

# Water Operations Management Team Notes

February 21, 2024

## Members Attending

- Reclamation: Elizabeth Kiteck
- USFWS: Jana Affonso, Matt Nobriga
- CDFW: Kristal Davis-Fadtke
- NMFS: Garwin Yip, Howard Brown
- DWR: Lenny Grimaldo
- SWRCB: Matthew Holland, Diane Riddle

## Topics/Actions

- Approval of meeting notes from last meeting: 2/23/24
- Upcoming Meetings:
  - Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) (weekly on Tuesday): 2/27/24
  - Smelt Monitoring Team (SMT) (weekly on Tuesday): 2/27/24
  - Feather River Operations (monthly first and third Thursdays): 3/7/24
  - American River Group (monthly on third Thursday, and as needed): 3/21/24
  - Stanislaus Watershed Team (monthly on third Wednesday): 3/20/24
  - Clear Creek Technical Team (quarterly on third Thursday): 3/21/24
  - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (SRTTG) (monthly on fourth Thursday): 2/22/24
- Relevant Assessments
  - Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook 2/20/24 – 2/26/24
  - Proposed Action Assessment 2/20/24
  - SaMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary 2/20/24
  - SMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary 2/20/24
- Operational Updates
  - CVP: Trinity River release is 300 cfs. Sacramento River (Keswick) release is 25,000 cfs; increasing to 35,000 cfs on Thursday 2/22. Clear Creek (Whiskeytown) managed release is 200 cfs and there is an additional glory hole spill of 2,000-3,000 cfs. American River

(Nimbus) release is 6,000 cfs. Stanislaus River (Goodwin) release is 1,500 cfs. Reclamation's Delta Pumping is at 5 units targeting 4,200 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 895 TAF.

- SWP: Feather River (Oroville-Thermalito Complex) releases increased to 10,000 cfs today. Clifton Court Forebay exports are 2,800 cfs. The SWP and CVP are jointly managing to a -2,500 OMR limit. State share of San Luis Reservoir is at 455 TAF.

Hydrology Update (DWR and Reclamation):

- The precipitation in the 6-day forecast includes 0.1-1" on the coast to 1-1.5" in the Sierras. Thursday through Saturday will be dry, the coast and Sierras will see precipitation on Sunday, and most of the state will see precipitation on Monday.

## Upcoming Actions, Updates, and Discussion Items

- Reclamation:
  - No actions or updates.
  - Discussion items: OMR flow management for steelhead
- FWS:
  - No actions, updates, or discussion items.
- CDFW:
  - No actions or updates:
  - Discussion items: Stanislaus Watershed Team item
- NMFS:
  - No actions or updates.
  - Discussion items: OMR flow management for steelhead
- DWR:
  - No actions, updates, or discussion items.
- SWRCB:
  - No actions, updates, or discussion items.

## Discussion Items

- *Stanislaus Watershed Team item:* CDFW shared that their technical representatives to the Stanislaus Watershed Team were uncertain about the constraints that determined whether or not flood/storage management releases could be shaped, for example to be released on a variable rather than steady flow. Reclamation replied that there are no simple rules and that the decision will depend on specific circumstances.

- *OMR flow management for steelhead:*
  - Current OMR operations: Why did a change order go out to increase exports despite operating to a less negative OMR level? Reclamation explained that the higher exports were feasible due to projected increases in Vernalis flow.
  - Looking ahead: What happens in the event that 75% or 100% of the single-year loss threshold for steelhead (for the December-March period) is exceeded?
    - WOMT reviewed the 2019 Proposed Action to check that all members had the same understanding about necessary action responses, especially as related to risk assessment and associated technical assistance.
    - The interpretation of “rest of the season” may merit some further discussion, since the OMR management season is split into two periods for steelhead.
    - Reclamation reported that a subset of Salmonid Monitoring Team members planned to meet on Thursday, 2/22 to evaluate risks and identify possible protective actions if additional loss thresholds are exceeded. That group will send their recommendations to the WOMT facilitator (likely on Monday, 2/26) for distribution to WOMT for discussion at the 2/28 WOMT meeting (or earlier, if needed).

## Elevation Items

- No elevation items.

## Action Items

- No action items.

## Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 28, 1- 1:50pm