



# Delta Monitoring Workgroup Weekly Meeting

Meeting Record 03/11/2025

## Working Group Members in Attendance

- Reclamation: Chase Ehlo, Thuy Washburn, Lillian McCormick, Cat Pien
- USFWS: Not in attendance
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Not in attendance
- DWR: Mike Ford, Brian Schreier, Farida Islam, Katherine Osborn
- SWRCB: Not in attendance
- Water Contractors: Darcy Austin (SWC), Bobby Phillips (WWD), Jose Rangel (WWD), Tom Boardman (WWD), Yuan Liu (CCWD), Cindy Meyer (SLDMWA), Deanna Sereno (CCWD), Sarah Piramoon (Valley Water), Steve Micko (MWD), Ian Buck-Macleod (FWA), Jennifer Buckman (ARSC)
- Kearns & West: Marlys Jeane, Trisha Madayag

## Review Operations Outlook

- At Keswick Dam on the Sacramento River, releases are 6,000 cfs. After the forecasted storms later this week, releases will be in the 10,000 cfs to 15,000 cfs range.
- At Whiskeytown Dam on Clear Creek, releases are 300 cfs.
- At Nimbus Dam on the American River, releases are 4,500 cfs. Releases will stay at 4,500 cfs for the rest of the week.
- At Goodwin Dam on the Stanislaus River, releases are 200 cfs.
- At Oroville Dam on the Feather River, releases are 7,600 cfs and will increase to about 9,000 cfs Wednesday (3/12) for storage management.
- Federal storage at San Luis Reservoir is 722,000 acre-feet; total storage is 1.71 million acre-feet.
- JPP exports are currently at 4,200 cfs, with exports ranging between 3,500 cfs to 4,200 cfs.

- CCF exports are currently at 2,100 cfs and exports may change depending on storm impacts.
- DCC Gates are closed for the season.
- Tides are transitioning from Neap to Spring; the Full moon is on 3/13.
- SLS Survey 6 reported a Secchi disk depth of 131 cm, above the 1-meter threshold that would trigger the Larval/Juvenile Delta Smelt Protection Action (per ITP COA 8.4.1 and Proposed Action 3.7.4.5.2), so the action is not triggered. Although Rio Vista flows were previously above 40,000 cfs, temporarily "offramping" the action, they are now below 40,000 cfs, but the Protection Action still hasn't been triggered due to the current Secchi disk depth.
- Next week the 20-millimeter survey for adult Delta Smelt will occur and the Secchi disk depth will be measured again. A new measurement will be available by Monday (3/17) and Rio Vista flows will be monitored through the forecasted storms.
- For LFS, SLS 6, 809, and 812 detected only 5 LFS larvae, all at SLS 809. Therefore, 8.4.2. has not been triggered. The QWest threshold is also exceeded, so there are no concerns for LFS triggers this week.

### Additional Questions or Comments

- Question: What salvage has been observed at both facilities in the last week?
  - Answer: There has been no DS salvage. There have been a few winter-run salvaged confirmed Length-at-Date but still waiting for genetic confirmation. There have been 1-2 hatchery origin winter-run and natural steelhead. Salvage is low enough that no thresholds have been triggered.
- Question: Is there a chance of a storm flex with the forecasted storms?
  - Answer: Neither the BiOp nor the ITP allow any storm flex consideration after the end of February. Additionally, the transition from Adult DS Protection to Larval/Juvenile Protection occurs when water temperatures at Rio Vista or Jersey Point exceed 12 degrees. Once this occurs, storm flex is no longer possible since this signals the move from migrating adults to the life cycle stage of eggs hatching through to juveniles. There is no chance for storm flex for the remainder of the water year. This is outlined under 8.5 for the ITP, where the window for Storm Flex begins with the start of OMR management season and ends on the last day of February, or the start of Larval and Juvenile Delta Smelt Entrainment Protection, whichever occurs first. Both of which have already occurred.
- Question: With the survey occurring on Monday (3/17), will there be another set of turbidity data available Monday afternoon, or will it take a couple days to process?

- Answer: The turbidity data and Sechhi disk depth should be available Monday afternoon. The larval LFS catch from SLS 809 and SLS 812 will be available one to two days after.

## Review PA Assessment and Assessment Triggers (Reclamation)

*Facilitator's note: Due to the new PA, DMW will only review the Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook. A review of the PA Assessment may occur if a real-time trigger occurs.*

## Review Longfin Smelt (LFS) Distribution and ITP Triggers (DWR)

*Facilitator's note: Due to the new ITP, DMW will only review the Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook. A review of the Risk Assessment may occur if a real-time trigger occurs.*

## 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
- EDSM – Enhanced Delta Smelt Monitoring Program
- FNU – Formazin Nephelometric Unit
- I/E – Inflow to Export
- IOP – Interim Operations Plan
- ITP – Incidental Take Permit
- ITL – Incidental Take Limit
- 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
- SRDWSC – Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel
- 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