

Water Operations Management Team Notes

March 15, 2023

Members Attending

- Reclamation: Kristin White, Liz Kiteck
- USFWS: Jana Affonso, Matt Nobriga
- CDFW: Brooke Jacobs
- NMFS: Barb Byrne (Acting)
- DWR: Lenny Grimaldo, Mike Ford (Acting)
- SWRCB: Matt Holland

Topics/Actions

- Approval of Meeting Notes from last week:
 - March 8, 2023 Notes: Approved, final notes sent out yesterday.
- Upcoming Meetings
 - Salmonid Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 3/21
 - Smelt Monitoring Team (meets weekly on Tuesdays): 3/21
 - Feather River Operations Group (meets monthly first and third Thursdays): 3/16
 - American River Group (meets monthly on third Thursday, and as needed): 3/16
 - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (meets monthly on third Wednesday): 4/19
 - Clear Creek Technical Team (meets quarterly on third Thursday): 3/16
 - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (meets monthly on fourth Thursday): 3/23; SRTTG Spring Pulse Meeting on 3/16
 - Shasta Planning Group (meets biweekly on Tuesday or as needed): 3/28
- Relevant Assessments
 - Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook 3/14/23 – 3/20/2023
 - 20230314 Proposed Action Assessment
 - SaMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary dated 3/14/2023
 - SMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary dated 3/14/2023

- Operational Updates
 - CVP: Trinity River releases are at 750 cfs for ongoing winter variability flows. Sacramento River (Keswick) releases are currently at 5,000 cfs due to localized inflow to Keswick, but will be dropping back to 3,250 cfs starting tomorrow. Clear Creek (Whiskeytown) releases are at 200 cfs. American River (Nimbus) releases are at 20,000 cfs currently. Stanislaus River (Goodwin) releases are at 1,500 cfs. Reclamation's Delta pumping is at 5 units and targeting 4,200 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 784 TAF (Projected to fill in early April).
 - SWP: Feather River (Oroville-Thermalito Complex) releases are at 20,000 cfs and going up to 25,000 cfs tomorrow. Clifton Court exports are targeting 9,500 cfs and dropping to 6,680 cfs tomorrow due to Army Corps permit requirements. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 1,013 TAF (Projecting to fill State share next week).
- Hydrology Update (DWR and Reclamation)
 - It should be dry for the next couple days, but another light storm is coming in at the end of the week. Next week, we are expecting a relatively weak but cold atmospheric river.
 - Flood releases are ongoing in the San Joaquin Basin, preparing for melting of the record-breaking snowpack in the Southern Sierra. In comparison, the Northern Sierra precipitation has not been as high, and the predicted inflow for Shasta just reached average during this last storm.
- Upcoming Actions or Updates
 - Reclamation:
 - Allocation updates, if warranted, will go out on March 30 to take into account precipitation from the recent and ongoing storms.
 - The San Joaquin water year type for Stepped Release Plan implementation (based on the 60-20-20 Index at the 90% exceedance level) is determined to be Wet based on the March forecast, but the Stepped Release Plan may not be able to be "shaped" by the Stanislaus Watershed Team this season due to most of the basin being in flood control. This is similar to what occurred in 2017.
 - FWS:
 - Coleman National Fish Hatchery Complex flooded yesterday, and some fall-run Chinook salmon were prematurely released. Hatchery staff are assessing the situation, and there aren't currently estimates of how many fish were impacted.
 - CDFW:
 - No actions or discussion items.
 - NMFS:

- No actions or discussion items.
- NMFS asked whether the natural steelhead salvaged yesterday resulted in the cumulative loss exceeding 50% of the annual loss threshold for the December-March tracking period for natural steelhead. *After the call, DWR confirmed that the threshold had been exceeded.*
- DWR:
 - No actions or discussion items.
- SWRCB:
 - No actions or discussion items.
- Discussion Items
 - Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) and Order
 - No updates.
 - Shasta Planning Group (SPG)
 - First meeting yesterday: discussed operational and hydrologic updates, guidance for staff participating to SRTTG, and next steps for SPG
 - SPG will meet every other week or as needed; next meeting March 28
- Action Items
 - No action items.
- Elevation Items
 - No elevation items.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, March 22, 1-1:50 p.m.