



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Stanislaus Watershed Team

10 a.m.–12 p.m., Stanislaus Watershed Team Notes
<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/bdo/stanislaus-watershed-team.html>

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

1. Actions

- a. Peggy Manza - provide the approval, timing constraints, and water volume of additional New Melones releases, if approved, to NMFS, USFWS and CDFW as soon as available.
- b. JD Wikert – provide updated draft flow schedule for review by SWT after receipt of water transfer decision
- c. Peggy Manza - share document with the origins of the current ramping rates to the SWT.
- d. All - email Barb with suggested modification of water temperature data as desired for future handouts.
- e. JD Wikert– follow up with Sarah on finalizing Proposed Action Elements table for inclusion in notes going forward.
- f. Steve Knell - draft brief drought projections and summary explanation for October.
- g. Erin Foresman – confirm Functional Flow presentation for October 20 ARG meeting

2. Introductions:

- a. USBR: Peggy Manza, Liz Kiteck, Sarah Perrin, Luke Davis, Elissa Buttermore, Lee Mao
- b. NMFS: Barb Byrne
- c. USFWS: JD Wikert
- d. CDFW: Crystal Rigby, Gretchen Murphey

- e. SWRCB: Chris Carr, Yongxuan Gao, Erin Foresman
 - f. DWR: Vinh Giang, Austin Hall
 - g. SSJID: Brandon Nakagawa
 - h. Kearns & West: Rafi Silberblatt, Susan Ellsworth
3. Announcements
- a. No announcements were provided
4. Operations Update and Forecasts/Hydrology
- a. New Melones:
 - i. Storage is currently at 869 TAF and dropping at a rate of approximately 3-3.5 TAF a day.
 - ii. Accumulated inflow is 340 TAF for the year with an anticipated year-end total of 355 TAF of inflow. This is approximately 50 TAF more than predicted based on DWR forecast.
 - b. Goodwin:
 - iii. Current releases are 300 cfs with a likely decrease of 50 cfs in the near term.
 - iv. Combined Joint Main and South Main Canal releases are approximately 950 cfs due to diminishing agricultural demand.
 - c. Tulloch:
 - v. Current storage is fluctuating between 64-66 TAF. Drawdown will begin at the end of September.
 - d. USBR noted that Ripon and Vernalis flow gauges were recalibrated several weeks ago which resulted in a correction factor within the flow data which can be seen on Tuesday, 9/7/21. Recalibration checks are conducted approximately every 2-3 months and as needed.
 - e. See meeting handout for additional details.
5. Temperature Updates
- a. The drop in flows from 1500 cfs to approximately 350 cfs in mid-August has resulted in increased water temperatures as seen in monthly water temperature figures. Increases downstream of the canyon are more significant with the highest impact noted at Ripon.
 - b. Temperatures at Orange Blossom remain under 65° and reasonably suitable for rearing salmonids.

- c. [Action Item] – Email Barb with suggestions for any modification to the presentation of water temperature data for the SWT handout.
 - d. See meeting handout for details.
6. Flow Planning
- a. Fall Pulse Flow Discussion
 - i. The SWT discussed the proposed Fall Pulse Flow schedule as provided by USFWS which, in addition to fisheries considerations, takes into account the needs of rafting, CDFW carcass surveys and a swiftwater rescue training. The spreadsheet shared with SWT also includes a draft schedule for a proposed 30 TAF water transfer. The draft schedules move the transfer water primarily during the first two weeks of October and the fall pulse flow volume in the Stepped Release Plan during the second two weeks of October.
 - ii. The group noted a potential 30 TAF water transfer which is pending approval by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).
 - 1. NMFS asked when SWRCB is likely to make a decision regarding the 30 TAF transfer.
 - a. USBR responded that the comment period has closed and USBR needs to respond to comments which will happen in the next several days, after which the SWRCB will review and make a decision.
 - iii. USBR noted the possibility of using transfer water in lieu of stepped release plan (SRP) water to conserve storage in New Melones. Preliminary feedback from management suggests that the transfer water would have to be additional to the SRP water. USBR is awaiting final decision on whether it can be substituted or must be additional.
 - 1. USFWS expressed concerns over allowing transfer of environmental water billed to the CVPIA (b)(2) account.
 - iv. The group agreed to the following scenarios and considerations for a Fall Flow Planning Schedule pending the 30 TAF water transfer:
 - 1. Scenario 1 – No transfer of water beyond the SRP flows. Use the flow schedule “Stan Alt 1” provided in the spreadsheet *SJ-Trib-Flow-Planning_2021-09-02* on the Stan-new tab.
 - 2. Scenario 2 – Up to 30 TAF water transfer. Follow “Stan Alt 1” as above (Scenario 1) for the SRP flows. Release the bulk of the transfer water in October as scheduled in “Transfer” provided in the *SJ-Trib-Flow-Planning_2021-09-02* on the Stan-new tab. Any additional water to be transferred should be scheduled for late-September and be capped at 1,500 cfs. This scenario assumes that none of the SRP flows are available

to replace the transfer water and that approvals are in place by September 27.

3. Scenario 3 - Up to 30 TAF water transfer not approved until after September 27. Transfer water should be released with the following constraints.
 - a. Attempt to complete transfer on or before October 15.
 - b. Cap releases at 1,500 cfs if possible.
 - c. Schedule flows on Mondays for 450 cfs or less to allow for DFW carcass surveys.
 - d. On October 13-14, provide flows of at least 500 cfs for swiftwater rescue training.
 - e. If possible, on Oct 1-3 and 8-10, maintain flows between 800 and 1,300 cfs for canyon rafting.
4. Scenario 4 - SRP releases are intended to meet some or all of the transfer water. Consult with NMFS, USFWS and CDFW representatives from the SWT as quickly as possible to allow for a revised SRP flow shaping.
- v. The SWT additionally agreed that the aforementioned scenarios may be adjusted pending discussion regarding D-1641 October pulse flow requirement at Vernalis.
- vi. [Action Item]: USBR will provide the approval, timing constraints, and water volume to NMFS, USFWS and CDFW representatives from the SWT for proposed shaping, if and as soon as an approval of the water transfer is obtained.
 1. [Action Item]: JD, Barb and Gretchen will develop a draft schedule which will be provided to SWT for quick comments.
- vii. USBR indicated a willingness to discuss changes to ramping rates, noting that the original ramping rates originated with NMFS. [Action Item]: Peggy will send documentation regarding the origins of the current ramping rates to the SWT.
- viii. SSJID noted some preliminary concerns about the impact of the 30 TAF transfer on storage. SSJID suggested that USBR provide further explanation on related operational constraints to the SWRCB.

