

# Delta Monitoring Workgroup

## Meeting Record 04/04/2023

### Working Group Members in Attendance

- USBR: Erika Kegel, Randi Field, Brian Mahardja, Cat Pien, Kristin Arend
- USFWS: Not in attendance
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Not in attendance
- DWR: Mike Ford, Nicole Kwan, Brian Schreier
- SWRCB: Not in attendance
- Water Contractors: Shawn Acuña (MWD), Cindy Meyer (SLDMWA), Deanna Sereno (CCWD), Jennifer Buckman (ARSC), Jose Rangel (WWD), Tom Boardman (WWD)

### Review Operations Outlook (USBR, DWR)

- Anticipating a resurgence of unsettled weather later this week; currently experiencing some drier weather. Warming trend will start mid-week and go through the weekend. Precipitation forecasted north of the I-80 corridor favoring Shasta and the Northern Sierras.
- Whiskeytown Dam is currently releasing base flows of 200 cfs into Clear Creek.
- 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 with no anticipated changes; currently monitoring snowmelt and inflows into Folsom.
- In the San Joaquin system, Goodwin Dam is currently releasing 1,500 cfs into the Stanislaus River. Another planned fishery egg basket retrieval is tentatively planned for the week of 4/3/2023 and will result inflows briefly dropping before returning to 1,500 cfs.
- In the Delta, high flows persist from the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers.
- Daily average flows at Freeport are around 58,000 cfs as of yesterday, 4/3/2023.
- Daily average flows at Vernalis are around 34,000 cfs as of yesterday, 4/3/2023.
- Due to weaker storms, flows in the Delta are expected to drop in the future, however flows will not likely decrease below levels seen before the recent storm events.
- JPP is currently exporting 3,500 cfs and will drop exports to minimums of 800 cfs on Thursday, 4/6/2023, in response to CVP filling its share of the San Luis Reservoir.
- Because of high flows right now and a positive OMR Index, most of the controlling factors consist of facility restraints and maximum capabilities.

- DCC Gates are closed and will remain closed for seasonal operations.
- Oroville releases are at 10,000 cfs today (04/04/2023) and continuing through the rest of the week; releases will be reduced when inflows to the reservoir reduce.
- Clifton Court exports are at 6,000 cfs and likely holding.
- 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

- **Question:** You mentioned you don't expect the high flow offramp to be done until April or even May. Is this an assumption based on modeling projections, or do you have other information informing that?
  - **Answer:** We're expecting the San Joaquin River to be above 20,000 cfs for most if not all of April. Given that we need to go below 5,000 cfs at Vernalis, guessing that, if the 20,000 in April is true, we'll be well into May before we reached the 5,000 cfs range in Vernalis.
  - **Answer:** We would expect with the 300+ percent of SWE in the San Joaquin that as soon as the season starts to change with the warmer temperatures, we gain some increased snowmelt and inflow. We are expecting a long duration of flood management for those reservoirs in the San Joaquin Basin to continue through the April and early May range as suggested.

#### 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