

# Water Operations Management Team Notes

Water Year 2025 – January 29, 2025

## Members Attending

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

## Topics/Actions

- Approval of Meeting Notes from Jan 15 and Jan 22: Approved
- Upcoming Meetings
  - Salmonid Monitoring Team (SaMT, meets weekly on Tuesdays): 01/28
  - Smelt Monitoring Team (SMT, meets as needed on Tuesdays, met on): 01/28
  - Feather River Operations Group (meets monthly first and third Thursdays): 02/06
  - American River Group (meets monthly on third Thursday, and as needed): 02/20
  - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (meets monthly on third Wednesday): 02/19
  - Clear Creek Technical Team (meets quarterly on third Thursday): 03/20
  - Sacramento River Group (meets monthly on fourth Thursday, but maybe changing): 02/27
  - Shasta Operations Team (SHOT, meeting frequency and timing TBD)
  - Winter-run JPE Sub-Team (as needed): met on 12/20
- Relevant Assessments
  - 20250128 Fish and Water Operations Outlook
  - Information for Larval and Juvenile Longfin Smelt Protection Action - DWR emailed to WOMT on 1/24/2025

- Operational Updates
  - CVP: Trinity River release is 1,500 cfs. Clear Creek (Whiskeytown Dam) release is 300 cfs. Sacramento River (Keswick) release is 4,600 cfs and likely increasing with encroachment from upcoming storms. American River (Nimbus) release is 1,750 cfs, and MRR will be re-evaluated in February. Stanislaus River (Goodwin) release is 200 cfs and planning for February “winter instability” flows. Reclamation’s Delta exports are currently 4 units at approximately 3,400 cfs, following reductions to a single unit for maintenance. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 612 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 with scheduled increases to 5,000 cfs or more this weekend, depending on precipitation. Clifton Court Forebay exports are at 3,400 cfs with the Jones Pumping Plant outage today, but will decrease to 800 cfs tomorrow to target - 3,500 cfs OMR index for the larval Longfin Smelt protections action. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 917 TAF.
- Hydrology Update (DWR and Reclamation)
  - Significant storms are expected to move through, starting January 31 and potentially running through February 5. Most precipitation is predicted to fall in the northern part of California, but today’s forecast is showing the storm further south. Runoff and dam releases will result in increases in flows in the Sacramento River basin, in particular.

## Upcoming Actions, Updates, or Discussion Items

- Reclamation:
  - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- USFWS:
  - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- CDFW:
  - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- NMFS:
  - No upcoming actions or updates.
  - Discussion Items: (1) WOMT Decision Making, and (2) Debrief from SubCub Meeting
- DWR:
  - No upcoming actions or updates.

- Discussion: Update to information provided last week surrounding LFS action, including a proposal to offramp.
- SWRCB:
  - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.

## Discussion Items

- Larval and Juvenile Longfin Smelt Protection Action
  - DWR provided a risk assessment as an informational item last Friday to WOMT and SMT, which they are adding to today. DWR intends to complete that assessment soon and requests that WOMT discuss offramping the larval Longfin Smelt protection action today before implementation of the -3,500 cfs OMR index is scheduled to begin tomorrow.
  - Basis for proposal includes: (1) Newly published data suggest risks to population effects is low, (2) Declining turbidity in Delta, and (3) Incoming storm would provide more flows.
  - DWR would like to discuss process: (1) DWR will send Assessment to WOMT and SMT early this afternoon. (2) SMT and WOMT will review the assessment. (3) WOMT will meet at 4 pm.
  - NMFS indicated that they would not be available for the off-cycle meeting, but would abstain from voting.
- WOMT Decision Making Documentation
  - Consensus within WOMT at the 1/15/2025 meeting that SMT did not need to meet occurred 2 weeks ago, but finalization of meeting notes were delayed, and therefore the meetings are not cancelled yet.
  - Proposal: If there is consensus of a decision, the facilitator can send an email confirming that decision immediately so that action can be taken.
  - WOMT discussed that this is how decisions about operations are communicated, and agreed to discuss again next week when all agencies are represented.
  - This should also be described in the WOMT Charter, which is being developed.
- SubCubs Meeting Update
  - The "SubCubs" group includes one representative from each of the five agencies and is meeting on Fridays.
  - The SubCubs group will draft a WOMT Charter, which is required by February 28 (date in FWS BiOp). Draft to be circulated to WOMT once completed.

- Talked about need to provide guidance on process for monitoring teams, which may be a more immediate need, prior to finalizing the Charter
- Action Items
  - DWR will send LFS Assessment to SMT and WOMT. COMPLETED
  - Facilitator will schedule an off-cycle WOMT Meeting for 4 pm today. COMPLETED
- Elevation Items
  - No elevation items.

## Next Meeting

Today at 4 pm – Off-cycle

Wednesday, February 5, 2025, 1-1:50 p.m.