7. Stanislaus River Forum (SRF) Call Review

- a. Stanislaus River Forum was held via Teams on September 14, 2021. Barbara Byrne (NMFS), JD Wikert (USFWS), Denise Barnard (EBMUD), Logan Day (PSMFC), Peggy Manza (USBR), Sarah Perrin (USBR), Cory Starr (PSMFC), Steve Tsao (CDFW), Gretchen Murphey (CDFW), Jason Guignard (FishBio), Jerry Barton

(public), Patrick Maloney (TID) and Jeanne Zolezzi (SEWD) were in attendance. Updates on operations, temperature and fish monitoring were provided and discussed. JD asked if any measurable inflows came out of last week's storm. Peggy said that no additional runoff occurred. JD relayed a message from Elissa Buttermore regarding restoration projects: Goodwin Canyon gravel augmentation project complete, having issues with vandals on site though. Peggy provided an update on the proposed water transfer: USBR filed a petition with SWRCB, comments were received, SWRCB will review USBR responses to comments, decision by end of month. USFWS expressed desire to be involved in shaping transfer water.

8. Fish Monitoring and Studies

- a. RST monitoring has concluded for the year, however, Fishbio installed the weir near Riverbank and monitoring began 9/8/21. Two clipped adult fall-run Chinook have been caught in the weir so far.
- b. CDFW carcass surveys begin in October but may be impacted by COVID restrictions.
- c. See handout for details.

9. Restoration Project Updates

- a. Gravel augmentation at Goodwin Canyon was completed as of 9/12/21. In total, 7200 tons were injected; 4700 tons in the float tube and 2500 tons at the cable crossing area. The project was successful and exceeded the goal of approximately 4500 tons. There were some significant challenges with security including damage and theft of equipment and threats to contractors. Contact Elissa Buttermore for more information.
- b. USFWS noted that CVPIA Notice of Funding Opportunity proposals are due 11/30/21. Contact JD if you have ideas for projects on the Stanislaus or Lower San Joaquin Rivers and he can assist in submission. Proposals can't be submitted by a federal or for-profit entity (though they can be collaborators).

10. Progress Update on Proposed Action Elements

- a. USFWS noted that a draft template for tracking progress on Proposed Action Elements has been developed and is awaiting approval from USBR for inclusion in the SWT notes going forward.
 - i. [Action Item]: JD will locate the latest communication and template and liaise with Sarah to move forward.

11. Other Discussion Items

- a. USBR shared a schedule and outline for SWT Annual Reporting. The goal is to finalize the report by the beginning of December.

- i. [Action Item]: Sarah will share the Annual Report schedule and outline with Susan to share with SWT.
- a. NMFS provided an update on the LTO Guidance Document update process. CDFW suggested including relevant updates in an appendix to the SWT Annual Report.
- b. Future presentations
 - ii. A Functional Flows presentation is scheduled for the October meeting.
- c. Items to elevate to WOMT
 - iii. No items to elevate to WOMT

12. Next Meeting

- a. Wednesday, October 20, 2021 (10am-12pm)



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Stanislaus Watershed Team Agenda

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Conference Line: 1 (321) 209-6143; Meeting ID: 901 988 581#

Webinar: Join Microsoft Teams Meeting

Stanislaus Watershed Team Notes: <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/bdo/stanislaus-watershed-team.html>

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

1. Introductions
2. Ground Rules¹
3. Announcements
4. Operations Update and Forecasts/Hydrology
5. Temperature Updates
6. Flow Planning
 - a. Fall Pulse Flow proposal
7. Stanislaus River Forum (SRF) Call Review
8. Fish Monitoring and Studies
9. Restoration Project Updates
10. Progress Update on Proposed Action Elements
11. Other Discussion Items

¹ The Stanislaus Watershed Team's Ground Rules are as follows:

1. Seek to understand and respect opposing views and suggestions for change (w/in the parameters of the Guidance Document).
2. Seek to leverage collective expertise (including from agencies' & stakeholders' consultants).
3. Hold questions/discussion at the discretion of the presenter.
4. Honor time limits - keep comments and discussion succinct and focused on meeting objectives as needed.
5. Make constructive proposals and suggestions to seek mutually agreeable solutions for all parties.
6. Keep a record of discussion and dialogue.
7. One speaker at a time
8. Take space/make space

- a. Annual reporting check-in
- b. Future presentations?
- c. Items to elevate to WOMT

12. Review Action Items

13. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 (10am-12pm)

