

American River Group

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Conference Line: +1 (321) 209-6143; Access Code: 780 506 355#

Webinar: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Monthly Meeting Notes, Monday, March 29, 2021 (Ad Hoc Meeting)

1. Actions

- a. Levi Johnson will share copies of the ARG and SWT Guidance Documents.
- b. ARG members should provide feedback on the Water Forum's draft spring flow memo.
- c. Kearns & West will distribute the draft Water Forum memo to meeting attendees.

2. Introductions

- a. USBR -Zarela Guerrero, Thuy Washburn, Sarah Perrin, John Hannon, Spencer Marshall, Levi Johnson & Carolyn Bragg
- b. CDFW -Kenneth Kundargi, Morgan Kilgour, Craig Anderson, Duane Linander, Gary Novak, Joel Craven, Jason Julianne & Tracy Grimes
- c. NMFS -Barb Byrne
- d. Water Forum: Jessica Law & Katherine Perkins
- e. USFW -Paul Cadrett
- f. SMUD -Ansel Lundberg
- g. SWRCB – Emily Fisher, Michael Macon & Alessia Siclair Melchor
- h. EBMUD -I-Pei Hsiu
- i. San Juan Irrigation District -Paul Helliker & Greg Zlontnick
- j. City of Sacramento – Brian Sanders

- k. WAPA -Michael Prowatzke
 - l. Independent -Rod Hall
 - m. Kearns & West – Rafi Silberblatt & Kai Walcott
 - n. Other -Tom Boardman Darin Reintjes & Amanda Ransom
3. CVO Update
- a. USBR noted that because this is an off-ramp year (i.e., Nimbus releases exceeded the spring pulse flow for more than two days between Feb 1 and March 15) there is no requirement for a separate pulse flow. While USBR indicated that they do not intend to release a spring pulse flow, there may be additional releases associated with D1641 that could potentially be shaped like a spring-pulse flow.
 - i. [Note the following error in the document: “from February 1 to March 1” should read “from February 1-March 15.” Reclamation is writing a memo to correct this typo.]
 - b. The Water Forum solicited input on their draft spring pulse flow proposal, noting that feedback on the perspective and data included could still be helpful for decision-making going forward.
4. Operations
- a. USBR noted that a change order scheduled for Wednesday will increase releases from 1200 cfs to 1500 cfs to enable Delta outflow to meet the 7100 standards.
 - b. It’s not yet clear how many days of carryover will be necessary in April (the estimated range is 0-3, the best guess at this time is 2), but it’s possible that another large release from Folsom will be required at the end of the month.
 - c. If another release is necessary, USBR will try to sync it with a precipitation event and/or coordinate with releases on other systems.
 - i. Questions/Comments. ARG members stated a preference for scheduling a release for the second half of April if possible, as the recent uptick in parr sized and smaller fish passing the screw traps indicates that holding off until late in the month will have the most benefit to the most juveniles in the system. This timing would also align with the moon phase.

5. Draft Spring Pulse Flow Proposal

- a. The Water Forum provided an overview of the draft spring pulse flow proposal.
 - i. Questions/Comments
 - 1. CDFW noted that the estimates for daily percentage of fry emergence aren't lining up with this year's Rotary Screw Trap data. Carcass data with lag time can also be used if RST data isn't available.
 - 2. USBR noted that because they have not had the opportunity to thoroughly review the draft proposal at this time, it should not be considered a USBR document.

6. Process for Future Spring Pulse Flow Planning

- a. CDFW and USBR both expressed an interest in further fleshing out the process for shaping spring pulse flows on the American River when the LTO group meets over the summer to revise guidance documents.
- b. USBR noted that the Stanislaus Watershed Team's guidance document provides more structure (including rough time frames) and might be a good model from which to draw. USBR provided an overview of the SWT guidance document and committed to sharing both the ARG and SWT guidance documents with the ARG.