



American River Group – Ad Hoc Meeting

Conference Line: +1 (321) 209-6143; Access Code: 985 598 947#

Webinar: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Friday, September 29, 2023

Notes

1. Action Items
 - a. Barb Byrne – update and distribute the Power Bypass Proposal
2. Introductions
 - a. USBR: Thuy Washburn, Zarela Guerrero, Liz Kiteck, Amanda Snow, John Hannon, Mechele Pacheco, Steven Melavic, John Harrison, Melissa Vignau
 - b. NMFS: Barb Byrne
 - c. USFWS: Craig Anderson, Paul Cadrett
 - d. CDFW: Crystal Rigby, Duane Linander, Emily Fisher, Jason Julienne, Gary Novak, Nick Bauer, Elaine Jeu
 - e. SWRCB: Reza Ghasemizadeh
 - f. Westlands Water District: Tom Boardman
 - g. City of Sacramento: Ryan Palmer
 - h. City of Roseville: Sean Bigley
 - i. City of Folsom: Marcus Yasutake
 - j. DWR:
 - k. WAPA:
 - l. EBMUD: I-Pei Hsiu
 - m. SMUD:
 - n. PCWA:

- o. FishBio:
- p. Water Forum: Erica Bishop, Ashlee Casey, Chris Hammersmark
- q. PSMFC: Hunter Morris
- r. Stantec: Craig Addley, Vanessa Martinez
- s. CFS: Kirsten Sellheim
- t. Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians:
- u. Other: Rod Hall, Ted Rauh, Michelle Banonis, Jennifer Buckman

3. Updated Temperature Modeling Results

- a. Stantec provided updated temperature modeling results using the 2014, 2017, and 2020 meteorological data and assuming a power bypass of 500 cfs:
 - i. Scenario 1 - 64° F at Watt Ave on October 1
 - 1. Roughly 61-62° F at Hazel Ave throughout October
 - 2. Roughly 59-60° F at Hazel Ave on November 1
 - 3. All shutters would be up early in October.
 - ii. Scenario 2 - 64° F at Watt Ave on October 16
 - 1. Roughly 64-65° F at Hazel until mid-October
 - 2. Roughly 62° F at Hazel Ave on November 1
- b. Discussion
 - i. After November 1, it is possible for temperatures to be cooler at Watt Ave. than Hazel Ave.
 - ii. The updated models confirm that Hazel Ave. is around 2 degrees cooler than Watt Ave. until November.
 - iii. NMFS asked if 62° F is viable for hatchery operations
 - 1. CDFW indicated that 62° F will work but having colder temperatures earlier would support maturation of holding fish. They have already observed pre-spawn mortalities.
 - iv. Stantec noted that if all the cold water is used by early November, the water will be slightly warmer overall. The ARG should consider targeting something between the two scenarios modeled. Although they acknowledged concerns regarding cool water for holding, current conditions are the best they have been since 2000.

4. Temperature Management Discussion

a. Water ramping:

- i. USBR expressed support for a power bypass that ramps up to 500cfs so as to avoid a Wagasaki kill at Lake Natoma and associated public outcry and confusion.
 1. CDFW understands that there is concern about Wagasaki kills at Lake Natoma but would prefer no ramp up if there are any associated tradeoffs for salmonids.
 2. NMFS would also prefer to prioritize salmonids over the Wagasaki.
- ii. CDFW asked if a ramp up would reduce the volume of water that would be used for the power bypass after Nov 1?
 1. Stantec commented that the ramp up does not seem to be wasted water from a temperature perspective.
 2. USBR suggested that it might be possible to reduce the length of the ramp up period (instead of ramping up by 100 cfs/day, they could try 100 to 350 to 500 cfs)
- iii. Based on the conversation, CDFW retracted their objection to ramping so long as it does not have a negative effect on salmonids.

b. CDFW advocated for a temperature target of 64° F at Watt Ave. and 62° F at Hazel Ave. by October 7.

- i. USBR indicated that they will focus on targeting temperatures at Hazel Ave. In order to reach 62° F at Hazel, they will not need to pull all the shutters immediately, instead they will first blend the coldest unit and then pull the next unit if necessary.
- ii. Stantec agreed that beginning releases on October 7 would be a viable option.

c. NMFS asked when the water would ideally be released to hit the October 7 target with the current 2,500 cfs?

- i. USBR confirmed that they will be keeping releases at 3,000 cfs for the first week of October because of storage necessities.

d. Ted Rauh asked what the conditions would be for natural fish if they are targeting the 62° F at Hazel Ave. for hatchery operations.

- i. Chris Hammersmark commented that most of the spawning occurs in the uppermost 2.5 miles of the river, so this temperature target will benefit natural fish as well.

5. Next Steps

- a. The ARG expressed their support for the Power Bypass Proposal that has been drafted by the fisheries agencies and which will be submitted to USBR on 9/29. The proposal includes the following:
 - i. A request for 64° F at Watt Ave. and 62° F at Hazel Ave. by October 7.
 - ii. A 500 cfs bypass starting Nov 1 with a preceding ramp up of 100 to 350 to 500 cfs.