

# Delta Monitoring Workgroup

## Meeting Record 03/14/2023

### 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, Katie Osborn
- SWRCB: Not in attendance
- Water Contractors: Shawn Acuña (MWD), Darcy Austin (SWC), Chandra Chilmakuri (SWC), Tom Boardman (WWD), David Vang (WWD), Cindy Meyer (SLDMWA), Deanna Sereno (CCWD), Heidi Williams (VWA)

### Review Operations Outlook (USBR, DWR)

- Currently experiencing an atmospheric river system that will persist through the evening and into early parts of Wednesday; expect another series of events to move in this weekend and last through next week. Projecting precipitation along the spine of the Sierras, favoring the Southern Sierras and with 1-2 inches of rain in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valley floors.
- Whiskeytown Dam is currently releasing minimum flows of 200 cfs into Clear Creek.
- On the Sacramento River, currently releasing 4,750 cfs per a change order at 12:00 noon today (03/14/2023); currently managing for Keswick side flow (precipitation and runoff) that is entering downstream. No flood management is occurring at the Shasta Reservoir.
- On the American River, currently releasing 30,000 cfs downstream from Nimbus Dam; there could be opportunities for release reductions but looking for real-time changes based on conditions.
- In the San Joaquin system, Goodwin Dam is currently releasing 1,500 cfs into the Stanislaus River with no anticipated changes; currently transitioning from side flow at Tulloch to Stepped Release flows.
- In the Delta, expecting additional inflows into the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. Strong flows in the Delta are reflected in the Delta Outflow Index (DOI).
- Freeport is expected around 90,000 cfs on the high end of the projected range; the daily average for yesterday (03/13/2023) was about 81,300 cfs.

- At Vernalis, the daily average for yesterday (03/13/2023) was close to 21,300 cfs; flows are increasing at Vernalis and hovering around the 30,000 cfs mark.
- JPP is currently exporting 4,200 cfs with no anticipated changes.
- Reclamation is currently operating in excess conditions without restrictions.
- DCC Gates are closed and will remain closed for seasonal operations and anticipated high flows.
- Oroville releases are at 15,000 cfs on the Feather River; 20,000 cfs tomorrow (03/15/2023) and is anticipated to increase to 25,000 cfs on Thursday (03/16/2023).
- Clifton Court is exporting 9,500 cfs today (03/14/2023) and tomorrow (03/15/2023). Flows will drop on Thursday to 6,680 cfs, as a result of the USACE permit. The maximum at Clifton Court of 6,680 cfs will be in effect starting March 16<sup>th</sup> until next December 15<sup>th</sup>.
- DWR is getting close to filling their share of San Luis Reservoir.
- See the Operations Outlook for more information.

#### Additional Questions or Comments

- **Question:** When do you expect USBR and DWR will fill their shares of San Luis Reservoir?
  - **Answer:** For the State, this will occur by the end of the month, if not during the week of March 19, 2023. Reclamation anticipates their share will be complete at the end of March or early April.

#### 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

- No questions or comments.

#### Acronyms

- CVP – Central Valley Project
- DCC – Delta Cross Channel
- DWR – California Department of Water Resources
- DCI – Delta Mendota Canal – California Aqueduct Intertie
- 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
- PA – Proposed Action (Federal)
- 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
- TUCO – Temporary Urgency Change Order
- USBR – United States Bureau of Reclamation
- WCS – Winter Run Chinook Salmon
- WOMT – Water Operations Management Team
- WQ – Water Quality
- YOY – Young of Year