



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

## American River Group

**1:30 PM – 3:30 PM**

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

**Webinar: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)**

Thursday, November 18, 2021

### Notes

1. Action Items

- a. Morgan – share previous seining survey results with Barb
- b. Morgan - ask Tracy to include a comparison of prespaw mortality in the years 2021 and 2015 as part of the carcass survey report.
- c. Craig - forward the stakeholder meeting notification to the ARG for the temperature modeling platform
- d. Barb/Craig – speak with Randi about a potential presentation regarding the temperature modeling platform
- e. Thuy – Correct the typo in the title on page 16 of the packet to say “2015” (not “2021”).
- f. All – share any data relevant to temperature modeling platform with Randi or Craig

2. Introductions:

- a. USBR: Gary Novak, Ian Smith, Brad Hubbard, Thuy Washburn, Drew Loney, Sarah Perrin, Leeyan Mao, Spencer Marshall, John Hannon, Liz Kiteck, Gary Pitzer, Carolyn Bragg, Zarela Guerrero
- b. NMFS: Barb Byrne:
- c. USFWS: N/A
- d. CDFW: Crystal Rigby, Emily Fisher, Ken Kundargi, Mike Healey, Joel Craven, Morgan Kilgour, Chris McKibbin, Jason Julienne
- e. SWRCB: N/A

- f. PCWA: Ben Barker, Darin Reintjes
  - g. EBMUD: I-Pei Hsiu
  - h. SMUD: Christine Giannini
  - i. City of Folsom: Marcus Yasutake
  - j. City of Sacramento: Brian Sanders,
  - k. San Juan Water District: Greg Zlotnick, Paul Helliker
  - l. City of Roseville: Sean Bigley,
  - m. HDR: Craig Addley
  - n. DWR: John Ford
  - o. WAPA: Ammon Danielson
  - p. FishBio: N/A
  - q. Water Forum: Erica Bishop, Ashlee Casey, Chris Hammersmark, Kirsten Sellheim, Jessica Law, Lauren Groves
  - r. PSMFC: Logan Day, Cory Starr,
  - s. CSUS: Dede Birch
  - t. Shingle Springs Miwok Band: Krystal Moreno
  - u. Cramer Fish Sciences: Joe Merz
  - v. Bartkiewicz Kronick & Shanahan: Jennifer Buckman
  - w. Kearns & West: Rafi Silberblatt, Lindsay Tryba
3. Housekeeping & Announcements
- a. This is Susan Ellsworth's (K&W) last week with the ARG.
  - b. This is Sarah Perrin's last week with USBR; she will be taking a position with USFWS in Sacramento.
4. Fisheries Update
- a. CDFW is currently in Week 5 of the Fall-Run Chinook Carcass Survey, which began the week of October 18. In weeks 1-3, the prespawn mortality rate was 100%. Most carcasses were found in Section 1, which suggests that the removal of the weir has shifted fish location. CDFW is also conducting redds surveys but has not measured redds yet due to active guarding.
  - b. Hatchery steelhead have returned and are on medicated feed. Their condition is improving, but losses are still averaging 20/day.
  - c. CDFW reported that Nimbus Hatchery had collected 1,963,949 fall-run Chinook Salmon eggs. The egg collection goal is 9,375,000, and spawning will continue through December 16). CDFW shared results from the preliminary count of juvenile steelhead and Chinook salmon captured during the 2021 lower American River

juvenile salmonid seining survey. The survey captured 674 salmonids (27 steelhead; 647 Chinook salmon). CDFW has not found steelhead since June nor Chinook salmon since July.

**Questions/Comments:**

- a. USBR asked if the bypass appears to have impacted spawning.
    - o CDFW noted that prespawn mortality was not unexpected as the desired temperature range for Chinook was achieved in November after some salmon had been in the river for several weeks and that the power bypass improved conditions for fish and likely prevented more fish mortality in the river. The water temperatures cooled relative to what would have occurred absent the bypass. Additionally, it improved conditions for any steelhead that were in river. CDFW also noted that while prespawn mortality was 100% for weeks 1-3, this number reflects a subset of the 49 fish encountered in weeks 1-3 (October 18 through November 3) (n=6 prespawn female mortalities). CDFW committed to conducting a comparison of this season (2021) with 2015 to document the effects of the bypass. USBR noted that 2015 had the same outflows and in-river temperature issues but conducted a power bypass much later in the season.
    - o As part of assessing the impacts of the bypass at a future ARG meeting, Cramer Fish Sciences suggested that the ARG consider a comparison using historic data, looking at prespawn mortality rates as a function of water temperatures.
  - b. USBR asked if the returning steelhead had adipose fin clips.
    - o CDFW confirmed that all returning steelhead had adipose fin clips so far.
5. Operations Forecast
- a. SMUD provided an update on its operations. See handout for details.
    - o In October, the winter storm event increased precipitation, and subsequently, water storage, bringing the water year total to date to 232% of average to date (16.16”).
    - o See handout for additional details.
  - b. PCWA provided an update on its operations. See handout for details.
    - o PCWA is back online with full generation capacity, thanks to the October storm event.
    - o See handout for additional details.
6. Central Valley Operations (CVO) (see handout for details).
- a. Temperature management
    - o USBR provided a temperature management update.

- USBR predicts that water temperatures will be below 56°F by next week (it may be above 56°F at the dam but will likely cool as it moves downstream).
- b. Exceedance forecast and temperature schedules
  - USBR provided a forecast update.
  - See handout for details.

### **Question/Discussion**

- a. CDFW asked whether USBR intends to continue implementing the power bypass.
    - USBR indicated that they intend to continue implementing the bypass until either 1) the water temperature at Hazel reaches 56°F, or 2) the water temperatures at the level of the river outlet (for the power bypass releases) and the Temperature Control Device (TCD) intake to the power plant reach the same temperature (since at that point, the power bypass has no water temperature benefits).
7. Discussion
- a. Review/Revise Ops Outlook Table Section
    - The ARG updated the Environmental & Fish conditions described in the Operations Outlook document.
  - b. Annual reporting update
    - No updates were reported.
  - c. Future presentations
    - Consider a presentation regarding the temperature modeling platform being developed for Shasta, Sacramento, Folsom, American River, and New Melones.
    - At the December ARG meeting, discuss whether there's interest in receiving a presentation from the Drought Planning Team.
8. Next Meeting:
- a. Thursday, December 16, 1:30-3:30pm