

Water Operations Management Team Notes

May 3, 2023

Members Attending

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

Topics/Actions

- Approval of Meeting Notes from last week:
 - April 26, 2023 Notes: Approved, final notes sent out this morning.
- Upcoming Meetings
 - Salmonid Monitoring Team (weekly on Tuesdays): 5/9
 - Smelt Monitoring Team (weekly on Tuesdays): 5/9
 - Feather River Operations Group (monthly first and third Thursdays): 5/4
 - American River Group (monthly on third Thursday, and as needed): 5/18
 - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (monthly on third Wednesday): 5/17
 - Clear Creek Technical Team (quarterly on third Thursday): 6/15
 - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (monthly on fourth Thursday): 5/18; SRTTG Update Meeting on 5/11
 - Shasta Planning Group (meets biweekly on Tuesday or as needed): 5/16
 - DRY Team: 5/4
- Relevant Assessments
 - Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook 5/2/23 – 5/8/2023
 - 20230502 Proposed Action Assessment
 - SaMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary for 5/2/2023
 - SMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary for 5/2/2023

- Operational Updates
 - CVP: Trinity River releases are at 2,900 cfs and will gradually decline through June 20. Sacramento River (Keswick) releases are currently at 10,000 cfs and increasing to 13,000 cfs tomorrow. Clear Creek is releasing an 800 cfs pulse flow to attract spring-run Chinook salmon to move upstream to holding habitat, and then will drop back to 200 cfs. American River (Nimbus) releases are at 8,000 cfs. Stanislaus River (Goodwin) releases are reduced for fish weir removal but will be at 1,500 cfs by May 6. Reclamation's Delta pumping is at 4 units targeting 3,500 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 956 TAF.
 - SWP: Feather River (Oroville-Thermalito Complex) releases are at 10,000 cfs, down from 15,000 cfs yesterday. Clifton Court Forebay exports are at 4,000 cfs. State share of San Luis Reservoir is at 1,054 TAF.
- Hydrology Update (DWR and Reclamation)
 - Some sporadic rain this week, but weather is trending drier. Cooler temperatures during this early part of May will delay snowmelt into late May and June.
- Upcoming Actions or Updates
 - Reclamation:
 - No actions or discussion items.
 - FWS:
 - No actions or discussion items.
 - CDFW:
 - No actions or discussion items.
 - NMFS:
 - No actions.
 - Discussion item: Status of DRY Team
 - DWR:
 - No actions or discussion items.
 - SWRCB:
 - No actions or discussion items.
- Discussion Items
 - Reclamation to report out on reasons for elevated euthanasia at Tracy Fish Collection Facility (TFCF) and Steps taken to prevent future losses:
 - Reclamation reported the cause of the unwarranted euthanasia at TFCF was due to human error. Personnel whose abilities are questionable are removed from active fish handling. Fisheries biologists are re-training fish

salvage staff and providing in-person quality control, which includes disqualifying staff from using euthanasia. Animals identified by unauthorized individual should be placed into holding aquaria. Additionally, Reclamation is reviewing the TFCF SOPs for fish handling based on lessons learned and will update as needed.

- NMFS asked that Reclamation provide information about when losses occurred and how many fish were incorrectly euthanized, so that WOMT can be made aware and be more proactive if this occurs in the future. Reclamation agreed.
- Status of DRY Team and if WOMT should provide direction to dissolve the Team for the remainder of water year 2023:
 - WOMT proactively activated the DRY Team at the beginning of the Water Year to plan for the potential for another year of drought. Should WOMT formally direct the DRY Team to alter course, now that it seems that drought actions are not necessary this year?
 - Action item for agencies to discuss internally and determine if there are any tasks for the DRY Team this year other than finalizing the Water Year 2022 report. [Discussion item for next week.]
- Action Items
 - WOMT representatives will coordinate within their respective agencies to determine future of DRY Team engagement for the remainder of the water year
- Elevation Items
 - No elevation items.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, May 10, 1-1:50 p.m.