New Melones Dam Operations

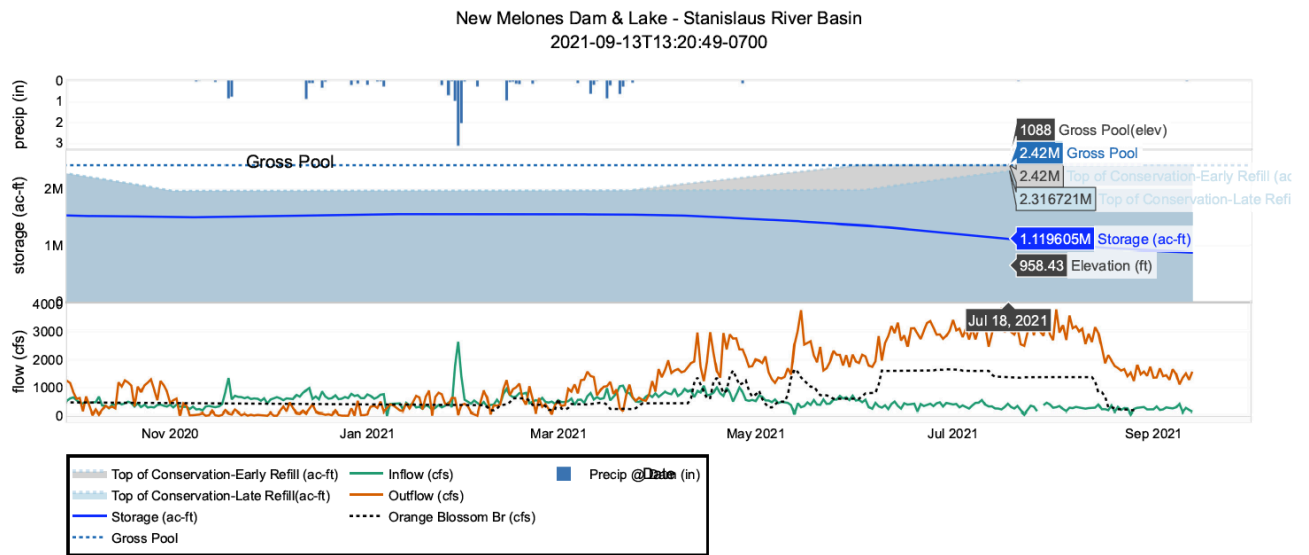


Figure 1. New Melones Dam & Lake WY21 Conditions

Daily CVP Water Supply Report

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION-CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT-CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021; RUN DATE: September 13, 2021

Table 1. RESERVOIR RELEASES IN CUBIC FEET/SECOND

RESERVOIR	DAM	WY 2020	WY 2021	15 YR MEDIAN
TRINITY	LEWISTON	702	461	467
SACRAMENTO	KESWICK	7,058	6,824	7,931
FEATHER	OROVILLE (SWP)	2,100	1,250	4,500
AMERICAN	NIMBUS	2,005	574	1,795
STANISLAUS	GOODWIN	202	352	208
SAN JOAQUIN	FRIANT	408	255	349

Table 2. STORAGE IN MAJOR RESERVOIRS IN THOUSANDS OF ACRE-FEET

RESERVOIR	CAPACITY	15 YR AVG	WY 2020	WY 2021	% O 15 YR AVG
TRINITY	2,448	1,387	1,448	797	57
SHASTA	4,552	2,395	2,280	1,155	48
FOLSOM	977	460	454	234	51
NEW MELONES	2,420	1,292	1,549	875	68
FED. SAN LUIS	966	260	294	0	0
TOTAL NORTH CVP	11,363	5,794	6,025	3,061	53
MILLERTON	520	274	196	249	91
OROVILLE (SWP)	3,538	1,658	1,676	792	48

Table 3. ACCUMULATED INFLOW FOR WATER YEAR TO DATE IN THOUSANDS OF ACRE-FEET

RESERVOIR	CURRENT WY 2021	WY 1977	WY 1983	15 YR AVG	% O 15 YR AVG
TRINITY	334	211	2,872	1,020	33
SHASTA	2,367	2,465	10,615	4,616	51
FOLSOM	827	345	6,449	2,362	35
NEW MELONES	340	----	2,717	942	36
MILLERTON	607	347	4,575	1,451	42

Table 4. ACCUMULATED PRECIPITATION FOR WATER YEAR TO DATE IN INCHES

RESERVOIR	CURRENT WY 2021	WY 1977	WY1983	AVG (N YRS)	% OF AVG	LAST 24 HRS
TRINITY AT FISH HATCHERY	16.67	12.52	56.67	31.44 (59)	53	0.00
SACRAMENTO AT SHASTA DAM	24.62	17.69	114.50	61.09 (64)	40	0.32
AMERICAN AT BLUE CANYON	32.42	16.90	104.10	65.61 (46)	49	0.00
STANISLAUS AT NEW MELONES	16.82	----	46.38	27.17 (43)	62	0.00
SAN JOAQUIN AT HUNTINGTON LK	17.68	17.50	83.20	41.26 (46)	43	0.00

Current Releases

Goodwin Reservoir's Daily Operations for the month of September can be found at this website:
<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvo/vungvari/gwdop0921.pdf>

New Melones' Daily Operations for the month of September can be found at this website:
<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvo/vungvari/nmldop0921.pdf>

Tulloch Reservoir's Daily Operations for the month of September can be found at this website:
<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvo/vungvari/tuldop0921.pdf>

Last Month's Releases

Goodwin Reservoir's Daily Operations for the month of August can be found at this website:
<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvo/vungvari/gwdop0821.pdf>

New Melones' Daily Operations for the month of August can be found at this website:
<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvo/vungvari/nmldop0821.pdf>

Tulloch Reservoir's Daily Operations for the month of August can be found at this website:
<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvo/vungvari/tuldop0821.pdf>

September 2021 Water Temperature and Fish Monitoring Update

Year-to-Date Flows

The SRP flow schedule for Critical years requires 150 cfs through the summer. Recent releases have been higher than the SRP minimum flow for various reasons, including Delta needs (through August 15, 2021), the dissolved oxygen standard at Ripon, and releases to implement the Stockton East Water District transfer. Goodwin releases since October 1, 2020 are shown in Figure 2.

