



— 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](#)

Ad Hoc Meeting Notes

1. Action Items:

- a. All - email Barb Byrne if interested in receiving a copy of NMFS' interim technical assistance to USBR regarding water temperature management.
- b. Jessica Law - collaborate with Water Forum Technical consultants to send forecasted inflows to USBR.
- c. Thuy Washburn - share the draft temperature management plan with the ARG
- d. All - send feedback on the temperature management plan to Thuy

2. Introductions

- a. USBR: Thuy Washburn, Liz Kiteck, Ian Smith, Levi Johnson, Sarah Perrin, John Hannon, Drew Loney, Spencer Marshall, Carolyn Bragg
- b. CDFW: Gary Novak, Jason Julianne, Ken Kundargi, Crystal Rigby, Mike Healey, Morgan Kilgour, Duane Linander, Tracy Grimes
- c. NMFS: Barb Byrne, Olivia Mihok
- d. USFWS: Paul Cadrett, Craig Anderson
- e. SWRCB: Mike Macon, Emily Fisher
- f. San Juan Water District (SJWD): Paul Helliker

- g. City of Roseville: Sean Bigley
 - h. Westlands Water District: Tom Boardman
 - i. EBMUD: I-Pei Hsiu
 - j. SMUD: Ansel Lundberg
 - k. WAPA: Mike Prowatzke, Ammon Danielson
 - l. Cramer Fish Sciences: Kristen Selheim
 - m. Water Forum: Jessica Law, Chris Hammersmark, Jeff Weaver
 - n. SARA: Clyde Macdonald
 - o. Friends of the River: Ron Stork
 - p. CSUS: Dede Birch
 - q. BKS Law: Jennifer Buckman
 - r. PCWA: Ben Barker, Craig Addley, Vanessa Martinez
 - s. Kearns & West: Rafi Silberblatt, Susan Ellsworth
 - t. Independent: Rod Hall
3. Announcements
- a. In light of anticipated exceedance of the temperature threshold within the incidental take statement of the 2019 Biological Opinion, NMFS provided interim advice to USBR on 6/1/21 to manage LAR temperature so as not to exceed 70°F at Hazel until a LAR temperature management plan is in place.
4. Hatchery update
- a. CDFW noted that all 465,000 steelhead at the Nimbus Hatchery have been relocated to the Mokelumne River hatchery. Current temperatures at Mokelumne are 54°-56°F.
5. USBR flow projections
- b. The Water Forum noted that the water budget analysis produced by Jeff Weaver shows 160,000 AF by the end of September which is considerably less than the 200,000 AF previously projected by USBR.
 - USBR noted that projections are a moving target.
 - Projections will be updated mid-month (around 6/15-18/21); however, they are being evaluated on a daily basis.
 - Based on the TUCP approved by the SWRCB, the Delta outflow standard was relaxed from 4,000 cfs to 3,000 cfs. However, depletions are high and it

has been challenging to meet both outflow and salinity even with the relaxed standard. Overall conditions and meeting Delta requirements will be challenging for Folsom to meet 200 TAF end of September storage.

- c. USBR presented on the latest temperature profile (updated June 1).
 - The temperature out of Nimbus is 66°-67°F as of June 2.
 - LAR flows increased from 1000 to 1250 cfs on 6/4/21 and will increase to 1750 cfs on 6/5/21 in support of Delta outflow requirements.
 - On 6/7 the Feather River will increase from 1850 to 2050 cfs and New Melones will increase from 1000 to 1300 cfs.
 - USBR is projecting 1800 cfs for the American River and Feather River for the month of June.
 - Oroville and Folsom increased from 1850 to 2050 cfs and the Stanislaus increased from 1000 to 1300 cfs. Shasta is releasing 7100 cfs and is going to try and stay there.
 - Deganging and removal of the upper gates at Folsom will start next week.

Questions/Comments

- a. SJWD and BKS Law expressed concern regarding changes to forecasted inflows and maintaining salinity control
 - USBR noted that Folsom and Oroville inflows were significantly lower than anticipated and indicated that it would be helpful to receive other agencies' updated forecasts.
 - b. PCWA noted that its Board is meeting to potentially approve surplus project water for transfer. This could add another 20 TAF into the system. PCWA will ensure that additional inflows into Folsom are accounted for immediately upon approval.
6. Temperature modeling & target recommendations
- a. PCWA shared temperature model results (based on the CE-QUAL-W2 model) that include the latest SMUD and PCWA projections (both of which were lower than expected).
 - Scenario 1 (middle shutters are not deganged + power bypass in November) shows 71°F in July and August, and 58°F in November.
 - Scenario 2 (middle shutters are deganged) shows a 1°F decrease for two months. The result is approximately 70°F with a short period of 71°F or a little higher.
 - b. PCWA noted that:
 - Deganging appears to be beneficial

- A temp of 71 °F is more likely to be sustainable through the summer

Questions/Comments

- a. NMFS asked if fall temperatures are the same with or without degangling of the shutters during summertime temperature management.
 - PCWA indicated yes, it is mostly a function of flow rate, temperature and Lake Natoma water conveyance time.
 - USBR agreed with this assessment.
- b. USBR intends to share a draft temperature management plan with the group early the week of 6/7. The plan will likely target 71°F at Hazel and include a degangling action but a power bypass will have to be reviewed later this year (management is aware this request will be forthcoming). Feedback from ARG members by 6/14 would be welcome. Once the temperature management plan is confirmed then NMFS' interim advice will be superseded.
 - CDFW acknowledged that the modeling seems to be converging on 71°F, which appears reasonable in light of the dry year. It noted a high degree of uncertainty and expressed interest in continued open conversation as the season progresses including revisiting the target in fall with regard to fall-run chinook temperature needs. CDFW indicated that it did not predict major objections to the temperature management plan.
 - USBR echoed appreciation for the ARG in dealing with difficult competing interests and noted appreciation for its support and feedback.