Fish and Water Operations Group Notes

Water Year 2026 – August 26th, 2026

Members Attending

- Reclamation – Randi Field, ~~Levi Johnson~~
- DWR – Tracy Hinojosa, Bryant Giorgi
- USFWS –Matt Nobriga, Jana Affonso
- NMFS – Darren Howe
- CDFW – ~~Kristal Davis-Fadtke, Erica Meyers~~
- SWRCB – Matthew Holland, Diane Riddle
- NGO – ~~Devon Pearse~~
- NOD PWA – Thaddeus Bettner, ~~Jeff Sutton~~
- SOD PWA - Scott Petersen, Deanna Sereno
- State PWA - ~~Chandra Chilmakuri~~

Topics/Actions

Approval of Meeting Notes from last week: Approved

Upcoming Meetings

Delta Action Team (DAT, meets weekly on Tuesdays): Concluded for WY

American River Group (ARG meets monthly on third Thursday, and as needed): 09/17/2026

Clear Creek Technical Team (CCT meets quarterly on third Thursday): 09/17/2026

Sacramento River Group (SRG) (meets monthly on the fourth Thursday or more often as needed): 08/27/2026

Stanislaus Watershed Team (SWT meets monthly on third Wednesday): 09/16/2026

Shasta Operations Team (SHOT meets as needed): met on 08/24/2026

Relevant Assessments

- N/A

Operational Updates

- CVP: Lewiston Dam releases at 450 cfs (Summer Base Flow, anticipating Flow Augmentation for Klamath – anticipating about 1,000 cfs to support fish goals). Whiskeytown Dam releases 100 cfs. Keswick Dam releases at 9,500 cfs (decrease to 9,000 cfs on 8/28). Nimbus Dam releases at 3,500 cfs (decrease to 3,000 cfs on 8/27 and decrease to 2,500 on 8/28). Goodwin Dam releases at 200 cfs (D1641 DO & Vernalis WQ). Jones Pumping Plant exporting 4,600 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 412 TAF. Delta Cross Channel is open.
- SWP: Feather River (Oroville-Thermalito Complex) releases at 8,000 cfs. Clifton Court Forebay allotment is 7,180 cfs. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 838 TAF.
- Hydrology: Current hot temperatures will continue until Thursday and will begin to cool down over the weekend.

Upcoming Actions, Updates or Discussion Items

- Reclamation:
    - No upcoming actions items.
    - Update: Green Sturgeon Update
    - Update: Fall Release Ramp Down Planning
    - Update: SRG TMP
- DWR:
    - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- USFWS:
    - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- NMFS:
    - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- CDFW:
    - ~~No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.~~
- SWRCB:
    - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- NGO:
    - ~~No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.~~
- NOD PWA:
    - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- SOD PWA:

    - No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.
- State PWA:
    - ~~No upcoming actions, updates, or discussion items.~~

Discussion Items

- Update: Green Sturgeon Update

Reclamation released an updated Green Sturgeon assessment to the DAT including 3 additional fish, leading to a total expanded salvage of 32 fish. Looking to keep groups updated; any questions or feedback is appreciated. Current version of the assessment is updated through Saturday's salvage of 1 green sturgeon at the SWP. Previous versions were improved from DAT member engagement and always looking for feedback to keep groups updated on salvage, population status, and the different species being seen. The system seems to see juvenile green sturgeon in August and September and plan to continue updating when new salvage occurs; last salvage occurred last Sunday, and Reclamation will continue to update as additional salvage occurs.

NMFS appreciates updates.

- Update: Fall Release Ramp Down Planning

The planning group is ongoing; the second meeting occurred yesterday on the 25th. The meeting highlighted new tools available.

- Update: SRG TMP

SRG is meeting tomorrow, August 27th, to discuss an update to the Temperature Management Plan (TMP) to include the possible movement of the compliance location and temperature target point. Despite large storage at Shasta, the quality of the water more closely reflects that of an extreme critical water year (similar to 2015). Inflow water temperatures are warmer than anticipated and as of 8/25 Reclamation has concluded the Shasta TCD configuration testing to attempt to maximize temperature performance.

Modeling results are not reflecting real world conditions; runs showing 53.5°F are influencing the TDM results and affecting both the WTMP and CVTemp modeling platforms. Working on hypothesis that points to potential anomalous TCD operation and high night-time temperatures. We plan to explore this hypothesis when resources are more readily available.

TMP action update, based on input from SRG Ad Hoc, are considering a stepped increase water temperature management plan. Operating to 53.5°F between 8/28 through 8/31 at CCR, then operating to 55°F between 9/1 through 9/15 at CCR, and operating to 56°F between 9/16 to 10/31 at CCR. Short term evaluation of the plan will be qualitative and complemented with evaluations presented last week which book-ended operations. Quantitative analysis can be addressed early September, due to staffing availability.

Reclamation is preparing to discuss the stepped increase water temperature plan at tomorrow's SRG meeting. Information will be presented at tomorrow's SRG meeting laying out ideas that were brought up at previous SRG meeting and what that may look like and looking for

preliminary input and review of the operation plan. We are asking each member to inform their SRG technical representative ahead of the meeting to move beyond exploring additional scenarios and offer input on the presented plan. Following feedback from the SRG, Reclamation is ready to quickly disseminate feedback to FAWOG looking for additional feedback from this team and then issue a TMP Update notification to FAWOG and the SRG.

Action Items

- No Action Items.

Elevation Items

- No Elevation Items.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 2nd, 2026, 2-2:50 p.m.