

# Water Operations Management Team Notes

Water Year 2025 – April 16, 2025

## Members Attending

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

## Topics/Actions

- Approval of Meeting Notes from last week: Approved
- Upcoming Meetings
  - Salmonid Monitoring Team (SaMT, meets weekly on Tuesdays): 4/22
  - Smelt Monitoring Team (SMT, meets as needed on Tuesdays, met on): 01/28
  - Feather River Operations Group (meets monthly first and third Thursdays): 05/01
  - American River Group (meets monthly on third Thursday, and as needed): 4/17
  - Stanislaus River Watershed Team (meets monthly on third Wednesday): 05/21
  - 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): 4/17
  - Shasta Operations Team (SHOT, meeting frequency & timing TBD, met on) – 4/14
  - Winter-run JPE Sub-Team (as needed): met on 12/20
- Relevant Assessments
  - 20250415 Fish and Water Operations Outlook
  - Spring-run Weekly Assessment 04152025
  - 20250414 Winter-run Proposed Action Assessment

- Operational Updates
  - CVP: Trinity River release is 8,250 cfs. Clear Creek (Whiskeytown Dam) release is 250 cfs. Sacramento River (Keswick) release is 10,000 cfs and will hold there for 4 days, until 4/20. Release will decrease to 6,000 cfs by 04/23. American River (Nimbus) release is 6,100 cfs and decreasing to 5,350 cfs on 4/17. Stanislaus River (Goodwin) release is 850 cfs with spring-pulse series going till the end of May. Jones PP Delta exports are currently 4 units at approximately 3,500 cfs and will decrease to 1 unit on 4/18 due to operating to D1641. To operate to a three-day average, Jones PP Delta Exports will start with two days at 1 unit and two days at 2 units after 4/18. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 854 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 7,000 cfs and will decrease to 6,000 cfs tomorrow. Delta is exporting 600 cfs each day. Clifton Court Forebay is at 3.1 TAF. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 951 MAF.
- Hydrology Update
  - Temperatures will be warming up starting tomorrow. Will be seeing increase of snow melt from higher temperatures. No precipitation in the forecast.

## Upcoming Actions, Updates or Discussion Items

- Reclamation:
  - Update: Stanislaus River Forum Meeting.
  - No upcoming actions or discussion items.
- USFWS:
  - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- CDFW:
  - Update: 4<sup>th</sup> Surrogate Release group Recommendation from SaMT.
  - No upcoming actions or discussion items.
- NMFS:
  - Update: Coordination between SaMT and WOMT.
  - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- DWR:
  - Update: Facility Outages Notifications.
  - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- SWRCB:

- No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.

## Discussion Items

- Stanislaus River Forum Meeting
  - Proposal for having the Stanislaus River Forum meeting switch to once quarterly. If an issue arises, the operational updates that are sent out monthly will allow the opportunity for anyone to request a meeting if there is a need. This can be re-evaluated each year and decide then whether to continue with plan or switch to something else.
  - NMFS asked for clarification if the Stanislaus River Forum was part of the governance in the Proposed Action (PA), which Reclamation responded that it is in the PA. NMFS asked if this was provided to Stanislaus River Watershed Team without any pushback, which Reclamation said they would check back in on.
- Coordination Between SaMT and WOMT
  - SaMT was directed to develop an issue statement and recommendations, pursuant to their initial request for WOMT to clarify the PA section 3.7.4.5.6 on the Steelhead Weekly Distributed Loss Threshold, specifically, "...for seven consecutive days when the 7-day rolling sum of steelhead salvage, calculated daily, exceeds the weekly loss threshold of 120 fish." Per request, SaMT will provide an issue paper with recommendations to WOMT by the end of the month. WOMT will wait for the issue paper from SaMT before discussing further.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Surrogate Release group Recommendation from SaMT
  - SaMT members briefly discussed the proposed 4th surrogate release group. SaMT is requesting that WOMT consider and approve this as the 4th **young-of-year** spring-run Chinook Salmon surrogate release group per COA 8.4.5 and PA 3.7.4.5.7 of the 2024 SWP ITP and 2024 Proposed Action.
    - **4th Surrogate Release:** Released ~2,000,000 fish on 4/15/25. Only ~35% of these fish are marked with a CWT; therefore, only fish that have a CWT will be included when determining the threshold for COA 8.4.5/PA 3.7.4.5.7. Releases from Shasta Reservoir are higher due to flood management which provides higher flows in the Sacramento River and better conditions for the release group.
  - NMFS asked that if fish were released yesterday, would or could the hatchery end up needing to release another surrogate if WOMT does not approve?
  - CDFW responded that their understanding is the hatcheries releases are planned independent of these surrogate release requirements and SaMT identifies which releases would be appropriate as a surrogate group. The pulse flow out of Shasta provided a good time to do a young-of-year release. This approval has to occur prior to seeing this surrogate group in salvage.

- CDFW and DWR approved of the proposed 4th surrogate release group recommendation from SaMT. NMFS approved with a request that future requests are made proactively, rather than after the action has already been taken.
- Facility Outages Notifications.
  - Full outages at Banks Pumping Plant, Skinner Fish Facility, and Clifton Court Forebay from May 5-9th. This notification serves as a two week ahead notification per the ITP.
- Subcubs
  - Subcubs have met a few times to talk through concepts and start drafting WOMT charter with help from ICF. Subcubs will meet tomorrow talk about the general outline and will give a draft to WOMT possibly next week for feedback.

## Action Items

- WOMT facilitator to add NMFS participant to email list. COMPLETE 4/17

## Elevation Items

- No elevation items.

## Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 1-1:50 p.m.