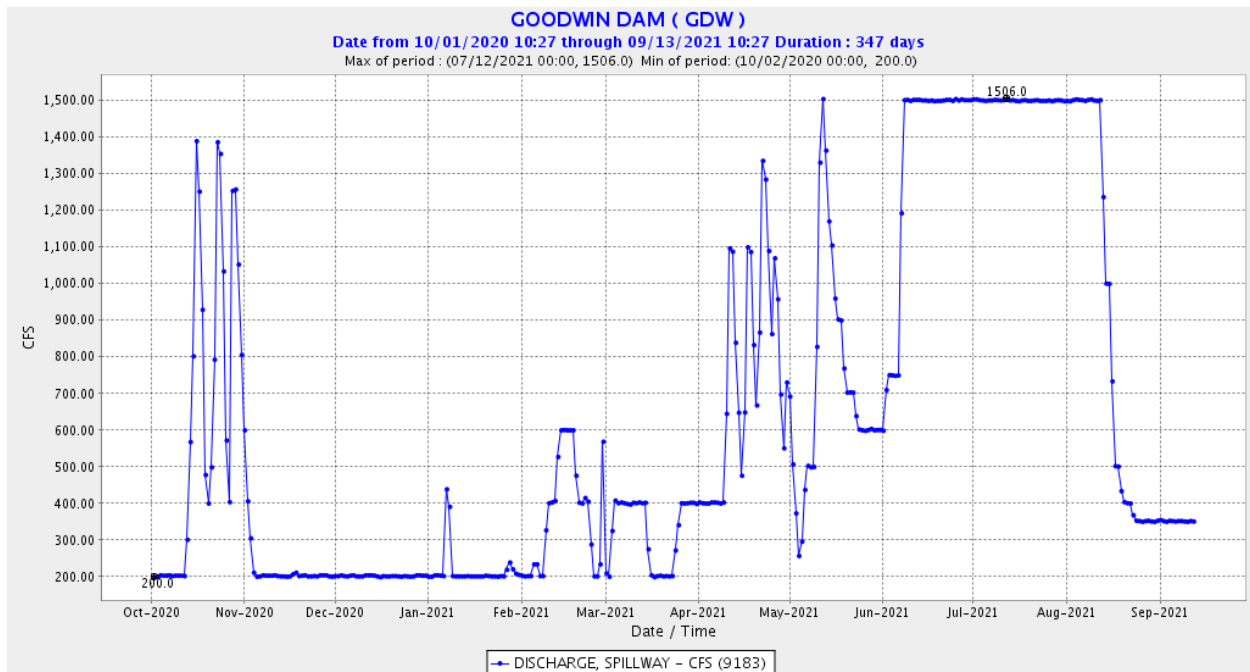


Figure 2. Goodwin (daily) releases to the Stanislaus River since October 1, 2020. Data from GDW station on CDEC.

Water Temperature

The temperature thresholds included in Figures 3-10, below, are the thresholds used in the 2019 NMFS LTO BiOp¹ (see Incidental Take Statement on p. 807) to define the extent of take anticipated from water temperature effects in the Stanislaus River. *It is important to note that many of the temperature figures provide subdaily information or information at locations other than Orange Blossom Bridge and thus don't reflect the specific metrics for take in the 2019 NMFS LTO BiOp.* Temperature thresholds have been added to these figures at the request of Stanislaus Watershed Team members to provide a general reference of water temperature suitability.

Water temperatures in the Stanislaus River since June 1, 2021 are shown below at Goodwin Canyon (Figure 3), Orange Blossom Bridge (Figure 4), and at Ripon (Figure 5). Water temperatures in the

¹ The 2019 NMFS LTO BiOp is available online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/biological-opinion-reinitiation-consultation-long-term-operation-central-valley>

San Joaquin River since June 1, 2021 are shown below at Vernalis (Figure 6). Current-year water temperatures are plotted along with historical temperatures for Orange Blossom Bridge (Figure 7), Ripon (Figure 8), and Vernalis (Figure 9). A compilation of Stanislaus River water temperatures and Goodwin releases is provided in Figure 10.

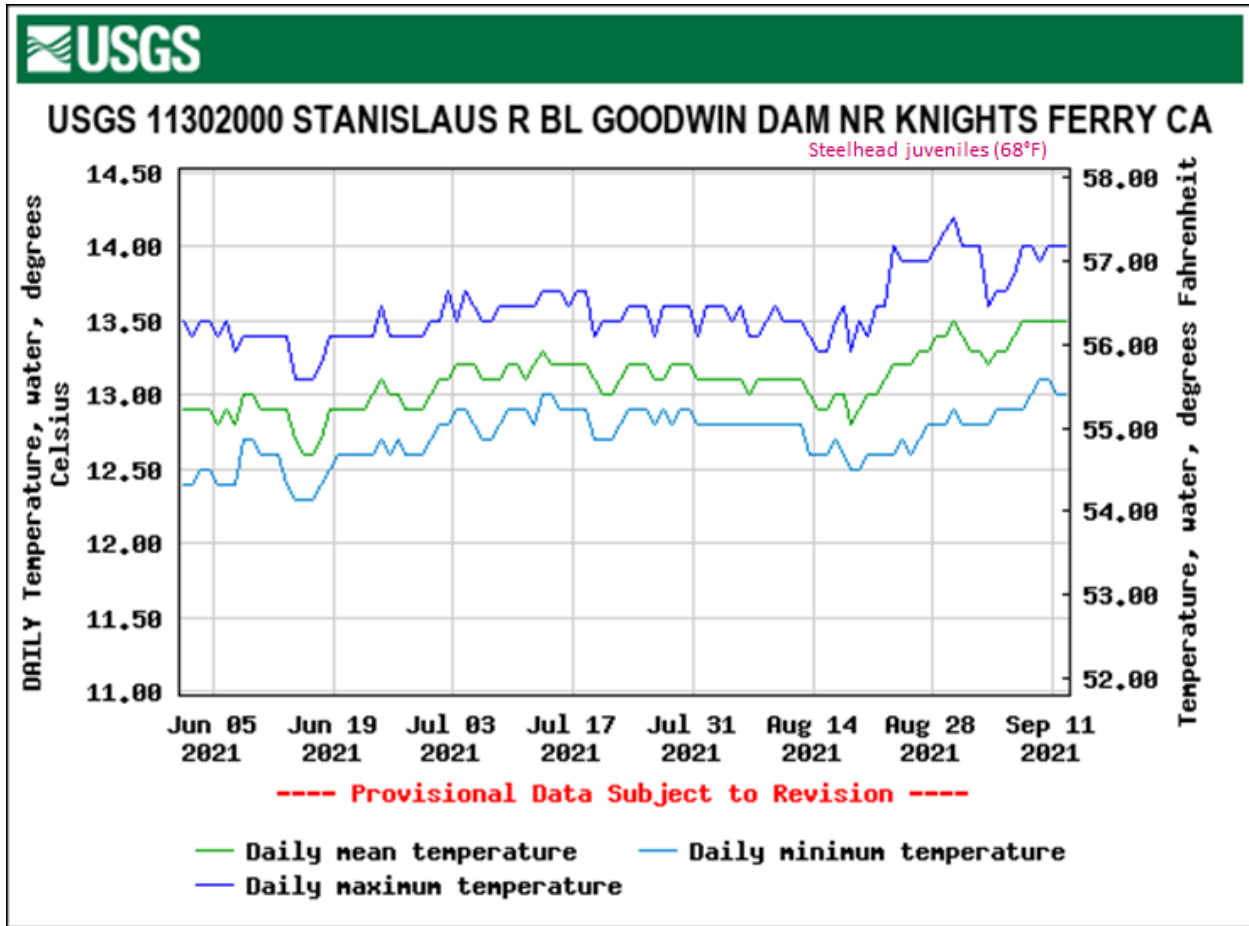


Figure 3. Daily water temperatures on the Stanislaus River upstream of Knights Ferry since June 1, 2021. Data from USGS gage 11302000 on NWIS; temperature threshold reference added by SWT.

