

Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (SRTTG) Meeting
June 24, 2021 | 1:00 PM – 2:45 PM
Meeting Summary

Participants

Ammon Danielson, WAPA	Kristin White, Reclamation
Bill Poytress, USFWS	Lewis Bair, RD 108
Chris Laskodi, Yurok Tribe	Laura Shaskey, National Park Service
Crystal Rigby, CDFW	Liz Kiteck, Reclamation
Dave Mooney, Reclamation	Lee Bergfield, MBK Engineers/SRSC
Diane Riddle, SWRCB	Matt Holland, SWRCB
Elissa Buttermore, Reclamation	Matt Johnson, CDFW
Erica Meyers, CDFW	Michael Macon, SWRCB
Eric Danner, SWFSC/NMFS	Mike Deas, SRSC
James Gilbert, SWFSC/NMFS	Mike Harris, CDFW
Jeff Laird, SWRCB	Mike Wright, Reclamation
Jim Earley, USFWS	Miles Daniels, SWFSC/NMFS
Jo Anna Beck, Reclamation	Russ Weatherbee, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
John Hannon, Reclamation	Shaun Green, Hoopa Valley Tribe
Josh Hoines, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area	Stephen Maurano, NMFS
Josh Israel, Reclamation	Suzanne Manugian, Reclamation
Julie Leimbach, Kearns & West	Taylor Lipscomb, USFWS
Kevin Reece, DWR	Terra Alpaugh, Kearns & West
Kimberly Holley, CDFW	Vanessa Kollmar, CDFW
Kristen Dalldorf, WAPA	

**Key Discussion Topics with
Summary of Recommendations and Outcomes**

Action items

1. **Tom Patton, Reclamation** - Check on date for flow change in Clear Creek Igo model results (OUTSTANDING ITEM).
2. **Tom Patton, Reclamation** - ensure that the isothermobaths diagram be included in future packets.
3. **Liz Kiteck, Reclamation** - provide updated schedule of flow release ASAP. Likely by 6/28.
4. **Liz Kiteck and Mike Wright, Reclamation** - collaborate to complete temp modeling upon receipt of schedule of forecasted flows.
5. **Reclamation** - share updated temp modeling with NMFS Science Center and Mike Deas.

1. Introductions

Julie Leimbach, Kearns & West, welcomed everyone and reviewed the meeting agenda.

2. Purpose and Objective

In the Shasta Cold Water Pool Management Guidance Document, Reclamation “proposes to convene the Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (SRTTG), consisting of agency representatives having direct interest on cold water pool management on the Sacramento River, at least monthly February through October, share operational information monthly, and improve technical dialogue on the implementation of the temperature management plan.” Reclamation provides “a draft temperature management plan to the SRTTG in April for its review and comment, consistent with WRO 90-5.”

3. Prior Action Items

Kearns & West reviewed action items from the previous weekly meeting (see below). There were only two outstanding items. Liz Kiteck, Reclamation, confirmed that the temperatures in the table in Sacramento Temperature Report on the CVO website had been updated to correspond with the Temperature Management Plan. She said that Tom Patton would provide an update on the date for flow change in Clear Creek Igo model results at the next weekly SRTTG meeting.

Action Items from June 17, 2021

Addressed

1. **All** - Send comments on Reclamation’s draft letter to Kristin White, Reclamation, by the end of Friday, June 18.
2. **Kristin White, Reclamation** - Revise letter with the following: 1) add language stating assumptions on reducing Trinity diversions, 2) insert same language from ROD specifying flow volume limits, 3) include note that temperature targets would still be a question.
3. **All** - Send comments on reduction of storage at Whiskeytown Reservoir NEPA process to Jo Anna Beck, Reclamation jbeck@usbr.gov
4. **KW** - Put in agenda for future SRTTG meeting after bi-weekly modeling is no longer needed: model the effect on temperatures when June-October Trinity releases are increased to 800-870 cfs as proposed in the CSPA letter alternative to the Final TMP 2021.
5. **KW** - Add to next SRTTG meeting agenda: report out from modeling subgroup meeting on June 22.

Outstanding

1. **Tom Patton, Reclamation** - Update water rights table temperatures in Sacramento Temperature Report on CVO website.

2. **Tom Patton, Reclamation** - Check on date for flow change in Clear Creek Igo model results.

4. River Fish Monitoring: 1) carcass surveys 2) redd counts 3) stranding and dewatering surveys.

Matt Johnson, CDFW, presented the river fish monitoring update.

