

Water Operations Management Team Notes

Water Year 2025 – January 15, 2025

Members Attending

- Reclamation: Levi Johnson, Elizabeth Kiteck
- USFWS: Jana Affonso, Matt Nobriga
- CDFW: Kristal Davis-Fadtke, Brooke Jacobs
- NMFS: Garwin Yip, Howard Brown (not in attendance)
- DWR: Tracy Hinojosa, Chris Wilkinson
- SWRCB: Matthew Holland, Diane Riddle

Topics/Actions

- Approval of Meeting Notes from last week: Approved
- Upcoming Meetings
 - Salmonid Monitoring Team (SaMT, meets weekly on Tuesdays): 01/21
 - Smelt Monitoring Team (SMT, meets weekly on Tuesdays): 01/21
 - Feather River Operations Group (meets monthly first and third Thursdays): 01/16
 - American River Group (meets monthly on third Thursday, and as needed): 01/16
 - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (meets monthly on third Wednesday): 02/19
 - Clear Creek Technical Team (meets quarterly on third Thursday): 03/20
 - Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (meets monthly on fourth Thursday): 01/23; USST (as needed): met on 10/08
 - Shasta Planning Group (as needed): met on 01/13
 - Winter-run JPE Team (as needed): met on 12/20
- Relevant Assessments
 - Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook 01/14/25 – 01/20/25
 - 20250114 Proposed Action Assessment
- Operational Updates
 - CVP: Trinity River release is 1,500 cfs. Clear Creek (Whiskeytown Dam) release is 275 cfs. Sacramento River (Keswick) release is 8,000 cfs and is expecting further

cuts next week or the following week. American River (Nimbus) release is 1,750 cfs. Stanislaus River (Goodwin) release is 200 cfs. Reclamation's Delta export is currently 4 units which is approximately 3,500 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 591 TAF. Delta Cross Channel Gates are closed and will remain closed until May, unless there is a water quality issue.

- SWP: Feather River (Oroville-Thermalito Complex) releases are at 1,750 cfs. Clifton Court Forebay exports are at 800 cfs. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 900 TAF.
- Hydrology Update (DWR and Reclamation)
 - No rain projected in the forecast.

Upcoming Actions, Updates, or Discussion Items

- Reclamation:
 - No upcoming actions or discussion items.
 - Update: Facility outages.
- USFWS:
 - No upcoming actions or updates.
 - Discussion: Coordination with technical teams and WOMT.
 - OMR Trigger Discussion: Implementation of Adult Delta Smelt protection (Turbidity Bridge Avoidance).
- CDFW:
 - No upcoming actions or updates.
 - Discussion: Spring-Run Final Surrogate Release.
- NMFS:
 - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- DWR:
 - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- SWRCB:
 - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.

Discussion Items

- Facility Outages
 - Reclamation: O'Neill is expecting an outage next week for 3 ½ days, which is scheduled from January 21-23 and half of the day on January 24. Since pumping will be reduced, the DCI will be used as much as possible to lift water to the

California Aqueduct. The State will export whatever is unable to be exported by Reclamation at Jones PP while O'Neill is down. The Tracy Fish Collection Facility will also have an outage on January 29, and exports at Jones Pumping Plant will be reduced to 1 unit for 8 hours.

- Coordination with technical teams and WOMT
 - USFWS: USFWS is requesting guidance from WOMT on meeting frequency for the SMT and SaMT. The new LTO action does not specify meeting frequency for SMT, and there is a discussion within the USFWS BiOp that automatic weekly meetings are no longer necessary. USFWS requests a discussion on how communication will occur if it is determined that the teams need to have an ad hoc meeting depending on circumstances.
 - DWR, CDFW, USFWS, and Reclamation agree that SMT does not need to meet weekly.
 - SWRCB: SWRCB suggests that SaMT can provide information near the end of the Weekly Operations Outlook meeting to execute the assessment steps that CDFW requires. Therefore, there will be no need for SaMT to meet.
 - CDFW, USFWS, Reclamation, and DWR agree with the approach to step away from automatic weekly meetings and instead use the Weekly Operations Outlook meeting to complete the assessment steps. There will be no need to have additional SMT or SaMT meetings after the Weekly Operations Outlook meeting unless called for or needed.
 - USFWS: USFWS requests guidance on when technical teams would need to meet. USFWS acknowledges this topic will require more thought but suggests having the subcub team meet to outline the process.
 - CDFW and NMFS agree and support USFWS' suggestion regarding the subcub team meeting.
 - DWR: Would the basis be committed to developing a charter for WOMT?
 - USFWS: Acknowledges there is a need to strategize how to develop a charter for WOMT. USFWS will engage with the subcub team regarding this topic. USFWS will keep WOMT updated on progress.
 - Reclamation: Reclamation proposes keeping next week's SMT meetings scheduled until WOMT notes are finalized.
- Spring-Run Final Surrogate Release
 - CDFW: CDFW is requesting approval from WOMT regarding the 3rd Surrogate Release described below, which was sent out via email:

3rd Surrogate Release: Releasing ~67,000 - 74,000 fish mid-January.

- There are no other large storm events that are predicted through the rest of January; therefore, this surrogate release will not coincide with a storm event. Extended forecast shows a potential precipitation event in February.
 - If these fish are held in the hatchery through early February, they will not be as effective as natural spring-run surrogates due to their hatchery smolt migration behavior.
 - Releases from Shasta Reservoir are decreasing due to storage conservation and predicted dry weather in the upcoming weeks.
 - Due to the lack of rain in the forecast and a decrease in Shasta releases in the upcoming weeks, following the Spring-run Surrogate Release Plan to release these fish in mid-January will provide better conditions for this release group.
- CDFW: The proposed release is consistent with what SaMT proposed at beginning of year. The 3rd group will be released as soon as the hatchery can release, which will be the end of this week or next week.
 - DWR, CDFW, Reclamation, NMFS, and USFWS approve proposal to use this as 3rd surrogate group. SWRCB abstains.
- OMR Trigger Discussions
 - Implementation of Adult Delta Smelt entrainment protection action (Turbidity Bridge Avoidance)
 - USFWS: Received notification that implementation of the Adult Delta Smelt protection is starting today. USFWS requests confirmation regarding the conditions and plan moving forward moving into next week.
 - DWR: DWR and Reclamation are targeting an OMR no more negative than -3,500 cfs starting today and will continue to keep at this target until there are two consecutive days when stations are below 12 FNU. OBI is close to 12 FNU but is dropping. Since turbidity at OBI is lower than at the other two stations, it will be the first station to be below 12 FNU.
 - USFWS: Confirming that if turbidity is below 12 FNU for two consecutive days, the action will be immediately off-ramped and WOMT will be notified?
 - DWR: DWR confirms that its facilities would off-ramp immediately as per the PA and ITP. If conditions stay under 12 NTU for today and tomorrow, DWR will send an email to WOMT to notify WOMT agencies when and if the action is off-ramped.
- Action Items
 - Agencies to provide WOMT facilitator with their identified SHOT representative(s).

- DWR will send an email to WOMT to notify WOMT agencies if Adult Delta Smelt entrainment protection action is off-ramped. COMPLETED VIA EMAIL 1/17
- Reclamation will schedule a subcub team meeting to discuss the 2024 OMR seasonal report, and USFWS will engage with the subcub team regarding when technical teams will meet and the WOMT charter.
- Elevation Items
 - No elevation items.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 1-1:50 p.m.