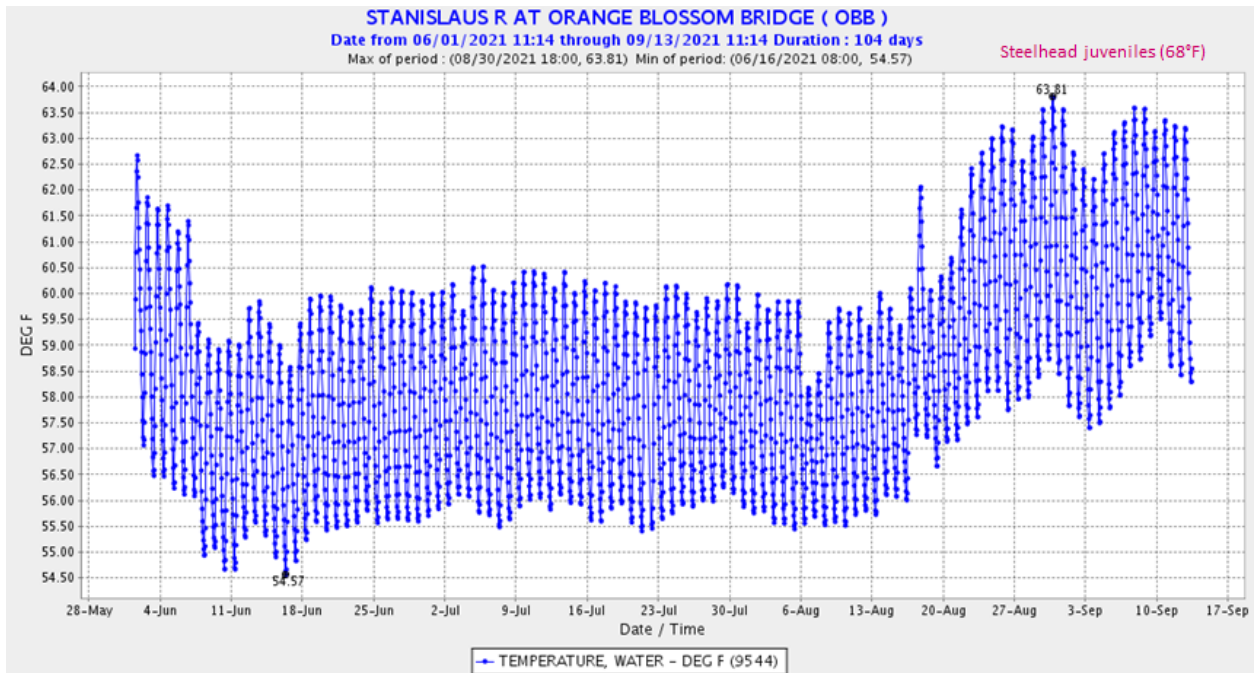


Figure 4. Stanislaus (hourly) water temperatures at Orange Blossom Bridge since June 1, 2021. Data from OBB station on CDEC; temperature threshold reference added by SWT.

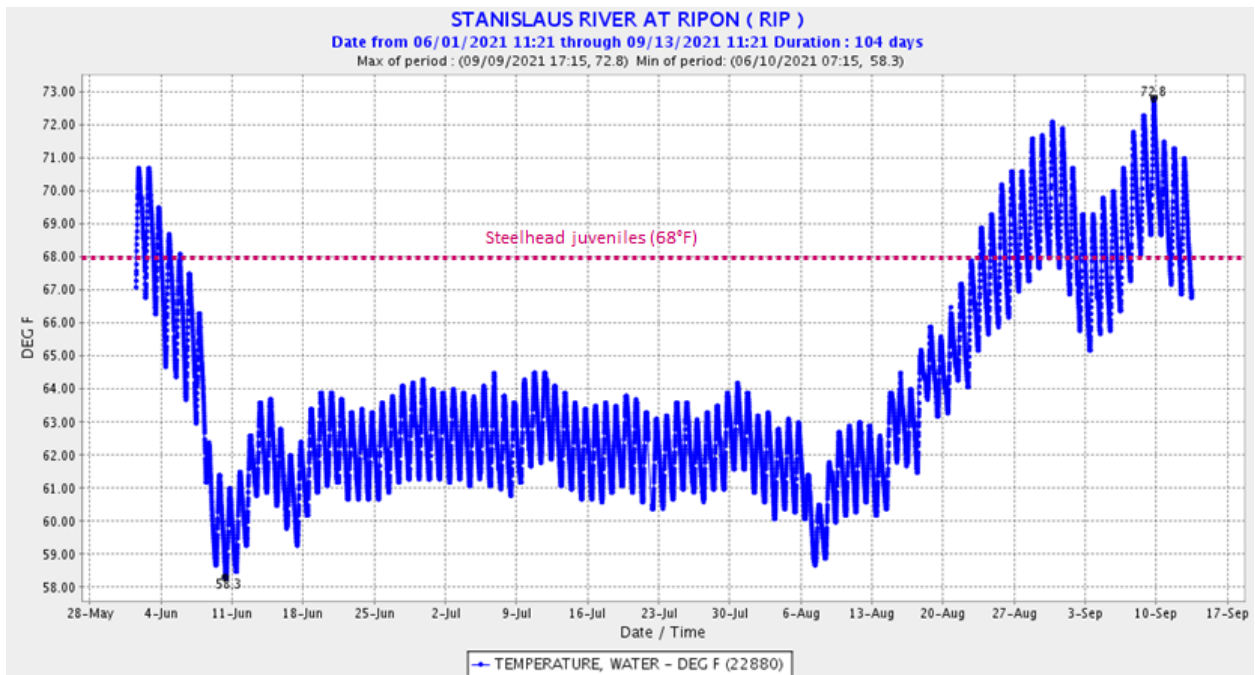


Figure 5. Stanislaus (15-minute) water temperatures at Ripon since June 1, 2021. Data from RIP station on CDEC; temperature threshold reference line added by SWT.

