

Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (SRTTG) Meeting
September 23, 2021 | 1:00 PM – 2:45 PM
Meeting Summary

Participants

Alyson Scurlock, Kearns & West
Ammon Danielson, WAPA
Bill Poytress, USFWS
Charlie Chamberlain, USFWS
Chris Laskodi, Yurok Tribe
Craig Anderson, USFWS
Craig Williams, SWRCB
Doug Killam, CDFW
Elissa Buttermore, Reclamation
Erica Meyers, CDFW
Garwin Yip, NMFS
James Gilbert, SWFSC/NMFS
Jeff Laird, SWRCB
Jo Anna Beck, Reclamation

John Hannon, Reclamation
Kevin Reece, DWR
Kristin White, Reclamation
Liz Kiteck, Reclamation
Lee Bergfield, MBK Engineers/SRSC
Lewis Bair, RD108/SRSC
Matt Brown, USFWS
Matt Holland, SWRCB
Mike Prowatzke, WAPA
Paul Zedonis, Reclamation
Stephen Maurano, NMFS
Terra Alpaugh, Kearns & West
Thad Bettner, GCID/SRSC
Tom Patton, Reclamation

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

Action items

1. **Tom Patton, Reclamation** -
 - a. Distribute second vertical profile to SRTTG when available.
 - b. Continue to communicate weekly updates to SRTTG as the group reverts back to monthly meetings.
2. **KW** - Cancel remaining weekly SRTTG meetings and add monthly meetings for November-January to continue the monthly updates and start planning for next year.
3. **KW** - Schedule conversations with individual agencies to collect feedback on potential process and data improvements for next year's temperature management season.

1. Introductions

Terra Alpaugh, 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).

Action Items from September 16, 2021

Addressed

1. Tom Patton, Reclamation -

- a. Add 9/15 vertical profile to Shasta Lake Profiles graph and distribute to SRTTG.
- b. Distribute two vertical profiles the week of 9/20.

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

Doug Killam, CDFW, presented the river fish monitoring update.

- The winter-run Chinook carcass survey will be complete by 10/1.
- CDFW is seeing a lot of new fish beginning to spawn (likely spring-run Chinook).
- CDFW is starting to count new shallow redds; approximately two-thirds of fish have emerged from winter-run redds and the remaining fish are anticipated to emerge by mid-to late-October.
- CDFW has completed stranding/dewatering surveys for the current flow (6,800 cfs) from River Mile 229 to 302; they have relocated several winter-run Chinook from stranding sites.

5. Fish Distribution/Forecasts: 1) Estimated percentage of the population upstream of Red Bluff Diversion Dam (RBDD) 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.

Bill Poytress, USFWS, presented the fish distributions/forecasts update for RBDD.

- RBDD is currently experiencing its peak catch period for the year.
- The mean cumulative weekly passage of winter-run Chinook through 9/23 (week 38) for the last 18 years of passage data is estimated at 35.3%.
- The next biweekly report that includes fish passage values will be sent out on 9/24.

Charlie Chamberlain, USFWS, provided an update on Clear Creek.

- USFWS completed snorkel surveys on Clear Creek; so far, 435 spring-run Chinook redds have been identified with 4.5 miles of Clear Creek left to survey at the lower end.

Nobody was present to provide an update on the fish distribution/forecasts for Livingston Stone Hatchery.

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

Tom Patton, Reclamation, asked participants to refer to the meeting materials for details and to ask any follow-up/clarifying questions. He provided a brief update:

- Not much has changed over the last month; the system is dry and warm.
- Flows at Keswick are being held at 6,800 cfs.
- Trinity River diversions are helping to cool water temperatures. Water temperatures out of the TCD are close to 60°F.
- Reclamation will distribute the 9/24 vertical profile for Shasta Lake via email when it is available.

The group discussed the following:

- September 90% exceedance forecast
 - Reclamation – September forecast has updated inflows to Shasta Reservoir and more precise releases from Keswick Dam. The previous forecast included reduced Trinity River diversions for July and August, while the September forecast includes increased Trinity River diversions for September after spot measurements indicated cooler water temperatures.
- Operations past January 2022
 - Reclamation – The September 90% forecast does not include operations past January 2022. Reclamation does not want to show operations that are not feasible since there is currently not enough water to meet all system requirements for next year. There is a lot of discussion of what next year will look like if it is another dry year, and even under a 50% exceedance forecast, conditions do not look good. Reclamation will share more information as it becomes available.

7. Temperature Dependent Mortality

SWFSC presented temperature dependent mortality (TDM) modeling for the Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team (USST) flow Alternative J and noted that the mean annual TDM for Alternative J is estimated at 79%, which is similar to TDM estimates for earlier flow Alternatives.

8. Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team

The USST met on 9/22 to discuss the different flow Alternatives.

- The group reviewed modeling for flow Alternative J.
- Based on this year's constraints, group members re-confirmed that flow Alternative J is the best path forward as of now.
- The group will meet again in November once flows have dropped to 3,250 cfs and water temperatures have increased above the 60°F threshold.

9. Review Action Items

Terra Alpaugh, Kearns & West, reviewed the action items.

10. Future Meeting Scheduling

The group is reverting back to monthly meetings as the SRTTG season winds down. Reclamation will continue to send out weekly updates in place of weekly meetings. The next monthly meeting will be held on the 4th Thursday of next month, October 28, 2021.

During October and November, Kearns & West is planning on having individual post-season conversations with SRTTG representatives from each organization to gather information about this year's process to plan for next year.