# SRG, Fall Flow Reduction Coordination Meeting Summary

Tuesday, October 7, 1:00–2:00 p.m.

## Participants

- CDFW: Colby Hause, Sheena Holley, Doug Killam, Erica Meyers, Crystal Rigby
- DWR: John Ford, Ryon Kurth
- NMFS: Kyra Fitz
- Reclamation: Lisa Elliott, Tom Patton, Elissa Buttermore, Derek Rupert
- SRSC: Thad Bettner, Yuen Lenh
- SWRCB: Matthew Holland
- USFWS: Matt Brown, Bill Poytress
- Kearns & West: Terra Alpaugh, Chelsea Cullen

## Action Items

- **Reclamation** will hold flows at 7,200 cfs until discussion at the October 21 meeting.
- **Reclamation** will circulate updated dewatering numbers for upcoming flow scenarios after further data review. [DONE]

## Topics

### Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

Kearns & West reviewed the agenda and provided a recap of the September 22nd meeting:

- Reclamation reduced flows at Keswick to 7,400 cfs as of September 22nd, and again to 7,200 cfs after discussing at the monthly SRG meeting on September 24th.

### SRG-SHOT Communication

- Participants confirmed a SHOT meeting was not held since the last meeting.

## Current Conditions & Shallow Water Redd Dewatering Estimates

- CDFW provided an update on shallow water redd dewatering estimates:
    - 30 winter run, shallow water redds have been dewatered this season.
    - Fresh fish carcasses and the surveying are mostly done for winter run redds.
    - Fall run spawning is ongoing in the main stem.
    - The expansion factor this year is anticipated to be around 2.8, but they are two to three weeks away from confirming that number. 1% of the current raw count is 30.
- Reclamation provided updates on flow reductions:
    - Currently at 7,200 cfs at Keswick and holding in anticipation of rice decomposition demands potentially increasing in late October.
    - Wilkins Slough gauge readings indicate flows starting to decline, and a storm projected for the coming weekend is not expected to cause significant flow increases.
    - Sacramento River water temperature conditions are stable, with one side gate open and all PRGs gates in the Shasta TCD open. Potential minor temperature fluctuations forecasted next week after the storm; if temperatures increase enough, they will open the second side gate.
    - Flow at Clear Creek was ramped up to 225 cfs with plans to hold through December; the increased flows are holding temperatures below 56°F at IGO.
    - Diversions at the Carr powerhouse are being tested. A slow drawdown of Whiskeytown Lake towards winter levels is planned by late October or mid-November.
    - Trinity River flow management involves planned reduction from 450 to 300 cfs mid-month, maintaining 300 cfs through most of the winter.
    - Storage levels for Shasta and Trinity reservoirs are favorable entering the new water year.
    - They will reduce diversions from the Trinity in late October/early November.
- Reclamation reported out on their scenario and dewatering analysis:
    - The dewatering analysis on SacPAS is updated to reflect the most recent total of 30 dewatered redds after dropping flows to 7,200 cfs
    - Reclamation is anticipating making the next flow change around October 29th or 30th, with most of the larger reductions in the first week of November.

- Reclamation suggested simplifying the dewatering graph by removing historical data prior to September to better focus on upcoming flow scenarios.
- Some of the numbers reported in the analysis on SacPAS were incorrect, and Reclamation followed up post-meeting with corrections:
    - Scenario C10 is anticipated to dewater a total of 50 winter run redds; scenario C9 is anticipated to dewater a total of 57 winter run redds.
    - 75 dewatered redds will represent 1% of the winter run population under an expansion factor of 2.5, so we expect to stay below the 1% threshold this year.
    - Reclamation has begun to work on an interactive plot with the ability to zoom in at will.
- USFWS asked CDFW about the change in redd dewatering estimates across the course of the season.
    - CDFW explained that they try to develop predictions based on past knowledge but they do change over the course of the season. They stressed that the most change occurs when they become shallow; the geomorphology (e.g., ponding, riffles) of the streambed has significant impacts on where water may remain deep in spite of a flow drop or alternatively, decrease precipitously.

## Elevation to SHOT

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

## Conclusion

- Participants agreed to hold the next meeting on October 21 to better assess realistic flow changes and impacts.
- Reclamation will hold flows at 7,200 cfs until discussion at the October 21 meeting.
- Reclamation will circulate updated dewatering numbers for upcoming flow scenarios after further data review.