

Water Operations Management Team Notes

February 22, 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:
 - February 15, 2023 Notes: Approved
 - February 17, 2023 Notes: Edits due COB 2/23
- Upcoming Meetings
 - Salmonid Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 2/28
 - Smelt Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 2/28
 - 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 beginning in February): 2/23
 - Shasta Planning Group: not currently meeting
- Relevant Assessments
 - Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook 2/21/23 – 2/27/2023
 - 20230221 Proposed Action Assessment
 - SaMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary dated 2/21/2023

- SMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary dated 2/21/2023
- Operational Updates
 - CVP: Trinity River releases are at 800 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 200 cfs, planning a 900 cfs peak pulse flow February 24-28. Reclamation's Delta pumping is at 4 units targeting 3,500 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 631 TAF.
 - SWP: Feather River (Oroville-Thermalito Complex) releases are at 950 cfs. Exports are targeting 2,100 cfs and scheduled to hold for next several days. Oroville storage is 2.51 MAF. Gained 1.48 MAF since December 1. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 877 TAF.
- Hydrology Update (DWR and Reclamation)
 - Rain is forecasted to hit a lot of California between tomorrow and next week, potentially with a short break this weekend. This storm is coming in very cold with 500-ft snow levels, so we are not expecting much response in the rivers.
- Upcoming Actions
 - Reclamation:
 - Allocations went out today.
 - Discussion: Turbidity Bridge Action response triggers and offramp.
 - FWS:
 - No actions. No discussion items beyond what is already mentioned
 - CDFW:
 - No actions.
 - Discussion Item: SMT non-consensus on COA 8.4.2 implementation.
 - NMFS:
 - No actions. No discussion items.
 - DWR:
 - SWP Allocations increased slightly, from 30% to 35%
 - No discussion items beyond what is already mentioned.
 - SWRCB:
 - No actions. No discussion items.
- Discussion Items

- Turbidity Bridge Avoidance
 - Reclamation determined that they offramped from Turbidity Bridge Avoidance. Their rationale is following the first flush and turbidity bridge actions, Delta smelt have completed their population-scale adult migration, and temperatures are suitable for spawning. Monitoring shows large scale migrations of Delta Smelt during and following January storms. Historical distribution from the North Delta to Suisun Bay to the South Delta is similar to the distribution observed in monitoring, so the distribution and salvage of adult Delta smelt is not out of the ordinary. Historical SKT data shows ripe DS in February, so collections of ripe females this month is not out of the ordinary. Reclamation is open to input from the Smelt Monitoring Team about turbidity and adult and larval delta smelt entrainment risk in the weekly risk assessments.
 - ITP COA 8.5.1: Turbidity at OBI reached 12 FNU. DWR will begin operations to state share of -2,000 cfs on Friday continuing through at least Tuesday if turbidity remains above 12 FNU at OBI. This would lead to an anticipated OMRI of -3,200 given the planned ops of both the SWP and CVP.
- Non-consensus at SMT on ITP COA 8.4.2, Protections for larval and juvenile Longfin Smelt
 - DWR would like to provide decision on flow in case the Turbidity Bridge Action is not in effect.
 - DWR proposed to operate to -5,000 cfs OMRI after Turbidity Bridge Avoidance, noting that that recommendation was different than the recommendation provided at SMT and in the Risk Assessments.
 - CDFW suggests that, because this decision requires additional data that we do not have yet, DWR's request should be elevated to the Directors of CDFW and DWR. (Elevation Item).
- Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) and Order:
 - Conditional Approval posted yesterday afternoon.
 - SWRCB noted that a condition of the approval is that the IOP that was submitted by DWR and Reclamation be in effect until the Courts take action.
 - SWRCB also requested DWR and Reclamation evaluate entrainment risk with and without the change, and provide this information to the Fisheries Agencies and the Board.
- Action Items
 - No action items.
- Elevation Items

- Non-consensus at SMT on ITP COA 8.4.2, Protections for larval and juvenile Longfin Smelt

Next Meeting

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