

Water Operations Management Team Notes

Water Year 2025 – March 5, 2025

Members Attending

- Reclamation: Present
- USFWS: Present
- CDFW: Acting (No member in attendance)
- NMFS: Acting (No member in attendance)
- DWR: Present
- SWRCB: Present

Topics/Actions

- Approval of 2/26/2025 Meeting Notes: Approved
- Upcoming Meetings
 - Salmonid Monitoring Team (SaMT, meets weekly on Tuesdays): 03/11
 - Smelt Monitoring Team (SMT, meets as needed on Tuesdays, met on): 01/28
 - Feather River Operations Group (meets monthly first and third Thursdays): 03/06
 - American River Group (meets monthly on third Thursday, and as needed): 03/20
 - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (meets monthly on third Wednesday): 03/19
 - Clear Creek Technical Team (meets quarterly on third Thursday): 03/20
 - Sacramento River Group (meets monthly on the fourth Thursday or more often as needed): 03/10
 - Shasta Operations Team (SHOT, meeting frequency and timing TBD)
 - Winter-run JPE Sub-Team (as needed): met on 12/20
- Relevant Assessments
 - 20250304 Fish and Water Operations Outlook
 - DWR Spring-run Weekly Assessment 2025-03-04 outline (still under development)

- Operational Updates
 - CVP: Trinity River release is 3,500 cfs. Clear Creek (Whiskeytown Dam) release is 300 cfs. Sacramento River (Keswick) release is 6,000 cfs. American River (Nimbus) release is 4,500 cfs. Stanislaus River (Goodwin) release is 200 cfs. Jones PP Delta exports are at 4,200 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 711 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 7,600 cfs. Clifton Court Forebay exports are at 1,600 cfs. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 974 TAF.
- Hydrology Update
 - A relatively small storm system is passing through the Valley today bringing some accumulations of rain and mountain snow; dry weather returns for this weekend; active weather returns next week with rain, wind and mountain snow impacts to interior NorCal.

Upcoming Actions, Updates, or Discussion Items

- Reclamation:
 - No upcoming actions or updates.
 - Discussion Item: Recent assessment for Larval and Juvenile Delta smelt protections related to Proposed Action 3.7.4.5.
- USFWS:
 - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- CDFW:
 - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- NMFS:
 - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- DWR:
 - No upcoming actions or updates.
 - Discussion Item: Reclamation's assessment.
- SWRCB:
 - No upcoming actions or updates.
 - Discussion Item: CVP/SWP's interpretation of carryover days for the Port Chicago X2 requirement in D-1641.

Discussion Items

Larval and Juvenile Delta smelt action and assessment

- Reclamation prepared and distributed an assessment last Friday related to larval and juvenile Delta smelt. The assessment discussed current conditions including Secchi disk depth and OMR flow and presented modeling for two OMR scenarios, -3,500 cfs and -5,000 cfs.
- The assessment concluded that recent positive QWEST values, combined with a lack of larval Delta smelt observations at this time of year, significantly reduced the risk to larval and juvenile Delta smelt under a -5,000 cfs OMR.
- USFWS noted that the 2024 Proposed Action did not include a risk assessment process specifically for the larval and juvenile delta smelt protection action, as opposed to other OMR PA measures that did include opportunities to provide risk assessment.
- DWR suggested that the Directors be briefed on the discussion at WOMT and offered to set up a briefing.
- CDFW stated that since this is a Federal assessment, they would abstain from providing any comments, and NMFS had no comment on Reclamation's assessment.

X2 “carryover credit” days

- SWRCB staff stated that the wording of D-1641 concerning X2 carryover days may be ambiguous. Specifically, Board staff have questions about carrying over credit days from months when the Port Chicago standard was not triggered into the next month. SWRCB staff is interested in DWR and Reclamation's interpretation of carryover X2 days, as well as any documentation supporting their interpretation.
- DWR's interpretation has always been that in any month between February and June, carryover credit days can accrue and be applied to the following month. DWR is currently examining records and documentation in support of this interpretation.
- Reclamation agrees with DWR. This interpretation of carryover X2 days has been consistently applied since D-1641 was adopted. Reclamation will also look for documentation to support this conclusion.

Action Items

- The WOMT Agency Directors will be briefed on the Larval and Juvenile Delta smelt action and the assessment. DWR will set up the briefing.

Elevation Items

None

Next Meeting

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 1:00-1:50 p.m.