

# Water Operations Management Team Notes

February 1, 2023

## Members Attending

- USBR: Kristin White, Liz Kiteck
- USFWS: Jana Affonso, ~~Matt Nobriga~~
- CDFW: Brooke Jacobs, Kristal Davis-Fadtke
- NMFS: ~~Howard Brown~~, Garwin Yip
- DWR: Molly White, Lenny Grimaldo
- SWRCB: ~~Diane Riddle~~, Matt Holland

## Topics/Actions

- Approval of Meeting Notes from last week:
  - January 25, 2023 Notes: Approved
  - January 27, 2023 Notes: Approved
- Upcoming Meetings
  - Salmonid Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 2/7
  - Smelt Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 2/7
  - Feather River Operations Group (meets monthly first and third Thursdays): 2/16
  - American River Group (meets monthly on third Thursday, and as needed): 2/16
  - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (meets monthly on third Wednesday): 2/15
  - Clear Creek Technical Team (meets quarterly on third Thursday): 3/16
  - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group: 2/23
  - Shasta Planning Group: not currently meeting
- Operational Updates
  - CVP: Trinity River releases are at 300 cfs. 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 (generally tracking inflow into Folsom, releases might decrease later this week). Stanislaus River (Goodwin) releases are at

200 cfs. The CVP's Delta pumping is at 5 units targeting ~4,200 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 497 TAF.

- SWP: Feather River (Oroville-Thermalito Complex) releases are at 950 cfs. Clifton Court inflow is 6,600 cfs, and will trend downward over the week as Vernalis flows decrease. The recently-salvaged winter-run-sized Chinook salmon juvenile was determined to be a non-winter-run based on genetics, so the -3,500 OMR limit action response under the ITP (anticipated to go into effect today, 2/1/23) is no longer required. DWR has already adjusted today's exports accordingly. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 781 TAF.
- Relevant Assessments
  - Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook 1/31/23 – 2/7/2023
  - 20230131 Proposed Action Assessment
  - SaMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary dated 1/31/2023
  - SMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary dated 1/31/2023
- Upcoming Actions
  - USBR:
    - USBR reported that the wet hydrology in January is likely to trigger the Port Chicago delta outflow requirement (~29,200 cfs) for much of February 2023. Satisfying outflow might require export cuts or increased releases from upstream reservoirs. No discussion items.
  - USFWS:
    - USFWS announced a 2/9/23 presentation to stakeholders about the Delta Smelt experimental release program. The presentation will include a recap of Year 1 (2022) and Year 2 (2023) releases. If you are interested in attending and didn't get the details through other channels, reach out to Jana.
    - Discussion item: SMT process and the new "Biological Justification" section in the Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook.
  - CDFW:
    - No actions. No discussion items.
  - NMFS:
    - No actions. No discussion items.
  - DWR:
    - No actions. No discussion items.

- SWRCB:
  - No actions. No discussion items.
- Hydrology Update (DWR and USBR)
  - Forecast is cold and mostly dry. Some small precipitation events might hit this weekend.
- Discussion Items
  - SMT process and the new “Biological Justification” section in the Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook:
    - USFWS asked whether the “Biological Justification” section would be needed once turbidity at OBI drops below 12 FNU and the turbidity bridge avoidance action is fully offramped.
    - After some discussion, there was general agreement for the following approach to the Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook:
      - Keep the “Water Project Operational Intent for Week” section in all outlooks.
      - For the current specific case relating to the turbidity bridge avoidance action, the “Biological Justification” section of the outlook is not needed once turbidity drops below 12 FNU (but may be included if there is uncertainty about whether or not turbidity will drop/stay below 12 FNU for the coming week).
      - In general, it may be appropriate to include a “Biological Justification” section in the outlook when DWR and USBR are adaptively managing within a range of operational flexibility rather than to a “hard” action response. One example is the current situation of turbidity bridge avoidance with an OMR limit different than the default - 2,000 cfs. Another example would be if DWR and USBR proposed to manage to an OMR limit other than the default - 3,500 cfs after 50% of an annual loss threshold is exceeded.
- Action Items
  - None
- Elevation Items
  - No elevation items to the Directors.

## Next Meeting

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