- CDFW is surveying for carcasses seven days a week. As of June 21, they had handled 540 winter-run carcasses; 147 of those were adipose clipped; 63 were unspawned females; 24 were unspawned males.
- Aerial redd surveys are being conducted weekly. 221 redds were visible from air as of June 24; this probably does not represent all the redds in that many are in deep water above the ACID diversion dam. 25 of those redds are classified as shallow redds (i.e., in 24 inches or less of water); the furthest downriver of those shallow redds is located at river mile 26.

There were no comments or questions.

5. Fish Distribution/Forecasts: 1) Estimated percentage of the population upstream of Red Bluff Diversion Dam for steelhead, winter-run, and spring-run Chinook salmon 2) Sampling at rotary screw traps at Red Bluff Diversion Dam 3) Steelhead update 4) Livingston Stone Hatchery.

USFWS reported that it is currently the tail end of larval outmigration. They did not have any additional details pertinent to the SRTTG to share.

6. Shasta Storage Rebuilding and Spring Pulse Flow Seasonal Report

Jo Anna Beck, Reclamation, reported that the Shasta Storage Rebuilding and Spring Flow Seasonal Report has been circulated to the other agencies for feedback. Reclamation is circulating comments through the LTO Coordination Group. Thus far, there have been no comments on content, and staff are on track to finalize the report next week.

7. Questions/Comments on Hydrology Update, Operations Update and Forecasts, and Temperature Management

Reclamation asked participants to refer to the meeting materials for details and to ask any follow-up/clarifying questions. Reclamation noted that they are still conferring with DWR around some of the assumptions in the June forecast; therefore, they do not yet have a completed forecast and the materials in the packets are based on the May forecast.

Questions from participants included:

- Stephen Maurano, NMFS, made several comments on behalf of the fisheries agency representatives. He noted that the usual isothermobath diagram was not in this month's

packet and asked that it be included in the future as it is an important tool for assessing cold water pool.

- Liz Kiteck, Reclamation, explained that new profiles are taken on Tuesdays, and this packet was assembled on Monday before Tom Patton went on vacation; therefore, the diagram would have been a repeat from last week. She anticipated that the diagram would be reincluded in the next packet.
- The fisheries agencies asked whether there is any risk that low reservoir elevations leading to a decrease in head could preclude the use of the TCD.
 - Reclamation does not anticipate the reservoir elevation getting as low as elevation 815 feet (storage of approximately 420 TAF) this season. The Temperature Management Plan's 1.25 MAF storage objective would result in a 906-ft reservoir elevation.
- Current Keswick releases are higher than the release schedule outlined in the Temperature Management Plan. The fisheries agencies emphasized the importance of reducing Keswick releases to the magnitudes outlined in the Temperature Management Plan. The fisheries agencies are concerned that higher releases while redds are being built increase the risk of dewatering when flows drop later in the season. The agencies acknowledged that a combination of downstream demands and depletions have driven the higher Keswick releases.
 - Reclamation has not reduced Keswick releases due to the current controlling requirements for outflow and salinity in the Delta. They do not anticipate decreasing Keswick releases below 8,000 cfs before the end of June. 8,000 cfs was the July average anticipated by the Temperature Management Plan.
 - NMFS asked Reclamation about the upper end of anticipated Keswick releases.
 - Reclamation explained that they are working with DWR on the June flow forecast and should have a better idea of the accretions, depletions, and inflow to the reservoir by tomorrow. They will share this flow forecast as soon as possible.
- The Modeling Subgroup is ready to run the model using the actuals and updated flow forecast to understand how real time management is tracking with the Temperature Management Plan. NMFS requested that Reclamation provide the flow forecast as soon as possible in order to run the model.

8. Temperature Dependent Mortality – Report out from Modeling Subgroup

The TDM Subgroup met to determine the objectives and frequency with which they could turn around new modeling to inform real-time recommendations by SRTTG members. They proposed providing new model results on a bi-weekly basis.

- SWFSC confirmed that they need the full forecast and temperature modeling package from Reclamation in order to proceed with modeling.
- Reclamation will provide an updated flow forecast as soon as possible, likely by 6/28. Upon receipt of schedule of forecasted flows, Liz Kiteck and Mike Wright, Reclamation will collaborate to complete the temperature modeling and will share updated

temperature model results with NMFS Science Center and Mike Deas, Watercourse Engineering.

9. Review Action Items

Julie Leimbach reviewed the action items.

10. Next Meeting Scheduling

The next weekly meeting will be on July 1, 2021; the next monthly meeting will be held on the 4th Thursday of next month, July 22, 2021.