



## 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, July 21, 2022

### Notes

#### 1) Action Items

- a. K&W – add an agenda topic to August meeting agenda for fall temperature planning and a power bypass
- b. Barb Byrne – Send K&W last year's recommendation letter to prepare for fall temperature proposal.
- c. Thuy – update temperature data for final meeting packet.

#### 2) Introductions:

- a. USBR: Thuy Washburn, Spencer Marshall, Liz Kiteck, John Hannon, Drew Loney, Carolyn Bragg
- b. NMFS: Barb Byrne, Katrina Poremba, Page Vick
- c. USFWS: Paul Cadrett, Craig Anderson
- d. CDFW: Crystal Rigby, Gary Novak, Erica Meyers, Chris McKibbin, Duane Linander, Emily Fisher, Tracy Grimes, Mike Healey
- e. SWRCB: Michael Macon, Lauren Beaudin, Reza Ghasemizadeh
- f. PCWA:
- g. EBMUD: I-Pei Hsiu
- h. SMUD: Ansel Lundberg

- i. City of Folsom:
- j. City of Sacramento: Anne Sanger
- k. San Juan Water District: Paul Helliker,
- l. Westlands:
- m. City of Roseville:
- n. DWR: Mike Ford, Kevin Reece
- o. WAPA: Mike Prowatzke
- p. FishBio:
- q. Water Forum: Jessica Law, Ashlee Casey, Erica Bishop, Chris Hammersmark,
- r. CFS:
- s. PSMFC: Logan Day, Austin Galinat
- t. Shingle Springs Miwok Band:
- u. Kearns & West: Rafael Silberblatt, Mia Schiappi, Karis Johnston
- v. CSUS: Dede Birch
- w. Other: Rod Hall, Jennifer Buckman, Deanna Serenos

### 3) Announcements

- a. LTO discussions started 7/21/2022 for the American River.
- a. Water Forum has two habitat restoration projects beginning in August 2022. The first will begin August 1<sup>st</sup> at Lower Sailor Bar and will take approximately two months. The second will begin at the end of August at Nimbus Basin and will be completed near the beginning of October. There will be opportunities for construction tours. Water Forum is also coordinating with CDFW to ensure that CDFW can conduct their seasonal surveys despite the restoration projects. Please find more details about Water Forum's restoration projects here: [Water Forum's Restoration Projects](#).
- b. NMFS representatives to ARG: Page Vick will be replacing Katrina Poremba.

### 4) Fisheries Update

- a. Nimbus Hatchery: All steelhead have been tagged and are in the raceways. All the fish are healthy.
- b. CDFW observed 2 salmonids at Rossmoor in recent surveys; however, the fish escaped before they could be identified.

- c. CDFW was unable to monitor at Paradise Beach because of high flows. Monitoring will occur throughout the remainder of July at Nimbus Basin, Upper Sunrise, Riverbend, and Watt Avenue.

#### Questions/Comments

- Were the steelhead at Nimbus Hatchery marked with just an adipose clip or also with a secondary mark?
  - The steelhead (will be released in 2023) were only adipose clipped.
- What are the monitoring methods and the timing of monitoring?
  - Sampling is done once a month at each site by either seining surveys or snorkel surveys. Snorkel surveys are a secondary survey that happens when seining is not possible because of depth or presence of vegetation. CDFW tries not to do snorkel surveys because they do not get as much data. The data are used to see how steelhead distribute along the thermal gradient of the river and their outmigration timing.
- What are the size classes of the steelhead that are collected?
  - CDFW responded that they are juvenile steelhead. The most recently caught steelhead was measured at 127 mm. When they get bigger, they are faster and harder to capture. The juveniles collected in March were in the 30-40 mm size range.

#### 5) Operations Forecast

- a. SMUD provided an update on its operations. See handout for details.
  - i. Chili Bar and South Fork release were unavailable. Please reach out to Ansel Lunberg during the week of 7/25/22 if interested in further details.
  - ii. Reservoirs are slowly losing storage. SMUD did receive a curtailment, but as they regularly reduce storage after July 1 it does not affect their operations.
  - iii. Storage is slightly above average at approximately 20 TAF less than in June at 92% full.

#### Questions/Comments

- Is storage expected to drop below average any time during the year?
  - SMUD replied they do not believe storage will drop below the average because they do not have any scheduled releases for maintenance. Releases should remain steady.

#### 6) Central Valley Project (CVP) Operations

- a. Current storage in Folsom Reservoir is 660 TAF, which is a 20 TAF increase compared to the last outlook due to higher inflows.
- b. Folsom Dam releases are at 4,500 cfs and will decrease to 4,250 cfs on 7/22/2022.
- c. Inflows into Folsom Dam are currently 1,400 cfs which is slightly higher than the 90% exceedance. This means that end of month storage will be approximately 20 TAF higher than expected at 580 TAF.
- d. Temperatures at the beginning of July had been trending under 66 °F at Hazel Avenue. The Folsom Lake Temperature profile taken on 7/06/22 indicated the water elevation at the top shutters were warming up. Reclamation pulled the upper shutter of Unit 3 on 7/11/22 to help decrease the water temperature coming out of the Dam. This resulted in a 2-3 °F decrease in water temperature at Folsom Dam.
- e. Before the shutter adjustment, Unit 2 went out and will be out for approximately 12 weeks. Reclamation is blending the release out of Folsom through Unit 1 and Unit 3 to release only the cold water needed to remain below 66°F at Hazel Avenue.
- f. Temperatures at Hazel are much cooler this WY than WY 2021. WY 2021 had a warmer lake profile and lower water levels.
- g. The minimum release requirement (MRR) for July is 1,702 cfs according to the 50% exceedance forecast. Releases are currently above the MRR.

Questions/Comments:

- Is there some type of emergency management plan in place in the situation that a second unit was not functional?
  - If available generation units could not handle the needed release capacity, Reclamation would still be able to release additional water from Folsom through the lower river outlets or the spillway gates.
- With having one unit out and the blending ability constrained, it seems that Reclamation is releasing more cold water than was initially anticipated at this point. The realized water temperatures may not track as was modeled. However, there is more runoff than assumed in the modeling so that will help.
  - USBR responded that currently they are still on track. If all three units were online, Reclamation would be blending more and using less cold water. They are tapping into the cold water but not so much that it would affect the current plan and still expect to meet 66 °F throughout the summer season. The models were based on the 2014 ambient air temperatures, and it is possible the temperatures will not reach the 2014 numbers.
- Is the water temperature still expected to be 58 °F in the fall for fall-run Chinook?

- USBR responded that the fall temperatures are extremely difficult to estimate at this point in the summer season. They will look closer at reservoir conditions in late August and early September to make predictions for the fall temperature target.

7) Folsom Dam Temperature Shutters Presentation

- a. USBR provided a presentation on the Folsom Dam Temperature Shutter Operation that included an explanation of how USBR crews degang and regang the temperature shutters. USBR will share the presentation once it is finalized.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on **Thursday, August 18, 1:30pm-3:30pm.**