

Delta Monitoring Workgroup

Meeting Record 02/14/2023

Working Group Members in Attendance

- USBR: Nick Bertrand, Kristin Arend, Brian Mahardja, Cat Pien, Erika Kegel, Elissa Buttermore, Randi Field
- USFWS: Leif Goude
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Not in attendance
- DWR: Mike Ford, Brian Schreier, Farida Islam, Bryant Giorgi
- SWRCB: Not in attendance
- Water Contractors: Shawn Acuña (MWD), Yuan Liu (CCWD), Chandra Chilmakuri (SWC), Darcy Austin (SWC), Heidi Williams (Valley Water), Tom Boardman (WWD), David Vang (WWD), Ian Buck-Macleod (FWA), Cindy Meyer (SLDMWA)

Review Operations Outlook (USBR, DWR)

- Expecting cooler temperatures; some wind today and a very slight chance of precipitation is expected for the 6-day forecast, favoring the north coast; not much precipitation predicted for the San Joaquin or Sacramento Valleys.
- Operations continue at minimum base flows across the systems.
- Whiskeytown Dam is currently releasing minimum flows of 200 cfs into Clear Creek; no anticipated changes.
- Keswick Dam is currently releasing minimum flows of 3,250 cfs into the Sacramento River; no anticipated changes.
- Nimbus Dam is currently releasing 4,000 cfs into the American River; there is a chance for making reductions if conditions are favorable.
- In the San Joaquin system, Goodwin Dam is currently releasing minimum flows of 200 cfs into the Stanislaus River; no anticipated changes.
- Inflows in the Delta are continuing to decline as drier conditions persist. Anticipating flows to continue to decrease from the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers.
- Yesterday's (2/13/2023) daily average at Freeport was 19,400 cfs; in the range of 15,000 cfs to 22,000 cfs currently.
- At Vernalis, flows range from 3,500 cfs to 4,500 cfs; today (2/14/2023) flows dropped below 4,000 cfs as flows from the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers continue to decline.

- Operationally, targeting OMR at less negative or equal to -5,000 cfs.
- JPP exporting 4,200 cfs.
- DCC Gates are closed with no anticipated change.
- Clifton Court exporting 3,300 cfs today (2/14/2023); maybe dropping by 100 cfs tomorrow and by another 100 cfs after that, following the decreasing limb of Vernalis flows.
- Oroville releases remain at 950 cfs on the Feather River.
- Additional note regarding operations:
 - As a result of recent climate extremes, Governor Newsom issued a proclamation yesterday to build water resilience.
 - DWR and USBR filed a Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) with the SWRCB to nullify X2 compliance at Port Chicago during February and March until expected snowmelt restores wetter conditions in the Delta.
 - For more information, you can find the TUCP filed yesterday on the SWRCB website
- See the Operations Outlook for more information.

Additional Questions or Comments

- No comments or questions

Review PA Assessment (USBR)

Reclamation provided the PA Assessment update. For more information, please refer to the PA Assessment document.

Review ITP Risk Assessment (DWR)

DWR provided the LFS update. For more information, please refer to the ITP Risk Assessment document.

Additional Questions or Comments

- **Question:** On whether protections for Delta Smelt are off-ramped or not, can DMW get feedback after the WOMT meeting?
 - **Answer:** That might be an LTO discussion about the intent of the wording, as opposed to WOMT. Working on that internally at USBR and with USFWS. Will check back next week on this call.

Acronyms

- CVP – Central Valley Project
- DCC – Delta Cross Channel
- DWR – California Department of Water Resources
- DS – Delta Smelt
- FNU -- Formazin Nephelometric Unit
- IOP – Interim Operations Plan
- ITP – Incidental Take Permit

- JPE – Juvenile Production Estimate
- LFS – Longfin Smelt
- NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
- OBI – Old River Bacon Island Station
- OMR – Old and Middle River Tidally Averaged Flow
- PTM – Particle Tracking Model
- SaMT – Salmon Monitoring Team
- SLS – Smelt Larval Survey
- SMT – Smelt Monitoring Team
- SWP – State Water Project
- SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board
- TFCF – Tracy Fish Collection Facility
- TUCP – Temporary Urgency Change Petition
- USBR – United States Bureau of Reclamation
- WCS – Winter Run Chinook Salmon
- WOMT – Water Operations Management Team
- WQ – Water Quality
- YOY – Young of Year