

# Delta Monitoring Workgroup

## Meeting Record 03/28/2023

### Working Group Members in Attendance

- USBR: Nick Bertrand, Erika Kegel, Elissa Buttermore, Randi Field, Brian Mahardja, Cat Pien, Mike Beakes
- USFWS: Leif Goude
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Not in attendance
- DWR: Mike Ford, Farida Islam, Philip Choy, Katie Osborn
- SWRCB: Matt Holland
- Water Contractors: David Vang (WWD), Shawn Acuña (MWD), Cindy Meyer (SLDMWA), Darcy Austin (SWC)

### Review Operations Outlook (USBR, DWR)

- Currently experiencing another unsettled weather system which will last through Wednesday (3/29/2023), break, and then return this weekend; these storms are generally cooler than the past few, increasing snowfall and reducing changes of runoff. The majority of the storm is favoring the north coast, Shasta basin, and Northern Sierras, and expecting 1-2 inches in the valley floor over the next two days.
- Whiskeytown Dam is currently releasing 250 cfs into Clear Creek; there is a channel maintenance pulse this week, starting today with a peak of 840 cfs.
- Keswick Dam is currently releasing minimum flows of 3,250 cfs into the Sacramento River with no anticipated changes.
- Nimbus Dam is currently releasing 7,000 cfs into the American River; anticipating maintaining this amount, and the range indicates possibilities for flood management, but it is not expected.
- In the San Joaquin system, Goodwin Dam is currently releasing 1,500 cfs into the Stanislaus River. A planned fishery egg basket retrieval will result in a short drop in cfs this week but then quickly back up to 1,500 cfs.
- In the Delta, still seeing high flows from the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers.
- Daily average flows at Freeport are around 64,000 cfs as of yesterday, 3/27/2023.
- High flows on the San Joaquin side are around 36,000 cfs.
- JPP is currently exporting 3,500 cfs with a change order to reach 5 units out for tomorrow (3/29/2023) but anticipating a wide range and variability from 800 cfs to 4,200 cfs

because of diminishing locations in available space for water. While the SWP share of San Luis Reservoir is filled, the CVP share is not yet complete.

- DCC Gates are closed and will remain closed for seasonal operations.
- Because Vernalis outflows are in such large ranges, currently running a positive OMR Index; therefore, no fishery restrictions are controlling operations and facility operations are constrained to physical factors and limitations on where water can be placed.
- Oroville releases are at 15,000 cfs today (03/28/2023) and continuing to tomorrow (03/29/2023); anticipating an eventual ramp down to about 7,000 cfs over the next 5 to 7 days.
- Clifton Court exports on 03/28/2023 are at 2,600 cfs. While side flow issues to the canal were observed yesterday (03/27/2023) and today (03/28/2023), there is a goal to reach 5,000 cfs tomorrow (3/29/2023) with an attempt to hold there.
- DWR filled their share of San Luis Reservoir during the week of 3/12/2023. DWR is currently delivering Article 21 water, but demand is low right now. Demand at Clifton Court continues to be governed by real-time demands.
- Delta outflows are in the 100,000 cfs range coinciding with the high flows from Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers.
- See the Operations Outlook for more information.

#### **Additional Questions or Comments**

- No questions or comments.

#### **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