

Water Operations Management Team Notes

March 1, 2023

Members Attending

- Reclamation: Liz Kiteck
- USFWS: Jana Affonso, Matt Nobriga
- CDFW: Brooke Jacobs, Kristal Davis-Fadtke
- NMFS: Garwin Yip
- DWR: Molly White, Lenny Grimaldo
- SWRCB: Matt Holland

Topics/Actions

- Approval of Meeting Notes from last week:
 - February 17, 2023 Notes: Approved
 - February 22, 2023 Notes: Approved
- Upcoming Meetings
 - Salmonid Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 3/7
 - Smelt Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 3/7
 - Feather River Operations Group (FOG) (meets monthly first and third Thursdays): 3/2
 - American River Group (meets monthly on third Thursday, and as needed): 3/16
 - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (meets monthly on third Wednesday): 3/15
 - Clear Creek Technical Team (meets quarterly on third Thursday): 3/16
 - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (meets monthly on fourth Thursday): 3/23; Spring Pulse Meeting on 3/3 and Update on 3/9
 - Shasta Planning Group: not currently meeting
- Relevant Assessments
 - Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook 2/28/23 – 3/7/2023
 - 20230228 Proposed Action Assessment
 - SaMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary dated 2/28/2023

- SMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary dated 2/28/2023
- Operational Updates
 - CVP: Trinity River releases are at 650 cfs; currently within 2-month winter variability flows, which will use 60,000 AF of the volume allocated for spring pulse flows. Sacramento River (Keswick) releases are currently at 3,250 cfs. Clear Creek (Whiskeytown) releases are at 200 cfs. American River (Nimbus) releases are at 4,000 cfs. Stanislaus River (Goodwin) releases are at 1,100 cfs due to Tulloch Dam releases from storm, but are decreasing. Reclamation's Delta pumping is at 5 units targeting 4,200 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 673 TAF.
 - SWP: Feather River (Oroville-Thermalito Complex) releases are at 1,050 cfs. Exports are targeting 2,600 cfs and scheduled to hold for next several days. Oroville storage is 2.58 MAF. Gained 1.61 MAF since December 1. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 880 TAF.
- Hydrology Update (DWR and Reclamation)
 - It is dry today, after storms over the weekend and earlier this week. Expecting more rain this Saturday through Monday, and then again starting next Thursday onward.
- Upcoming Actions
 - Reclamation:
 - No actions.
 - Discussion Item: How to document decisions that occur outside of WOMT
 - USFWS:
 - No actions.
 - Discussion Item: Expectations of the monitoring teams.
 - CDFW:
 - Update: DWR requested and CDFW issued a Minor Amendment to the SWP ITP. The amendment modifies the project description to account for the TUCO. The Minor Amendment includes an additional measure that requires DWR to provide 25,000 AF in Oroville for 1-2 pulse flows in March or April 2023 to benefit spring-run and late migrating winter-run Chinook Salmon.
 - Discussion Items: Non-consensus at SMT on ITP COA 8.4.2, Protections for larval and juvenile Longfin Smelt
 - NMFS:
 - No actions.
 - No additional discussion items.

- DWR:
 - No actions.
 - No additional discussion items.
- SWRCB:
 - Update: Holding Staff Workshop on Water Availability and return flow assumptions on Friday, March 10 from 10 am–5 pm
<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/docs/2023/022123-workshop-notice.pdf>
 - No additional discussion items.
- Discussion Items
 - Documenting decisions outside WOMT:
 - Reminder that all WOMT agencies need documentation of decisions, including those made at WOMT (WOMT Notes), at Director’s meetings, or in other venues (e.g., State decisions re: Longfin Smelt protections).
 - WOMT members agreed to provide email or other written documentation of decisions.
 - Expectations of the Monitoring Teams (SaMT and SMT):
 - During Operations Summary prior to SMT and SaMT, there was some discussion about whether SMT and SaMT would be the appropriate forum for DWR and Reclamation to provide real-time information to SWRCB and Fisheries Agencies per Condition 3 of the TUCO.
 - DWR and Reclamation will meet with the SWRCB to discuss, and will report back to WOMT and the Monitoring Teams via email.
 - Non-consensus at SMT on ITP COA 8.4.2, Protections for larval and juvenile Longfin Smelt
 - DWR noted that the larval distribution modeling (PTM) assumed drier hydrology than what is now expected.
 - Flows in the San Joaquin River at Vernalis are expected to increase to greater than 8,000 cfs sometime tomorrow or Friday, which per SWP ITP COA 8.4.3 would off-ramp larval and juvenile Longfin Smelt protections (ITP COA 8.4.2) until Vernalis flows drop below 5,000 cfs.
 - DWR and CDFW will meet tomorrow to discuss, and will send an email to WOMT documenting their decision.
 - Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) and Order
 - No Updates

- Action Items
 - DWR and Reclamation to meet with SWRCB to discuss requirements for Condition 3 of the TUCO
 - DWR and CDFW to meet to discuss SMT non-consensus on SWP ITP COA 8.4.2., Protections for larval and juvenile Longfin Smelt.
- Elevation Items
 - No elevation items.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, March 8, 1-1:50 p.m.