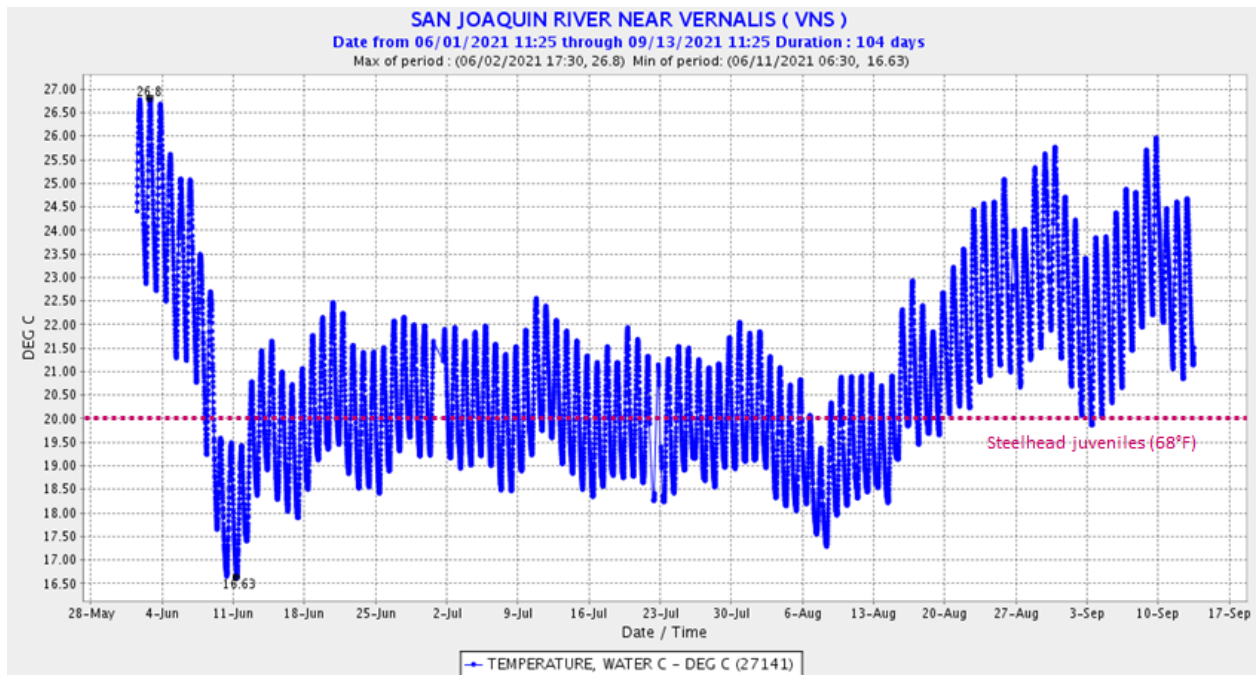


Figure 6. San Joaquin River (15-minute) water temperatures at Vernalis since June 1, 2021. Data from VNS station on CDEC; temperature threshold reference line added by SWT. Note that, unlike in the previous figures, temperature is reported in degrees Celsius. 10°C=50°F; 12°C=53.6°F; 14°C=57.2°F; 16°C=60.8°F; 18°C=64.4°F; 20°C=68.0°F; 22°C=71.6°F; 24°C=75.2°F; 26°C=78.8°F; 28°C=82.4°F; 30°C=86.0°F.

**WY 2001-2021 OBB Stanislaus R at Orange Blossom Bridge
Daily Average Water Temperature (F)
Observed Range 36.30-73.10**

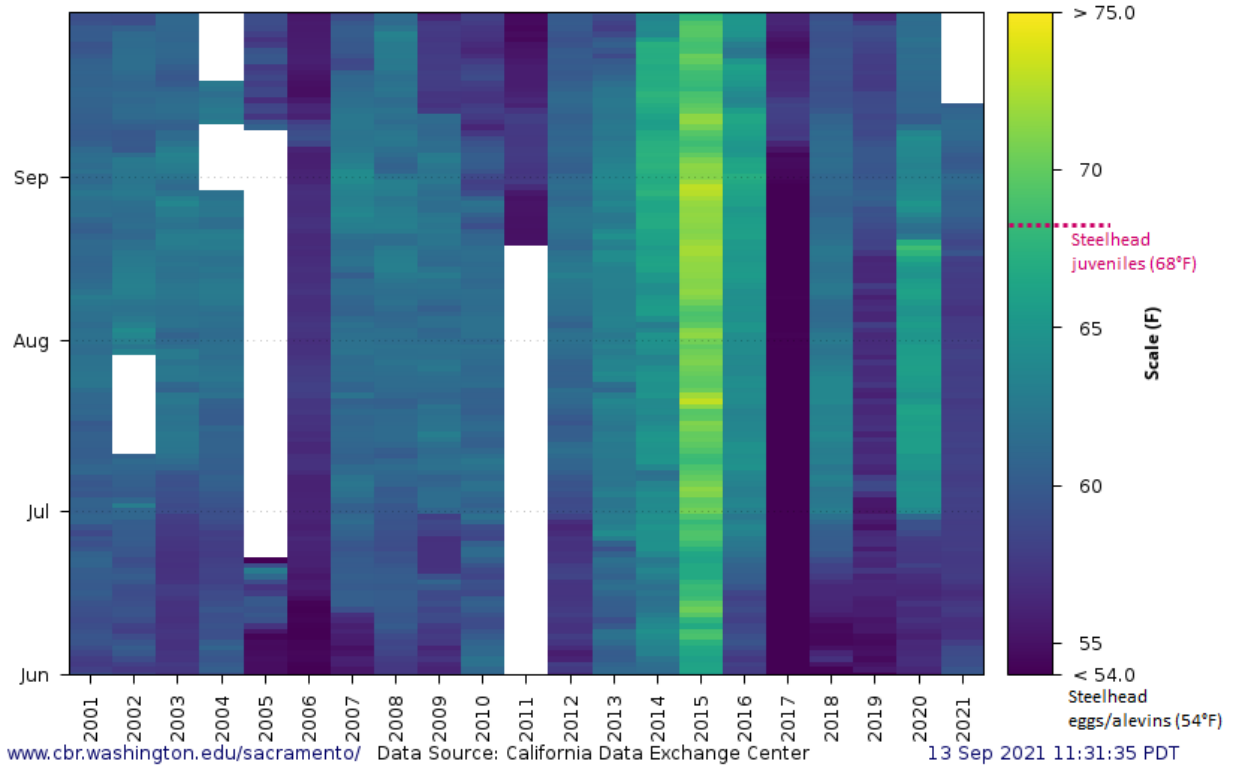


Figure 7. Stanislaus River water temperatures at Orange Blossom Bridge for June through September from 2001 to present. Data from SacPAS; temperature threshold reference lines added by SWT. http://www.cbr.washington.edu/sacramento/data/query_river_allyears.html

