

# Delta Monitoring Workgroup

## Meeting Record 10/25/2022

### Working Group Members in Attendance

- USBR: Kristin Arend, Nick Bertrand, Randi Field, Brian Mahardja, Elissa Buttermore, Erika Kegel, Ian Smith
- USFWS: Leif Goude
- NMFS: Not in attendance
- CDFW: Crystal Rigby, Taiga Yamaguchi, April Hennessey, Erica Meyers
- DWR: Bryant Giorgi, Nicole Kwan
- SWRCB: Matt Holland
- Water Contractors: Chandra Chilmakuri (SWC); Jose Rangel (WWD); Heidi Williams (Valley Water); Jennifer Buckman (ARSC)

### Additional Notes on Discussion Items

For detailed information on the outlook or assessment document overviews presented during the meeting, please refer to those documents.

### Review Operations Outlook (Randi Field, USBR and Bryant Giorgi, DWR)

- The 6-day weather outlook shows a chance of showers in northern parts of the state, but not likely to see any change in the valley floor.
- Release from Clear Creek downstream from Whiskeytown dam is 200 cfs.
- Keswick dam is releasing 3,900 cfs into the Sacramento River with no anticipated changes.
- Releasing 1,400 cfs downstream from Nimbus Dam into the American river system; looking for potential storage conservation opportunities.
- Goodwin Dam is releasing 300 cfs into the Stanislaus River; the fall pulse will continue, having started mid-month in October, it will continue to the beginning of November; the range is 200 to 1,200 cfs as pulses continue.
- In the Delta, operations are currently balancing outflows and salinity requirements in the system.
- Freeport flows have changed as a result changes of [atmospheric] pressure in the system, showing higher numbers recently to 7,500 cfs from last week's 5,800 cfs. No anticipated changes due to lack of precipitation in the forecast.
- Monitoring will continue for salinity in the Delta.

- Jones Pumping Plant is in a holding pattern of 900 cfs; an increase to 1,800 cfs would only occur if conditions permitted it, but not likely.
- The Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gates continue to be open on weekends and closed on weekdays to support the Rio Vista flow regulatory requirement and help with salinity and water quality; there is a change order in place to open DCC Gates on Friday 10/28/2022 and close Monday 10/31/2022.
- Feather River releases are at 2,400 cfs; there is not enough water reaching the Delta to support decreases in flow.
- Yesterday 10/24/2022 through tomorrow 10/26/2022, Clifton Court was at 0 cfs for herbicide application and vegetation management; inflows will slowly increase to 500 cfs by the end of the week and will eventually reach 1,000 cfs, bringing the average to a consistent 500 cfs over the course of a week.
- Outflow has been high in the Delta system due to high Freeport flow, which was at 7,500 cfs yesterday 10/24/2022; this will trend downwards as the San Joaquin hits a low point in pulse flow actions, with the final pulse at the end of the month of October.
- False River Barrier and Grant Line Canal Barrier breaching should begin 11/01/2022.

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

- Question: Please explain the Freeport issue?
  - Answer: A significant pressure drop last week suppressed flows there, and as nature corrected itself, the flow which had been backed-up came down. Flows were around 6,500 cfs before they dropped, then up to 7,700 cfs before dropping back to the mid-6,000's cfs. Now flows are relatively low past Freeport.
  - Answer: Additionally, Varona and Wilkins are flat, indicating an influence from Delta dynamics downstream rather than signals from upstream.

#### **Review PA Assessment (Brian Mahardja, USBR)**

- No changes from last week.
- 100 percent of juvenile Chinook Salmon are yet to enter the Delta; zero percent of Chinook Salmon in the Delta and past Chipps Island.
- Nothing has changed that would trigger Delta Cross Channel Gate operations.
- There are no estimates yet for Spring-run Salmon because it is too early in the season.
- The Smelt Monitoring Team will begin meeting next week on 11/1/2022.

#### **Review ITP Risk Assessment**

- ITP discussion will begin next week, 11/1/2022.

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

- No additional discussion.

#### **Acronyms**

- DCC – Delta Cross Channel
- DWR – California Department of Water Resources

- DS – Delta Smelt
- FNU -- Formazin Nephelometric Unit
- GCID – Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
- 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
- SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board
- TFCF – Tracy Fish Collection Facility
- TUCP – Temporary Urgency Change Petition
- WCS – Winter Run Chinook Salmon
- WQ – Water Quality
- YOY – Young of Year