

Water Operations Management Team Notes

May 1, 2024

Members Attending

- Reclamation: **Elizabeth Kiteck, Levi Johnson**
- USFWS: **Jana Affonso, Matt Nobriga**
- CDFW: **Kristal Davis-Fadtke, Brooke Jacobs**
- NMFS: **Howard Brown**
- DWR: **Lenny Grimaldo**
- SWRCB: **Matthew Holland**

Topics/Actions

- Approval of meeting notes from last meeting: 5/1/24
- Upcoming Meetings:
 - Salmon Monitoring Team (SaMT) (weekly on Tuesday): 5/6/24
 - Smelt Monitoring Team (SMT) (weekly on Tuesday): 5/6/24
 - Feather River Operations (monthly first and third Thursdays): 5/2/24
 - American River Group (monthly on third Thursday, and as needed): 5/16/24
 - Stanislaus Watershed Team (monthly on third Wednesday): 5/15/24
 - Clear Creek Technical Team (quarterly on third Thursday): 6/13/24
 - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (SRTTG) (monthly on fourth Thursday): 5/23/24
- Relevant Assessments
 - Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook: 4/30/24 – 5/6/24
 - Proposed Action Assessment: 4/30/24
 - SaMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary: 4/30/24
 - SMT ITP Risk Assessment Summary: 4/30/24
- Operational Updates
- CVP: Trinity River release is peaking at 4,500 cfs today and will slowly decrease starting Friday through August 4. Sacramento River (Keswick) release is 6,000 cfs. Clear Creek (Whiskeytown)

managed release is 200 cfs. American River (Nimbus) release is 4,000 cfs. Stanislaus River (Goodwin) is currently releasing pulse flows, which are scheduled to continue through mid-May. Reclamation's Delta Pumping is targeting 1,800 cfs (2 units) reducing to one unit targeting 900 cfs on Friday. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 861 TAF.

- SWP: Feather River (Oroville-Thermalito Complex) release was 4,000 yesterday. Clifton Court Forebay exports are 600 cfs. State share of San Luis Reservoir is at 539 TAF.
- Hydrology Update (DWR and Reclamation): Dry and mild through the week. Gusty at times, with the strongest winds expected Tuesday night into Wednesday. The forecast is less certain for the weekend, with cooler temperatures and a chance of rain.

Upcoming Actions, Updates, and Discussion Items

- Reclamation:
 - No actions, updates, or discussion items.
- FWS:
 - No actions, updates, or discussion items.
- CDFW:
 - Discussion items: The change in operations to one unit for CVP; Discuss SaMT functionality.
 - No actions or updates.
- NMFS:
 - No actions, updates, or discussion items
- DWR:
 - No actions, updates, or discussion items.
- SWRCB:
 - Discussion Item: Disclosing the 100 TAF accounting
 - No actions or updates.

Discussion Items

- Operational update on federal exports:
 - CDFW: What is the rationale for the federal facility dropping to one unit?
 - Reclamation: We will not be making a meaningful contribution to 100 TAF 2024 IOP 100 TAF export reduction conditions with an 1,800 cfs export operation, risking the ability to meet the condition. Biological rationale for the initial front loading of the 2024 IOP 100 TAF spring export curtailment is captured in previous WOMT notes.

- NMFS / CDFW: It was our understanding that Reclamation would operate to 2 units per the sub-directors decision, which is not consistent with going down to one unit on Friday.
- CDFW: There are tradeoffs with any change and CDFW thinks a technical discussion of the biological tradeoffs should happen at SaMT.
- Reclamation: Projects need to flexibility to determine delta operations without input from WOMT. SaMT should not be expected to provide operational recommendations but a reasonable evaluation of potential operational scenarios and species impacts. WOMT role in 2024 IOP 100 TAF spring outflow support export curtailment is to provide biological rationale for schedule of the export curtailment.
- NMFS: Recommended that if an operation deviates from SaMT advice, that it be discussed at WOMT.
- SaMT functionality:
 - CDFW: What is the role of SaMT for the 100 TAF going forward? Is the biological rational for the shaping of the 100 TAF still on the SaMT team to draft for consideration by WOMT?
 - Reclamation: I am not sure we need further rational for WOMT notes with the analysis we've done regarding 2024 IOP 100 TAF spring export curtailment.
 - CDFW: The biological rational from last week was two-unit operations and may need to be reevaluated.
- 100 TAF accounting:
 - NMFS: The goal is the make the 100 TAF last as far in the season as possible.
 - SWRCB: Need a clearer idea of how the 100 TAF are being used.
 - Reclamation: Goal is to ensure the 2024 IOP condition of 100 TAF is met. Based on the current assumptions for accounting approximately 68 TAF have been used thus far. Role of WOMT is to provide biological rational for 2024 IOP 100 TAF spring export curtailment.
- The biological rationale for use of the 100 TAF export reductions in the IOP was not updated during WOMT. The biological rational will be discussed amongst WOMT members.

Elevation Items

- No elevation items.

Action Items

- Weekly: Biological rationale pursuant to the 2024 IOP (include in WOMT notes).
- Reclamation to continue to provide weekly updates on meeting 2024 IOP condition of 100 TAF spring export curtailment.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, May 8, 1-1:50pm