WY 2012-2021 RIP Stanislaus R at Ripon (USGS)
Daily Average Water Temperature (F)
Observed Range 51.96-82.35

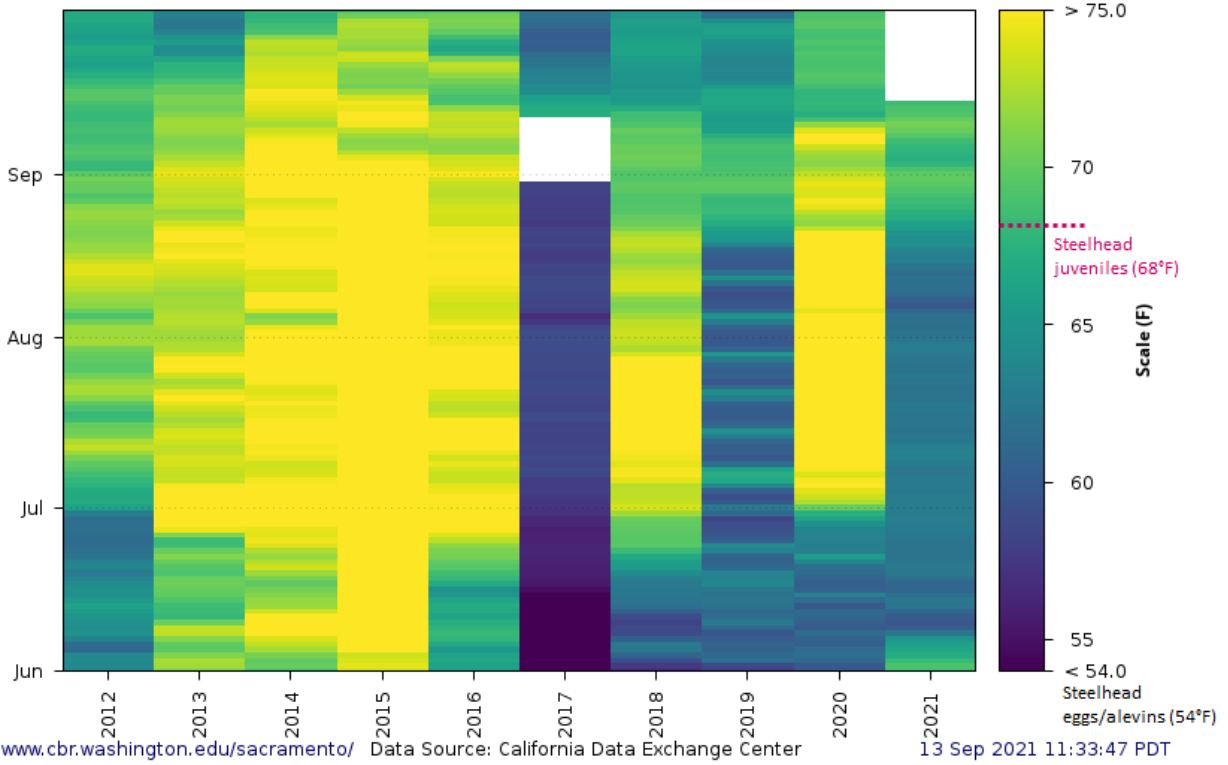


Figure 8. Stanislaus River water temperatures at Ripon for June through September from 2012 to present. Figure from SacPAS using RIP station data from CDEC; temperature threshold reference lines added by SWT. http://www.cbr.washington.edu/sacramento/data/query_river_allyears.html

WY 2015-2021 VNS San Joaquin R near Vernalis
Daily Average Water Temperature (F)
Observed Range 60.82-84.80

