

Water Operations Management Team Notes

Water Year 2025 – April 2, 2025

Members Attending

- Reclamation: Present
- USFWS: Present
- CDFW: Present
- NMFS: Present
- DWR: Present
- SWRCB: Present

Topics/Actions

- 3/25/2025 Ad Hoc Meeting Notes: hold for approval, approve next week
- 3/26/2025 and 4/1/2025 Meeting Notes: distributed for edits, approve next week.
- Upcoming Meetings
 - Salmonid Monitoring Team (SaMT, meets weekly on Tuesdays): 4/8
 - Smelt Monitoring Team (SMT, meets as needed on Tuesdays, met on): 01/28
 - Feather River Operations Group (meets monthly first and third Thursdays): 4/3
 - American River Group (meets monthly on third Thursday, and as needed): 4/17
 - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (meets monthly on third Wednesday): 4/16
 - Clear Creek Technical Team (meets quarterly on third Thursday): 6/19
 - Sacramento River Group (meets monthly on the fourth Thursday or more often as needed): 4/24
 - Shasta Operations Team (SHOT, meeting frequency and timing TBD)
 - Winter-run JPE Sub-Team (as needed): met on 12/20
- Relevant Assessments
 - 20250401 Fish and Water Operations Outlook
 - DWR Spring-run Weekly Assessment 2025-04-01 outline (still under development)

- Operational Updates
 - CVP: Current Trinity River release is 1,750 cfs, with a pulse flow scheduled from March 21st to April 15th. Clear Creek (Whiskeytown Dam) release is 175 cfs. Sacramento River (Keswick) release is 7,500 cfs, with a reduction to 5,000 cfs by 4/9 for installation of ACID Diversion Dam. American River (Nimbus) release is 1,350 cfs. Stanislaus River (Goodwin) release is 400 cfs. Jones PP Delta exports are at 3,500 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 821 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 11,000 cfs. Clifton Court Forebay exports are at 1,400 cfs. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 996 TAF.
- Hydrology Update: Warmer and milder weather expected through the weekend. A weak system is expected to bring light precipitation to the area early next week, mainly in the mountains and adjacent foothills.

Upcoming Actions, Updates or Discussion Items

- Reclamation:
 - No upcoming actions or updates.
 - Would like an update on status of Director's meeting
- USFWS:
 - No upcoming actions, updates or discussion items.
- CDFW:
 - No upcoming actions or updates.
 - WOMT to consider approval of SaMT proposed 3rd YOY spring-run surrogate release group.
 - Discuss protocol for water operations team in AI (Artificial Intelligence) recorded meetings.
- NMFS:

- No upcoming actions or updates.
- Wants to discuss resolution of SaMT's request for clarification of weekly steelhead protections to be implemented through "salvage" or "loss". PA wording seems ambiguous to SaMT.
- DWR:
 - No upcoming actions or discussion items.
 - Reclamation will resume WOMT facilitation and note-taking next week.
- SWRCB:
 - No upcoming actions, updates or discussion items.

Discussion Items

- Directors Meeting Status – Directors are expected to meet Thursday (4/3) PM. Nothing else to share.
- WOMT approved 3rd YOY spring-run surrogate release group proposal.
- Steelhead loss – A meeting between DWR, Reclamation and NMFS will be set up to discuss and resolve SaMT's request for interpretation of steelhead protection triggers.
- DFW has received legal direction they are NOT to participate in fishery working group meetings where AI recording technology is being used.
- Reclamation noted that AI recording technology was only being used by Kearns and West to facilitate accurate meeting notes, but they will direct Kearns and West to cease this practice due to CDFW's legal direction.
- DWR noted that the legal direction to CDFW likely applies to DWR as a fellow State agency and thanked CDFW for raising this issue.

Action Items

- Mike Ford (as WOMT facilitator) will send an email to CDFW's SaMT representative, notifying them of WOMT's approval of 3rd YOY spring-run surrogate release as proposed.
- DWR would like a discussion on the development of the draft WOMT charter at a near future WOMT meeting.

Elevation Items

- None

Next Meeting

- Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 1:00-1:50 p.m.