

# Fish and Water Operations Group Notes

Water Year 2026 – March 18, 2026

## Members Attending

- Reclamation – Randi Field, ~~Levi Johnson~~
- DWR – Tracy Hinojosa, Bryant Giorgi
- USFWS – Matt Nobriga, Leif Goude
- NMFS – Darren Howe
- ~~CDFW – Kristal Davis-Fadtke,~~
- SWRCB – ~~Matthew Holland, Diane Riddle~~, (Acting: Craig Williams)
- NGO – Ashley Overhouse, Devon Pearse,
- PWA – ~~Deanna Sereno~~, Scott Petersen,
- PWA - ~~Chandra Chilmakuri~~

## Topics/Actions

Approval of Meeting Notes from last week: Approved

Upcoming Meetings

Delta Action Team (DAT, meets weekly on Tuesdays): 03/24/2026

Drought Response Year (DRY) Team:

American River Group (ARG meets monthly on third Thursday, and as needed):

Clear Creek Technical Team (CCT meets quarterly on third Thursday):

Sacramento River Group (SRG) (meets monthly on the fourth Thursday or more often as needed): met on 03/26/2026

Stanislaus Watershed Team (SWT meets monthly on third Wednesday):

Annual Report Team

Shasta Operations Team (SHOT): met 02/23/2026

Relevant Assessments

- 20260316 Combined Salmon and Smelt Assessment
- 20260316 Fish and Water Operations Outlook
- 03172026 DAT Notes

## Operational Updates

- CVP: Lewiston Dam releases at 300 cfs (start of elevated baseflow on 3/19 with multiple peaks through mid April, max peaks up to 1,700 cfs). Whiskeytown Dam releases at 275 cfs. Keswick Dam releases at 4,000. Nimbus Dam releases at 2,500 cfs (decrease to 2,200 on 3/19). Goodwin Dam releases at 200 cfs. Jones Pumping Plant exporting 4,200 cfs (OMRI -5,000 cfs controlling; Port Chicago X2 controlling on 3/19 export cut to 800 cfs for 24 hours for Port Chicago X2, then increasing back to approximately 4,200 cfs on 3/20). Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 750 TAF. Delta Cross Channel is closed (closed on 10/30/25).
- SWP: Feather River (Oroville-Thermalito Complex) releases at 5,500 cfs. Clifton Court Forebay exporting 3,300 cfs (decreasing to 300 cfs on 3/19 for Port Chicago X2; plan is to increase to approximately 3,000 cfs the following day, operating to an OMRI of -5,000). State share of San Luis Reservoir is 1059 TAF.
- Hydrology Update: No rain in the forecast, continuing dry conditions through March.

## Upcoming Actions, Updates or Discussion Items

- Reclamation:
  - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- DWR:
  - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- USFWS:
  - No upcoming actions, updates or discussion items.
- NMFS:
  - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- CDFW:
  - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- SWRCB:
  - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- NGO:
  - No upcoming actions or updates.
  - Winter Run Chinook Salmon
  - Draft Sac Temp Management Plan
  - Shasta Reservoir Management

- PWA
  - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- FAWOG
  - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.

## Discussion Items

- Winter Run Chinook Salmon Triggers

Reclamation is tracking Winter-Run Chinook salmon salvage and loss as it is reported. The Battle Creek JPE is 5,186 fish and the NMFS BiOp incidental take associated with Delta loss is 1% (51 fish). Current loss of CWT'd Battle Creek winter run is 2.3 fish. Reclamation's Proposed Action tracks wild and Livingston Stone hatchery winter run Chinook salmon, and does not independently track Battle Creek hatchery winter run Chinook. The NMFS BiOp includes the Battle Creek ITL, so Reclamation is tracking all three closely and evaluating operations and loss in the weekly assessment.

- Draft Sac Temp Management Plan

A question was expressed to seek additional information on the process associated with the development and distribution of the draft Sacramento River Temperate Management Plan and relevant operations.

Reclamation, under Action 5, has descriptions of the Sacramento River and Temperature Management (Section 2.19 for more information). Reclamation will prepare a temperature management plan by the end of May. The plan will include project release patterns, anticipated water temperature and target locations, and temperature-dependent mortality estimates. Currently, it is a little too early in the season to estimate due to temperature stratification not starting.

Information regarding this is distributed through the Sacramento River Group (SRG) (meeting next Thursday 3/26/2026) and discussion occurs there, in addition to relevant discussions around potential pulse flows. Those plans will be distributed and readily available and shared through the SRG. Technical information is dispersed through the SRG and if there are concerns/major items, they may be elevated to FAWOG. The SRG is open to any interested parties – reach out to Joshua Vogel or Josh Israel to get connected to that group.

- Shasta Reservoir Management

Understanding that it is early in the season, does Reclamation see this as a Bin 1 year in the Shasta cold water operations? What factors determine Bin status and operations? What actions are being taken to manage cold water pool? When do deliveries increase to the water contractors?

February's forecast suggest this will be a Bin 2b year. Operational concerns include snowpack conditions, potential early peak of snowmelt, and warmer conditions in the system.

Reclamation is seeing no strong signals of additional precipitation in the spring and current temperatures are warmer than average. Reclamation is following conditions closely, and taking protective actions to the extent available under Section 2.5.

Reclamation is currently releasing minimum winter releases of 4,000 cfs, and storage is close to encroachment (governed by USACE), but is not currently in the flood control zone. There were good precipitation signals in the winter, but snow pack totals are very low compared to average conditions at this time.

Deliveries often increase in the spring and with warmer conditions, typically in April.

## **Action Items**

- No Action Items.

## **Elevation Items**

- No Elevation Items.

## **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, March 25th, 2026, 2-2:50 p.m.