



# SRG, Fall Flow Reduction Coordination Meeting Summary

Tuesday, October 21, 1:00–2:00 p.m.

## Participants

- CDFW: Travis Apgar, Tracy Grimes, Sheena Holley, Matt Johnson, Doug Killam, Crystal Rigby
- DWR: Ryon Kurth, Kevin Reece
- NMFS: Kyra Fitz
- Reclamation: Elissa Buttermore, Lisa Elliott, Tom Patton, Derek Rupert
- SRSC: Yuen Lenh
- WAPA: Eric Mork
- USFWS: Matt Brown, Bill Poytress
- Kearns & West: Terra Alpaugh, Chelsea Cullen

## Action Items

- **Doug Killiam** will coordinate with CDFW's field crews to determine whether the redds in the table shared by Reclamation emerged on 10/29; report out to this group on 10/30. [EMAIL UPDATE provided in notes below]
- In response to Doug's update, **SRG Fall Flows group** to coordinate via email re:
  - Timing to begin ramp down (e.g., 10/30, 10/31, 11/1) with the goal of avoiding dewatering of those redds and implementing earliest possible ramp down to 4,000 cfs to protect fall run still spawning.
  - Whether there appears to be a risk of exceeding the >1% dewatering threshold.
  - Whether fall flows group needs to meet again, or whether subsequent meetings can be cancelled

# Topics

## **Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review**

Kearns & West reviewed the agenda and provided a recap of the October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting:

- Reclamation held flows at 7,200 cfs.

## **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:

- The draft winter run estimate is about 7,800 spawned females in the river which corresponds to a 1% dewatering threshold of 78 redds.
- Approximately 42% of the Reds have emerged, with another 12% expected next week.
- Peak spawning was about 3 months prior, so many redds are emerging this week and next.
- 30 winter run redds have been dewatered; additional redds have not been dewatered due to unchanged flows in October.
- Absent any flow changes, there is the potential for 3 to 10 additional redds to dewater upstream of ACID dam after its removal, which is anticipated in early November. The three redds near Dentist House would almost certainly be dewatered and seven additional redds near Big Bend could be impacted. The exact number remains uncertain until physical measurements are taken post-removal.
- USFWS asked for clarification on redd dewatering estimates with ACID dam removal. They asked if delaying dam removal would protect the redds.
  - CDFW responded that delaying dam removal by a few weeks could reduce the number of redds impacted, but it depends on the exact emergence timing of those specific redds. Upon further examination, they reported that most of those redds will emerge in mid to late November. The window of opportunity for dam removal is constrained by the start of the flood season and staffing availability.
  - USFWS followed up to ask if it's early for ACID dam removal.
  - Reclamation responded that ACID dam removal typically occurs late October to early November, with a couple past years pushing into mid-November.
  - There's some uncertainty with the effects of ACID dam removal on flows and dewatering since SacPAS estimates only reflect Keswick flows and don't fully incorporate ACID dam impacts.

- CDFW asked if the numbers in the 'dewatering count measure table' account for ACID dam removal or if those impacts are considered independent of Bureau responsibility. Reclamation responded that ACID impacts are independent.

Reclamation provided updates on flow reductions:

- Currently at 7,200 cfs at Keswick with no plans for reductions until the end of October.

Reclamation reported out on the three scenarios they analyzed for dewatering impacts:

- The C11 scenario started its ramp down on October 30th, reducing first to 6,000 cfs and then reducing further by 200 cfs per day to 4,000 cfs by November 9th.
- The C9 scenario was similar but delayed the start of the ramp down until November.
- The C10 scenario was designed to try to protect more November-emerging winter run by maintaining higher flows longer before ramping down mid-November.
- Winter run dewatering estimates for all three scenarios were under the anticipated 1% loss threshold (~78 redds).

Participant feedback and discussion included:

- USFWS asked about fall run spawn timing and potential impacts of the scenarios, and CDFW shared an update on fall run redds:
  - Peak fall run spawning is mid-October to mid-November, with potentially later spawning this year with heavy activity in Section 4.
  - Counts in Battle Creek are close to 40,000 now, an expected great year for fall run numbers.
  - Marking of shallow fall run redds is underway with high numbers detected. Fall run tend to like shallow riffles.
  - Dropping flows sooner would be beneficial to minimize impacts to fall run redds.
- Reclamation shared their preference for Scenario C11, which keeps winter run dewatering below 1% of the population and minimizes fall run dewatering compared to the other options. However, there appear to be five redds that are anticipated to emerge right around the end of the month that could be dewatered if Reclamation drops flows too soon. They asked CDFW field crews to confirm emergence on 10/29 so that Reclamation can plan start their low reduction on 10/30 or delay a day or two if needed until after emergence occurs. The following table was circulated after the meeting with the details of the redds in question.

ID#	Redd #	Born On Date	Estimated Date of Emergence	Initial Depth	Status	Born On Flow (KWK)	Born On Flow (KES)	Actual or Estimated Dewater Flow	Locations	Previous Estimate
13751	1714-25-W	29-Jul-25	29-Oct-25	28	OK	14352	14091	6800	Sec 2, RL Market Street	N/A
13782	1744-25-W	29-Jul-25	29-Oct-25	22	OK	14391	14092	6800	Sec 2, Turtle Bay West Side Channel	7600
13784	1746-25-W	29-Jul-25	29-Oct-25	18	OK	14391	14092	6800	Sec 2, Turtle Bay West Side Channel	7250
13785	1896-25-W	29-Jul-25	29-Oct-25	23	OK	14391	14092	6800	Sec 2, Turtle Bay West Side Channel	7250
13786	1747-25-W	29-Jul-25	29-Oct-25	45	OK	14313	14077	6800	Sec 2, RL Below Sewer Line	N/A

- Also via email, CDFW responded: *“Checking most recent water temps and getting updated ATU info from that, we can confirm that these 5 redds will be fully emerged on Oct 29, so a flow drop on the 30<sup>th</sup> would not affect them. These 5 are in section 2 which is monitored by the CDEC SAC gage showing an overall 92 days (1850 ATU F<sup>9</sup>) = emergence) from egg deposit to emergence. They were first observed on July 29, so 92 days later is Oct 29.”*

### **Elevation to SHOT**

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

### **Conclusion**

- CDFW will confirm emergence of the critical five redds around October 29 and report back.
- Given the expected e-mail coordination and flow ramp down, no immediate follow-up meeting is deemed necessary, though a meeting on November 4 is tentatively scheduled as backup.
- Final winter run numbers confirmation may be delayed due to agency workloads and government shutdown, but current estimates are likely stable around 78 ± a couple redds. The group will coordinate around end of October to ensure ramp down flow schedule protects emerging redds consistent with the 1% threshold.