BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

American River Group Notes

Conference Line: +1 (321) 209-6143; Access Code: 596 336 817#
Webinar: **Join the meeting now**
Monday, September 28, 2026

Action Items

- Water Forum/Kleinschmidt: Run scenarios PB6 and PB9 and share results during the Thursday, October 1 Meeting.

Introductions

1. Addley Group: Craig Addley
2. BKS Law Firm: N/A
3. California Department of Parks and Recreation: N/A
4. Carmichael Water District (CWD): N/A
5. CBEC Engineering: N/A
6. CDFW: Nick Bauer, Jason Julienne
7. City of Folsom: N/A
8. City of Roseville: N/A
9. City of Sacramento: N/A
10. Cramer Fish Sciences: Mollie Ogaz
11. CSUS: N/A
12. CVP SOD Ag Districts: N/A
13. DWR: N/A
14. EBMUD: N/A
15. Environmental Council of Sacramento: N/A
16. Kleinschmidt: Vanessa Martinez
17. NMFS: Carrie Skorcz, Sam Pyros

18. PCWA: Benjamin Barker
19. PSMFC: N/A
20. Sacramento Regional Water Authority: N/A
21. Sacramento Suburban Water District: N/A
22. Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians: N/A
23. SJWD: N/A
24. SMUD: N/A
25. Stantec: Sarah Hamilton
26. Sunzi Consulting: N/A
27. SWRCB: Travis Dennis
28. USACE: N/A
29. USBR: Kevin Thielen, Myrna Girald Perez, Steven Melavic
30. USFWS: Erika Holcombe, Craig Anderson
31. WAPA: N/A
32. Water Districts: N/A
33. Water Forum: Ashlee Casey
34. Watercourse Engineering: N/A
35. Other: N/A
36. Kearns & West: Karis Johnston, Mia Schiappi, Angela Hessenius

Review and Input Model Runs

Kevin Thielen, Reclamation, shared that they received additional alternatives to consider from CDFW and NMFS.

- Reclamation noted that if the October 1 implementation date for certain power bypass (PB) scenarios is not feasible, then he recommends adjusting to an October 7 implementation date.
- Water Forum clarified that they have already run six scenarios (PB 1-4 for Automated Temperature Selection Procedure (ATSP) 41 and PB 1-2 for ATSP 38), and there are resources available to run temperature modeling for two more scenarios. The group discussed and considered which two of the additional six scenarios (PB 5-10) to run for the final temperature models.

Questions/Comments

- Craig Addley, Addley Group, asked how many acre feet of cold water are available in the reservoir. It might be worth excluding additional scenarios with high acre feet.
    - There are approximately 25-26,000 acre feet of the coldest water in the reservoir, which is not accessible by power penstocks when the shutters are removed.
- CDFW shared that ideally, they would want to see temperatures at or below 56F starting in November as early as possible for high survival of eggs and incubation. This is being balanced with the need for cooler water in October for adult Steelhead.
    - Kleinschmidt responded that no scenario achieves cooler water in the first week or two of November.
- Kleinschmidt noted that running intermediate scenarios to those that have already been run are likely going to yield intermediate results, and since so much uncertainty lies with what the meteorological conditions will be, those small changes to the scenarios may not yield much useful information.
- Reclamation noted that there is a tradeoff between the fall Chinook adult return index and the metric for Steelhead, which is the number of days below 65F. They also shared that it is important to consider the higher costs of lost hydropower generation revenue, which will be weighed by the decisionmakers.
- CDFW would like to keep PB9 to see the results, as it might be one of the better options for fish and will more clearly demonstrate the benefits of a longer bypass while starting earlier.
- CDFW asked if when the coldest water in the reservoir has been used up, is the water being released from the bypass still cooler compared to ending the bypass?
    - Reclamation responded that this is likely to be true, though it depends on the weather conditions and when the reservoir de-stratifies.

- Addley Group suggested PB6 may be another good option to consider and asked if this scenario is like any that have already been modeled.
    - Kleinschmidt responded that PB6 is similar to PB2, except that it continues the 250 cfs power bypass for longer. The shutters would also be operated differently for the first three weeks of October since this scenario is operating under ATSP 39 which sets the temperature target in October at 66F rather than the current target of 68F.
- CDFW asked if PB6 would improve the conditions around Hazel and the upper portions of the American River.
    - Vanessa responded that it depends on the meteorological conditions. It would make a difference during a warm year, but not during a cool year.

The group agreed with the decision to run temperature modeling for PB6 and PB9 as the additional two scenarios.