

Water Operations Management Team Notes

April 10, 2024

Members Attending

- Reclamation: **Levi Johnson, Randi Field (acting)**
- USFWS: **Jana Affonso, Matt Nobriga**
- CDFW: **Kristal Davis-Fadtke**
- NMFS: **Barb Byrne (acting)**
- DWR: **Molly White, Lenny Grimaldo**
- SWRCB: **Craig Williams (acting)**

Topics/Actions

- Approval of meeting notes from last meeting: 4/3/24
- Upcoming Meetings:
 - Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) (weekly on Tuesday): 4/16/24
 - Smelt Monitoring Team (SMT) (weekly on Tuesday): 4/16/24
 - Feather River Operations (monthly first and third Thursdays): 4/18/24
 - American River Group (monthly on third Thursday, and as needed): 4/25/24
 - Stanislaus Watershed Team (monthly on third Wednesday): 4/17/24
 - Clear Creek Technical Team (quarterly on third Thursday): 6/13/24
 - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (SRTTG) (monthly on fourth Thursday): ad-hoc meeting on 4/11/24 to discuss spring pulse flow recommendations; regular monthly meeting on 4/25/24
- Relevant Assessments
 - Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook: 4/9/24 – 4/15/24
 - Proposed Action Assessment: 4/9/24
 - SaMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary: 4/9/24
 - SMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary: 4/9/24
- Operational Updates

- CVP: Trinity River (Lewiston) release is 300 cfs, releases increasing beginning next week. Sacramento River (Keswick) release is 6,000 cfs and increasing to 8,000 cfs Friday. Clear Creek (Whiskeytown) managed release is 200 cfs. American River (Nimbus) release is 4,000 cfs. Stanislaus River (Goodwin) release is 400 cfs increasing to 1,500 cfs for pulse flows Friday. Reclamation's Delta Pumping is at 1 unit targeting 970 cfs. Reclamation is planning about 4 days of maintenance next week (tentative start on Monday 4/15) during which Jones Pumping Plant will be at 0 cfs for about half of each day. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 960 TAF. Change to Above Normal year type for the SJI year type based on the 75% exceedance forecast.
- SWP: Feather River (Oroville-Thermalito Complex) release is 7,000 cfs. Clifton Court Forebay exports are 600 cfs. The SWP is managing to limits set by ITP COA 8.17. State share of San Luis Reservoir is at 545 TAF.
- Hydrology Update (DWR and Reclamation): Dry conditions with a warming trend Friday, then cooler with a chance of showers mainly Friday and Saturday.

Upcoming Actions, Updates, and Discussion Items

- Reclamation:
 - Update WOMT on April operations alternatives.
 - No actions, or discussion items.
- FWS:
 - No actions, updates, or discussion items.
- CDFW:
 - Providing operations plans to SMT and SaMT. (Did not get to, moved to standing action items.
 - No actions, or updates.
- NMFS:
 - No actions, updates, or discussion items
- DWR:
 - No actions, updates, or discussion items.
- SWRCB:
 - No actions, updates, or discussion items.

Discussion Items

- Reclamation:

- Presented three hypothetical operations scenarios and accounting assumptions for April and May accounting of the 100 TAF of export curtailment under the 2024 IOP, given the San Joaquin Index year type based on the April forecast is Above Normal. WOMT discussion/direction requested on general scenarios as related to frontloading export curtailment in early April or spreading the curtailment in April and possibly May.
- FWS: Based on a suggestion at WOMT last week, our understanding is that accounting of the 100 TAF will be deferred to the subdirectors who worked on the IOP.
- NMFS: Suggested pumping at one unit at the CVP for the next 2 weeks as a way to provide some immediate benefits for length-at-date winter-run Chinook salmon and steelhead, especially given current concerns about ongoing loss of those populations and the projects nearing the ITL (for winter-run) and the 50% loss threshold for April-June (for steelhead). NMFS also noted a conceptual preference to use at least some of the 100 TAF sooner rather than later since the suitability of water temperature conditions in the Delta in late May was uncertain.
- CDFW: Agrees to start frontloading the export cuts to try coax salmonid fishes to move out of the south Delta; seems warranted to take a strong action now and reassess in a couple weeks.
- FWS: We have no way to determine whether any one of Reclamation's proposals will be a better choice for either delta smelt or longfin smelt.
- Reclamation: agrees that temperature considerations are important for salmonids.
- Biological Rationale for IOP implementation over the next 2 weeks (tentatively, one unit operation at CVP):
 - Export reductions for the next two weeks will contribute to improved conditions for rearing and out-migrating winter-run, spring-run chinook salmon, and steelhead.
 - Increased outflow after March 31st is generally beneficial to longfin smelt.
 - WOMT anticipates continuing to reassess.

Elevation Items

- No elevation items.

Action Items

- Prepare for the biological rationale in the coming weeks pursuant to the IOP.
- Providing operations plans to SMT and SaMT.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 17, 1-1:50pm