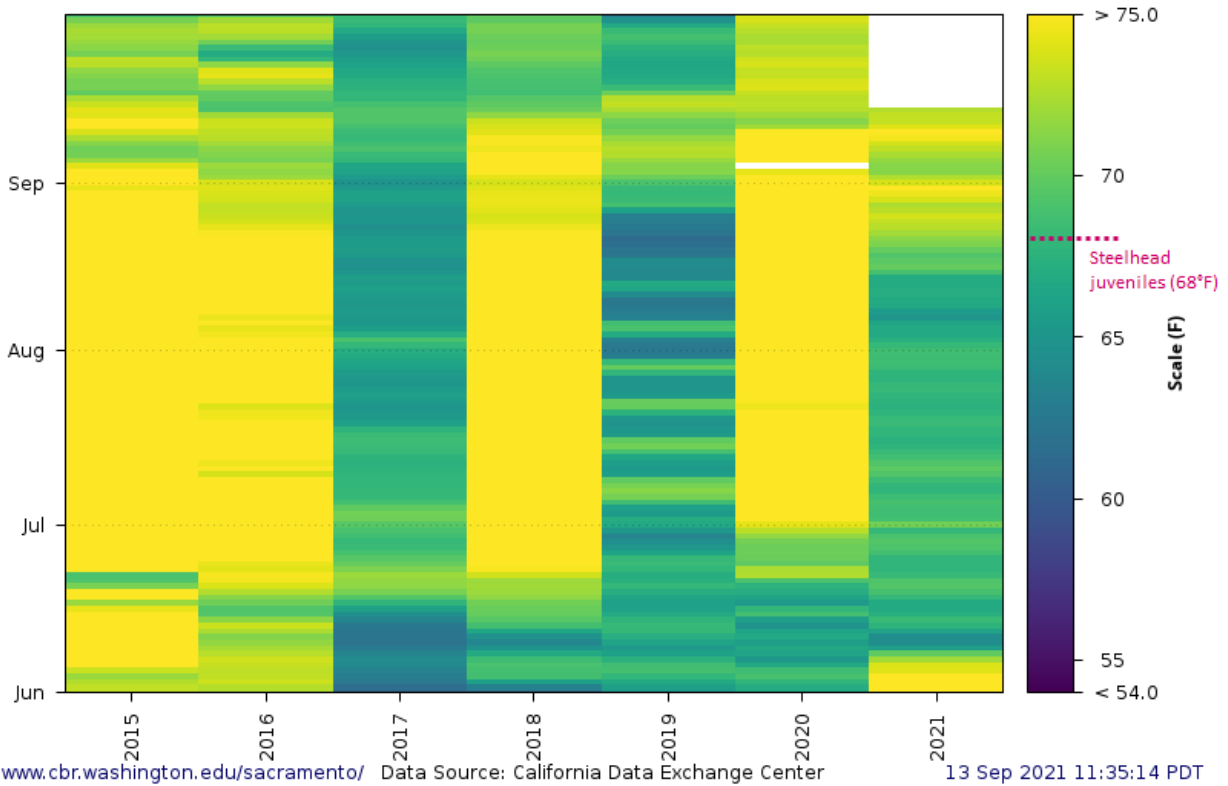


Figure 9. San Joaquin River water temperatures at Vernalis for June through September from 2015 to present. Figure from SacPAS using VNS station data from CDEC; temperature threshold reference line added by SWT.

http://www.cbr.washington.edu/sacramento/data/query_river_allyears.html

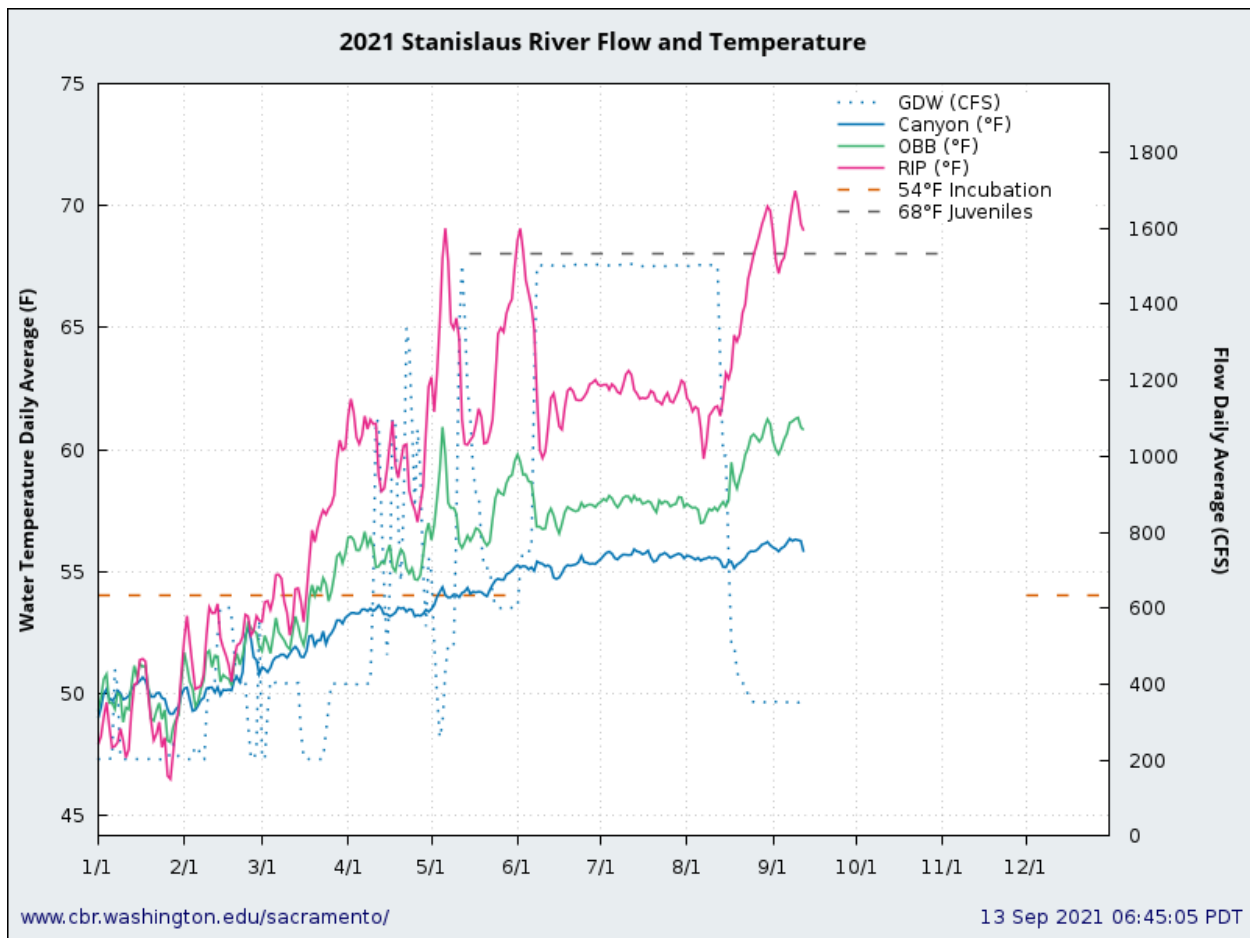


Figure 10. Stanislaus River flow and water temperatures from January 1, 2021 to present. Data (including temperature threshold reference lines) from SacPAS: http://www.cbr.washington.edu/sacramento/data/tc_stanislaus.html

Update on Fish Monitoring

Monitoring for juvenile salmonid outmigration using rotary screw traps has ended for the year. Monitoring for adult salmonid migration into the river is beginning. Fishbio installed the weir near Riverbank and sampling began on September 8, 2021. CDFW expects to begin carcass surveys on October 4, 2021.

Mossdale Trawl

No salmonids have been caught in the Mossdale trawl sampling since June 14, 2021.