



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Delta Action Team (DAT) Weekly Meeting

1/6/26 - 1/12/26

Teams call: 1/6/26 at 10:00 a.m.

Participants

- California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Contra Costa Water District
- Friant Water Authority
- Friends of the River
- Kearns & West (K&W)
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority
- State Water Contractors
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- TABES Consulting, LLC

Welcome & Housekeeping

- No announcements

Weekly Operations Update

Operational Intent

- Jersey Point Flows (JPF) fell below the 10,000 cfs threshold required to operate to no more negative OMRI -5,000 cfs on 12/31/25. This required the OMRI target for USBR to be changed to no more negative OMRI -3,500 cfs on 01/03/25. JPF rose above the 10,000 cfs threshold again on 01/03/25 allowing both USBR and DWR to target no more negative OMRI -5,000 cfs starting on 01/04/25.

Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Current Operations

- DAT reviewed and updated the Fish and Water Operations Outlook document.
 - Feather River releases are currently at 10,000 cfs and will range between 3,000 cfs to 15,000 cfs.
 - American River releases at Nimbus Dam are 11,000 cfs and will range between 6,000 cfs to 11,000 cfs.
 - Freeport flows are currently at 75,000 cfs and will range between 50,000 cfs to 80,000 cfs.
 - CCF exports are currently at 3,300 cfs and will range between 1,400 cfs to 5,000 cfs.
 - Vernalis flows are currently at 2,587 cfs and will range between 1,800 cfs and 2,800 cfs.
 - Delta Outflow is at 143,000 cfs and will range between 60,000 cfs to 150,000 cfs.
 - Rio Vista flows are currently at 119,800 cfs and will range between 70,000 cfs to 125,000 cfs.
 - San Luis storage is 1.427 MAF, SWP's share is 967 TAF and CVP's is 460 TAF or about 47%.
 - Sacramento River releases at Keswick Dam are currently at 10,000 cfs and will be increased to 15,000 cfs on 1/7/26. Releases will range between 10,000 cfs to 15,000 cfs.
 - Jones Pumping Plant (JPP) exports are 3,500 cfs and will be increased to 4,200 cfs on 1/7/26. Exports will range between 3,500 cfs to 4,200 cfs.
 - QWEST flow rate is at 22,400 cfs and seven-day average is 11,900 cfs.
 - Expected Daily OMR Index is -4,800 cfs; five-day average OMR index is -4,300 cfs; 14-day average OMR index is -4,600 cfs.
 - JPF is currently at 22,000 cfs and will range between 7,000 cfs to 22,000 cfs. Flows are expected to drop below 10,000 cfs in the next five to six days.

Questions/Discussions on Weekly Fish and Water Operations

- TABES Consulting LLC asked whether, later in the week when QWest drops below 10,000 cfs, there would be implications for federal use of the CA Aqueduct-DMC Intertie if the state begins to operate to an OMRI of -3,500 cfs while the CVP share of total exports is 4,200 cfs at an OMRI of -5,000 cfs.
 - Reclamation responded that both projects are currently aligned and operating to an OMR of -5,000 cfs, which remains the target.
 - DWR explained that after 1/7/26, the end of the First Flush period, the -10,000 cfs QWest threshold does not directly guide operations for either project.
 - DWR shared that after First Flush is over, they will be evaluating conditions for a period for stormflex activities. It was also suggested that the upper range of OMR values be edited to include -6,250 cfs to account for next week's conditions.

Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook, Species Tables Updates

- Reclamation and DWR shared the updates that were made on Tables 2a and 3a - e.
- Reclamation shared that they updated table 2a to include data related to unclipped steelhead, however there is no operational threshold for unclipped steelhead. There is a threshold for clipped steelhead, which is about 600 fish based on Coleman and Nimbus releases. Reclamation expects that number to change as the season goes on.

Questions/Discussions on Operations Outlook Species Tables Updates

- DWR asked USFWS to investigate discrepancies in EDSM Delta smelt statistics.
 - USFWS responded that EDSM Delta smelt catch data appear correct. SacPAS summarizes Delta smelt catch by water year, while the EDSM daily report includes only EDSM Phase 1 data, which began on 12/1/2025. The weekly DAT USFWS smelt report summarizes Delta smelt catch by water year and is consistent with SacPAS totals (21 juvenile, 29 adult). One Delta smelt caught by DJFMP is included in the USFWS smelt report but does not appear in SacPAS, which includes only Chipps Island sampling and does not include beach seine data.
 - Reclamation is tracking both unclipped and clipped steelheads, which are reflected in edits to Table 2a.
 - Reclamation noted that entrainment management actions will shift to regular operations once the First Flush period ends later this week.

Proposed Action Assessments

Proposed Action Assessments Updates

- Reclamation noted that Proposed Action Assessment data may differ from SacPAS due to delayed updates to SacPAS.
- Reclamation noted that Smelt and Salmonid Proposed Action Assessments have been consolidated into one document.

Salmonid Proposed Action Assessment

- Reclamation shared the Salmonid Proposed Action Assessment.

Smelt Proposed Action Assessment

- Reclamation shared the Smelt Proposed Action Assessment.

Questions/Discussions on Proposed Action Assessments

- None

Open Discussion

- None

Next DAT Meeting

- The next Delta Action Team Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 1/13/26.

Action Items

- Mia will coordinate with Reclamation to resolve access issues with the shared DAT Weekly Operations and Proposed Assessment folders.