



# SRG, Fall Flow Reduction Coordination Meeting Summary

Monday, September 22, 1:00–2:00 p.m.

## Participants

- CDFW: Tracy Grimes, Colby Hause, Matt Johnson, Doug Killam, Erica Meyers
- DWR: Ryon Kurth
- NMFS: Stephen Maurano
- Reclamation: Elissa Buttermore, Lisa Elliott, Andrea Hamilton, Tom Patton
- SRSC: Yuen Lenh, Anne Williams
- SWRCB: Matthew Holland
- USFWS: Matt Brown
- WAPA: Eric Mork
- Kearns & West: Terra Alpaugh, Chelsea Cullen

## Action Items

- **Reclamation** will hold flows at 7,400 cfs until discussion at the monthly SRG meeting on September 25th about the next reduction to 7,200 cfs.

## Topics

### Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

Kearns & West reviewed the agenda and provided a recap of the August 26th meeting:

- Reclamation reduced flows at Keswick to 7,600 cfs initially, then further reduced to 7,400 cfs as of Sunday.

## **SRG-SHOT Communication**

- Participants confirmed a SHOT meeting was not held since the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for the afternoon of September 22.

## **Current Conditions & Shallow Water Redd Dewatering Estimates**

- CDFW provided an update on shallow water redd dewatering estimates:
  - 22 shallow water redds have been dewatered this season, with one week of monitoring remaining. Staff are in the midst of measuring the impacts of the most recent flow drop; any additional dewatered redds from that change are not yet reflected in the 22 total.
  - Most winter run Chinook emergence is expected from the current week into late November due to late spawning.
  - Fresh fish carcasses and the surveying are mostly done. No new redds are being built.
  - Preliminary data indicates low emergence so far, with updates expected throughout the meeting or shortly after.
- Reclamation provided updates on flow reductions:
  - Reclamation reduced flows at Keswick to 7,600 cfs initially, then further reduced to 7,400 cfs as of Sunday, marking about two days at the reduced flow level. They would like to reduce flows further to 7,200 cfs to balance operation needs and environmental concerns, aiming to hold this level through October.
  - Winter flow targets will require them to drop to 4,000 cfs, likely by late November.
  - Storage in Shasta is approximately 2.7 million acre-feet (MAF) with an anticipated decline to about 2.67 MAF by the water year's end. They currently have one side gate open and do not anticipate any temperature management issues this fall.
  - ACID dam removal could be as early as October 20th or as late as the first week of November, which is a typical schedule.
  - Clear Creek releases are being increased to 225 cfs to meet a 56°F temperature target, with adjustments expected on the Wednesday after the meeting, coordinated with the City of Redding and operators.
  - Trinity River releases were steady at 450 cfs and minor reductions at the Spring Creek Power Plant which will help meet temperature targets using colder water from Shasta.
- Reclamation reported out on their scenario and dewatering analysis:

- Dewatering data is available through September 16th, with an anticipated update later this week to reflect the most recent drop.
- As of September 16th, two redds had emerged and 22 dewatered. Updated data will include information on two additional redds that were anticipated to emerge over the weekend.
- Scenario C9, which reduces flows to 7,200 cfs in late September, is currently the guiding operational plan; it is anticipated to dewater about 43 redds with a lower anticipated percentage of fall run dewatering than earlier scenarios (C5, C6, C7, C8). Winter run percent loss is expected to be just under 1%, assuming an expansion factor of 2.04.
- Reclamation proposed analyzing a scenario that holds flows at 7,400 cfs for a longer period for comparison with a 7,200 cfs drop. The tradeoffs between the two scenarios could also be informed by the new data on the impacts of the most recent flow drop on dewatering expected later in the week. Scheduling new reductions would occur on Thursday for potential implementation on Sunday pending data review.
- If new data shows more significantly dewatering than was expected, the flow would likely hold at 7,400 cfs until group consultation at the next meeting or sooner if urgent.

### **Elevation to SHOT**

No items were identified during the meeting to elevate to SHOT for immediate decision-making.

### **Conclusion**

Reclamation will hold flows at 7,400 cfs with plans to reduce to 7,200 cfs after Thursday's monthly SRG meeting (September 25th).