsideration Order.
  - New conditions on recent TUCO coming up next week.
  - Timing and content for next TUCP.
    - DWR and Reclamation are waiting for the next forecast before meeting to discuss; however, once the forecast is complete, DWR and Reclamation will be analyzing the potential for a TUCP to cover the July-August period (Western Delta salinity and possibly outflow) and the September through - December period (Rio Vista flows).
    - The SWRCB requests as much of a heads-up as possible, recommends submitting the next TUCP as soon as possible and lumping all the time periods needed together, and requests that DWR and Reclamation be prepared with the schedule for submitting the TUCP at the April 19 SWRCB meeting.
  
- Discussion Items
  - SMT assessment.
    - There was a detailed discussion at the SMT meeting on advice provided to WOMT; some SMT members were concerned that the advice was not responsive to input from the State Water Contractors (SWC), brought up at the Delta Monitoring Workgroup (DMW). Specifically, the concern raised at the SMT was that continuing the advice of -1,250 cfs was not being responsive to the issue the SWC brought up a few weeks ago.
    - WOMT discussed whether there was a charter developed for the DMW. CDFW referenced a charter for the DMW and then distributed to WOMT a draft document, dated December 2, 2020, that described the purpose of the DMW and stated that the “document consolidated verbatim the DMW information in the OMR Guidance document.”

- DWR raised the question whether there was a need to conduct an assessment, considering that the projects are currently pumping at minimums.
    - CDFW responded that, according to the ITP, regardless of what exports will be, the SMT is still responsible for doing the evaluation and that it is still important that they are following the process. Further, it is important for WOMT to look at that information provided by the SMT, in the event operations change.
  - Legal interpretation of the IOP versus PA/BiOps.
    - Based on a discussion among the federal attorneys, there was agreement that the IOP is operative in addition to the PA/BiOps, except when there is a direct conflict, in which case the IOP should be followed. Further, essentially the PA and BiOps are operative unless and until the ITP is triggered. Questions were raised about whether this understanding affected the interpretation that was discussed last week (3/30) about the SMT guidance regarding larval Delta smelt, or if the guidance was based on criteria not in the PA or ITP. Reclamation responded that the assessment, still, did not appear to follow the PA or ITP. For further clarification, FWS made the point that essentially the March 2020 Reclamation memo is an extension of PA.
  - Stanislaus River pulse flow being planned for April.
    - FWS inquired about the impetus for this proposal and asked if it was related to the TUCP. Reclamation explained that it is a proposal by the SWRCB to allow flexibility during the pulse flow period by moving water into the spring pulse flow period. SWRCB further explained that the SWRCB had submitted a letter to allow flexibility, as the SWRCB is in the process of implementing new water quality objectives and trying to develop a workable pattern that was good for fish; while it is unlikely that there will be an opportunity to implement a flexible pulse flow schedule this year, the SWRCB would like to plan for flexibility in future years.
- Elevation Items
  - No items to elevate to the Directors.

## Next Meeting

- Wednesday, April 13, 1-2 p.m.