

Delta Monitoring Workgroup

Meeting Record 03/21/2023

Working Group Members in Attendance

- USBR: Nick Bertrand, Erika Kegel, Elissa Buttermore, Liz Kiteck
- USFWS: Not in attendance
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Crystal Rigby
- DWR: Mike Ford, Farida Islam
- SWRCB: Not in attendance
- Water Contractors: Deanna Sereno (CCWD), Ian Buck-Macleod (FWA), Jose Rangel (WWD), Scott Petersen (SLDMWA)

Review Operations Outlook (USBR, DWR)

- Currently experiencing storms today with gusty winds, with rain expected to end tomorrow. This storm is colder than the last, resulting in less inflow which is especially apparent at Trinity Reservoir. Most storms have been missing the Trinity region and snowpack is not as high as other places. However, Shasta levels have improved from 2-3 weeks ago, and Folsom will continue to spill over many times before the water year ends.
- On the Trinity River, currently at 1,450 cfs release, a winter variability flow that will last until April 15th.
- Keswick releases today are at 3,750 cfs, going down to 2,550 cfs by Thursday, 03/23/2023; can only reduce 100 cfs a day, slowly going down to minimum flows of 3,250 cfs.
- Today, Folsom releases were reduced to 12,000 cfs.
- Releases at New Melones are holding at 1,500 cfs.
- In the Delta, targeting 4,200 cfs at JPP.
- Vernalis continues to be high in the 30,000+ cfs range; Vernalis is over flood stage (29 feet) by 5 feet, which will possibly continue to the end of the month, meaning OMR requirements are positive at +7,000 to 11,000 cfs this week.
- USBR is trying to position operations to deal with the influx of water once the snow starts melting.
- Clifton Court is exporting 6,680 cfs today (03/21/2023). DWR will be filling their share of San Luis Reservoir today. Future exports at Clifton Court will depend on Article 21 among other demands in the system for terminal reservoirs; expected to be at less than 6,680 cfs in the coming days.

- Oroville releases are at 20,000 cfs today (03/21/2023) and going down to 15,000 cfs tomorrow (03/22/23); possibly another cut by Friday (03/24/2023) in the 10,000 cfs to 12,500 cfs range.
- See the Operations Outlook for more information.

Additional Questions or Comments

- **Question:** When do you expect USBR to fill their share of San Luis Reservoir?
 - **Answer:** Likely in the first week in April. USBR is restricted by the two high head units at Gianelli coming soon, which limits the amount they can put in the reservoir. CVP has full use of the two available high head units. Likely able to hold at 5 units. Once USBR fills their share of San Luis, pumping will have to drop because demands are practically nonexistent right now. At that point, USBR would offer their Section 215 water from the Delta if there are any takers. Typically, in a year like this, there are not many takers.
- **Question:** Do you have a forecast for when drawdown will occur at San Luis?
 - **Answer:** If it follows precedent from 2017, this would not occur until the end of May. This is likely given the amounts of snowmelt that will be coming down the San Joaquin River. This all depends on how quickly or slowly the snowmelt occurs.

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