Fish and Water Operations Group Notes

Water Year 2026 – September 16th, 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, Jon Rosenfield~~
- 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): 09/24/2026

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 1,200 cfs (Flow Augmentation for Klamath; decrease on 9/21 to 450 cfs). Whiskeytown Dam releases 175 cfs. Keswick Dam releases at 6,500 cfs (Instream Demands and Delta outflow). Nimbus Dam releases at 1,800 cfs. Goodwin Dam releases at 200 cfs (D1641 DO & Vernalis WQ). Jones Pumping Plant exporting 2,800 cfs. Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is 463 TAF. Delta Cross Channel is open.
- SWP: Feather River (Oroville-Thermalito Complex) releases at 7,000 cfs. Clifton Court Forebay allotment is 7,180 cfs. State share of San Luis Reservoir is 932 TAF.
- Hydrology: No rain in the forecast, cooler temperatures today and tomorrow. Warmer weather in the days after.

Upcoming Actions, Updates or Discussion Items

- Reclamation:
    - No upcoming actions.
    - Update: Sacramento Temperature Management
    - Discussion: Sacramento Fall Flow Operations
- 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: Sacramento Temperature Management

Reclamation is flagging that an update on Sacramento temperature management was sent to the SRG. We are continuing to forecast 55°F from September 1st to September 15th and then 56°F between September 16th through October 31st at Clear Creek.

- Discussion: Sacramento Fall Flow Operations

Based upon observed and forecasted conditions in the Sacramento River and SRG input, Reclamation is proposing a fall flow smoothing scenario and planning to incorporate smoothing operations in the CVP forecast, reflecting in updated modeling.. All future data and modeling (temperatures, TDM, CVP forecasts) would be provided in advance to the SRG. Reclamation has shared this plan with FAWOG via email along with a SacPAS link. Reclamation walked through SacPAS and the forecasted scenario.

NMFS suggests a possible benefit that may support carryover storage and winter-run next year and asks if it has been modeled into either scenario.

Reclamation mentions that higher Shasta storage would potentially occur with the fall smoothing approach. Potentially because of the uncertainty of what may occur over the winter. Carryover storage can't be used as the sole predictive measure of temperature in the reservoir.

NMFS asks if the group will see it modeled or projected; these scenarios have been modeled, distributed and discussed with SRG as part of the scenario discussions

Reclamation identifies that it would come in the 90% and 50% forecast in what we believe would happen in those scenarios. The October studies will reflect this operation through actual end-of-September Shasta storage.

NMFS acknowledges that it is difficult to balance and appreciates that Reclamation is still below what is considered in the Biological Opinion.

Reclamation mentions that if the group has further questions from the email distributed today, that anyone can reach out and they can clarify if needed. Reclamation recognizes the technical teams' efforts in these decisions. The fall smoothing operations are prepared to schedule additional reeducations as soon as this Friday or Saturday.

NOD PWA has been coordinating with the settlement contractors in efforts to the fall smoothing scenario and work out a schedule that will work to include the action.

Action Items

- No Action Items.

Elevation Items

- No Elevation Items.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 23rd, 2026, 2-2:50 p.m.