



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, April 21, 2022

Notes

1. Action Items
 - a. K&W- Update American River Summary Condition to read 1,000 cfs
 - b. K&W – Schedule Ad-hoc meeting to discuss temperature modeling.
2. Introductions:
 - a. USBR: Ian Smith, Thuy Washburn, Brad Hubbard, Melissa Vignau, Spencer Marshall, Gary Pitzer, Lee Mao
 - b. NMFS: Barb Byrne, Katrina Poremba
 - c. USFWS:
 - d. CDFW: Crystal Rigby, Tracy Grimes, Jason Julienne, Emily Fisher, Gary Novak, Nick Bauer
 - e. SWRCB:
 - f. PCWA: Ben Barker
 - g. EBMUD: I-Pei Hsiu, Max Fefer
 - h. SMUD: Ansel Lundberg
 - i. City of Folsom:
 - j. City of Sacramento: Brett Ewart

- k. San Juan Water District: Paul Helliker
 - l. Westlands: Tom Boardman
 - m. City of Roseville:
 - n. DWR:
 - o. WAPA: Mike Prowatzke
 - p. FishBio:
 - q. Water Forum: Jessica Law, Clyde MacDonald, Ashlee Casey, Erica Bishop, Chris Hammersmark
 - r. CFS: Kirsten Sellheim
 - s. PSMFC: Logan Day, Austin Galinat
 - t. Shingle Springs Miwok Band:
 - u. Kearns & West: Mia Schiappi, Karis Johnston
 - v. CSUS: Dede Birch
 - w. Other: Rod Hall, Craig Addley
3. Housekeeping & Announcements
- a. Barb Byrne shared Reclamation's *Water Temperature Management in Reservoir-River Systems through selective Withdrawal* document. The introduction is a good overview of factors that affect water temperature in a regulated river. There are also sections which focus on managing water temperature in the American River system. However, it is not suggested to cite the life history tables in the document, as they may not be accurate.
4. Fisheries Update
- a. CDFW has been monitoring for juvenile salmonids via seine and has observed 83 juvenile steelhead and 564 juvenile Chinook.
 - b. CDFW did not monitor the Upper Sunrise Side Channel because it is no longer connected to the river. Stranding surveys have occurred with approximately 1,000 rescued fish. Mortality was also observed in the Upper Sunrise Side Channel.
 - c. CDFW did not sample the Nimbus Side Channel in order to preserve the safety of steelhead redds.
 - d. CDFW will continue sampling through 4/29/2022.

- e. Salmon at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery are being tagged and releases will begin in May and continue into June. Steelhead have hatched and are being held in indoor tanks.
- f. The final count of steelhead redds is 87. This is slightly higher than the findings for the previous six years.
- g. The rotary screw traps did not run from 4/9/22 through 4/11/22 due to a windstorm.
- h. Over the last week, PSMFC has observed an average of 100 fall-run Chinook per day. All Chinook juveniles that have been captured were parr or smolt sized.
- i. PSMFC have observed 215 unmarked *O. mykiss* throughout the season. The majority are fry sized, averaging below 35 mm.
- j. PSMFC completed efficiency trials numbers 3 through 5 and have averaged 18% at flows between 1,000 cfs and 2,500 cfs. Two more efficiency trials are planned for the rest of the season.
- k. Sampling will begin in mid-May and will run Monday through Friday due to safety concerns related to recreational use of the water.

Question/Comments:

- NMFS asked if there was anything atypical in the fish monitoring and surveys to note.
 - The Upper Sunrise Side Channel, Lower Sunrise Side Channel, and the Riverbend Side Channel had moderately low dissolved oxygen levels, but otherwise, they have not seen anything atypical. Conditions from this year are similar to last year.
- NMFS asked if the numbers of fish listed in the stranding summary in the handout were direct counts or based on a number per pound.
 - CFS responded that the reported number is a mix of estimates and direct counts.

5. Operations Forecast

- a. SMUD provided an update on its operations. See handout for details.
 - i. There has been above average precipitation for April, which required SMUD to cancel planned outages in order to properly manage the new water.
 - ii. SMUDs FERC license water year type is currently “below normal.”
 - iii. Combined storage is slightly more than the historic average and is slowly increasing.

- iv. Chili Bar releases in April are 1,470 cfs and have released over 50 TAF.
- v. Runoff and snowpack have increased throughout the last week.
- b. PCWA provided an update on its operations. See handout for details.
 - i. PCWA is currently experiencing an outage from a blown transformer, but it should be back online within the week.
 - ii. The North Fork coming into Folsom Lake is currently at 5,000 cfs and is increasing.
 - iii. PCWA's FERC license current water year type is "below normal." It will likely not move into a "dry" water year with current precipitation. As of May 1, flow requirements will be set from June to October, and it will likely remain a "below normal" year. This will benefit recreation because there will be an additional day of releases and an additional hour over the weekend.

Questions/Comments:

- The City of Sacramento and other parties are putting together packages for a groundwater substitution transfer. The region is contemplating transferring 16 TAF over a five-month period. Diverters from downstream of Nimbus Dam would be leaving surface water in the river and be using groundwater instead.
 - Reclamation asked whether the 16 TAF includes San Juan's 4 AF.
 - City of Sacramento will be participating with approximately 10,400 AF.
 - Carmichael will be participating with approximately 1,200 AF.
6. Central Valley Operations
 - a. Current storage in Folsom Reservoir is 661 TAF, which is an increase from March. The precipitation has helped increase storage and it is possible it will reach 700 TAF.
 - b. There is colder water in the lower portion of the lake compared to last year, release temperatures are currently 55 degrees. Reclamation is pulling the warmest water possible into the power plant.
 - c. The March 90% Exceedance operations forecast was shared in the handouts this month for informational purposes because it was not ready for last month's ARG meeting.
 - d. April and May releases are expected to remain at 1,000 cfs and increase in June to meet downstream demands. June releases will be 2,500 cfs and July releases will be 3,800 cfs. Beginning in August, releases will be cut back.

Questions/Comments:

- NMFS asked Reclamation whether the additional precipitation will increase the projected end-of-September storage in Folsom or if it will be used to further relieve demands on Shasta.
 - Reclamation responded that it will likely be used to relieve demands on Shasta.
 - Reclamation commented that May depletions are uncertain at this point, but the new precipitation will help with the goal of having at least 200 TAF in Folsom by the end of September.
 - Westlands asked if the operations forecast reflects the TUCO for July through September.
 - Reclamation responded that it does reflect the current TUCO (which included modified water quality standards through June) but does not reflect anything past the end of June because no petition has yet been made for that period. Reclamation does not know if they will request anything further.
 - SWRCB asked Reclamation what the current Coordinated Operation Agreement (COA) balance is and whether the forecast anticipates DWR paying back the rest of their debt.
 - Reclamation responded that as of a few weeks ago it was approximately 200 TAF and the operations forecast reflects DWR paying back their COA debt.
 - Reclamation compared this year's temperature to 2020 and 2008 as an analog for what temperatures may look like at Watt Avenue; we will know more when model runs are completed (expected next week).
 - CDFW commented the sooner they move fish from Nimbus Hatchery and the American River Trout Hatchery the easier it would be. They are under the assumption that both will need to be evacuated, but that will depend on the model runs.
7. The next meeting is on **Thursday, April 28, 10:00am-11:00am**. This ad-hoc meeting (additional to the usual monthly meeting schedule) will be to discuss temperature modeling and start discussion regarding the summer-fall temperature management plan.