

# Delta Monitoring Workgroup

## Meeting Record 12/19/2023

### Working Group Members in Attendance

- USBR: Nick Bertrand, Erika Kegel, Alex Jensen, Kristi Arend, Chase Ehlo, Liz Kiteck
- USFWS: Not in attendance
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Erica Meyers
- DWR: Mike Ford, Farida Islam, Brian Schreier, Nicole Kwan
- SWRCB: Matt Holland
- Water Contractors: Shawn Acuña (MWD), Tom Boardman (WWD), Jose Rangel (WWD), Darcy Ausin (SWC), Chandra Chilmakuri (SWC), Cindy Meyer (SLDMWA), Heidi Williams (Valley Water)

### Review Operations Outlook (DWR)

- Overall, CVP operations remain consistent despite moderate rain at the beginning of the week.
- In the Delta, outflows peaked over 13,000 cfs due to the recent storm and are decreasing.
- Accretions have added to Delta outflow, and this increase of approximately 700 – 1,300 cfs is expected to last approximately four to five days.
- Refer to the Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook for more information.

### Additional Questions or Comments

- **Question:** Is turbidity expected to increase after the most recent storm?
  - **Answer:** Turbidity is not expected to increase. The Integrated Early Winter Pulse Protection action could be triggered before the end of the year if weather patterns shift and more precipitation comes, but this is not expected.

### Review PA Assessment (USBR)

Reclamation provided the PA Assessment update. For more information, please refer to the PA Assessment document.

### Additional Questions or Comments

- **Question:** Please clarify the Adult Longfin Smelt (LFS) management actions.
  - **Answer:** The Adult Longfin Smelt Entrainment Protection action, 8.3.3 would be the initiation of OMR management based on the Fall Midwater Trawl (FMWT) LFS index. 8.4.1 would be initiated by 8.3.3 and would manage OMRs based

upon risk assessments from the SMT. The offramp of 8.4.1 is due to the detection of LFS larvae for the year – which has now happened. 8.3.3 could still be triggered, resulting in the initiation of OMR management for the season, but 8.4.1 has been off ramped so the resultant OMR levels would default to the baseline – 5,000 cfs.

### **Review ITP Risk Assessment (DWR)**

DWR provided the LFS update. For more information, please refer to the ITP Risk Assessment document.

### **Additional Questions or Comments**

- No additional questions or comments.

### **Acronyms**

- CVP – Central Valley Project
- DCC – Delta Cross Channel
- DOI – Delta Outflow Index
- DWR – California Department of Water Resources
- DCI – Delta Mendota Canal – California Aqueduct Intertie
- DS – Delta Smelt
- FNU – Formazin Nephelometric Unit
- I:E – Inflow to Export
- IOP – Interim Operations Plan
- ITP – Incidental Take Permit
- JPE – Juvenile Production Estimate
- LFS – Longfin Smelt
- NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
- OBI – Old River Bacon Island Station
- OMR – Old and Middle River Tidally Averaged Flow
- PA – Proposed Action (Federal)
- PTM – Particle Tracking Model
- SaMT – Salmon Monitoring Team
- SLS – Smelt Larval Survey
- SMT – Smelt Monitoring Team
- SWP – State Water Project
- SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board
- TFCF – Tracy Fish Collection Facility
- TUCP – Temporary Urgency Change Petition
- TUCO – Temporary Urgency Change Order
- USBR – United States Bureau of Reclamation
- WCS – Winter Run Chinook Salmon
- WOMT – Water Operations Management Team
- WQ – Water Quality

- YOY – Young of Year