



Stanislaus Watershed Team

10 a.m.–12 p.m., Stanislaus Watershed Team Notes
[Stanislaus Watershed Team – USBR](#)

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

1. New Actions
 - a. USBR - follow up with Tri-dam regarding night releases
2. Introductions
 - a. USBR: Zarela Guerrero, Peggy Manza, Liz Kiteck, Cat Pien, Luke Davis, Melissa Vignau, Spencer Marshall, Elissa Buttermore
 - b. NMFS: Barb Byrne
 - c. USFWS: JD Wikert, Craig Anderson
 - d. CDFW: Gretchen Murphey, Crystal Rigby, Steve Tsao, Erica Meyers
 - e. SWRCB: Chris Carr, Yongxuan Gao, Erin Foresman
 - f. SSJID: Brandon Nakagawa,
 - g. OID:
 - h. Stockton East:
 - i. Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District:
 - j. DWR: Matt Meyers, Mike Ford
 - k. WAPA:
 - l. FISHBIO:
 - m. Other: Logan Day, Justin Hopkins
 - n. Kearns & West: Rafael Silberblatt, Eric Holmes

3. Announcements
 - a. None
4. Operations Update and Forecasts/Hydrology
 - a. New Melones:
 - i. Current storage is 619 TAF on 9/21/22 and the end-of-September(EOS) storage will likely be 605-610 TAF if irrigation demands continue to drop off rapidly.
 - ii. Inflow for the WY is 574 TAF which is equivalent to 60% of the 15-year average.
 - iii. Precipitation is 19.99 inches or 74% of average.
 - iv. The operational drawdown rate is averaging 1 TAF per day for the month of September with data indicating that this rate is decreasing.
 - b. Goodwin:
 - i. Releases increased on 9/7/22 to 505 cfs and returned to 202 cfs on 9/13/22. As of 9/21/22 Goodwin is releasing its baseflow of 150 cfs with no anticipated modifications.
 - ii. Dissolved oxygen should not be an issue with continued mild weather.
 - c. Tulloch:
5. Releases were increased by 500 cfs during the end of the September heatwave to support additional hydropower production at New Melones. Water Temperature Updates
 - a. CDFW noted that water temperatures increased significantly at Orange Blossom despite high flows during the September heatwave; however, water temperatures are decreasing heading into October with Ripon following a similar trend.
6. Flow Planning
 - a. USFWS presented on the October pulse flow noting that the Excel tool has a two-day delay built in for Stanislaus and Tuolumne flows and a three-day delay for Merced flows to reach Vernalis. Goodwin Canyon rafting companies requested flows of 800 to 1,200 cfs on the weekends. Lower flows are needed for CDFW carcass surveys on Mondays or Tuesdays.
 - b. USFWS and CDFW will work with USBR to implement hourly ramping rates for use by the carcass survey.

Questions/Comments:

- CDFW – Has USBR been in contact with the new Tri-dam operator?
 - USBR has been corresponding with Sue Larson in preparation for thenighttime ramping changes.
- SSJID – Is there significant hyacinth growth in the Tuolumne this year?
 - CDFW noted that the hyacinth growth this year in the Tuolumne iscomparable with what was present last year, and the Merced isdisconnected again.

7. Stanislaus River Forum (SRF) Call Review

- a. Juvenile rotary screw traps will be installed in early January of 2023.
- b. Mossdale trawl is ongoing, but no data has been reported due to the lack ofsalmonid detections.
- c. Hills Ferry barrier was installed just upstream of the Merced confluence onthe San Joaquin River.
- d. Salmon were found spawning in the Tuolumne on 9/20/2022

8. Restoration Project Updates

- a. USFWS announced that CVPIA approved projects at the Mohler property(owned by National Wildlife Refuge) and Tartuga (just downstream of the 120bridge). East Stanislaus RCD will be the lead fund recipient and Cramer FishSciences will be the design subcontractor for both projects. Funds should beavailable in 2023. The next round of CVPIA funding is now available.

Questions/Comments

- NMFS – Does the lack of a continuing resolution affect the timing of fundsbeing awarded by CVPIA?
 - USFWS suggested that it probably will not because CVPIA money isbased on reimbursables; however, if staff responsible for reimbursingproject expenses were to be furloughed, that might cause a delay.USBR does not distribute awards until it has collected funds fromwater sales, and the money in question is from 2021 sales whichshould be secure.

9. Progress Update on Proposed Action Elements

- a. None

10. Other Discussion Items.

- a. Curtailments

- i. SWRCB shared that with recent precipitation, many curtailments have been lifted. Post and pre 1914 appropriative water rights on the San Joaquin River watershed, outside of the Delta with a priority date of 1900 or later, are still curtailed.
- b. Annual reporting check-in
 - i. USBR shared a proposed timeline for developing the final annual report with a deadline of 10/05/2022 for the first draft. Further coordination needs to be conducted via email to finalize the approach to drafting the report.
- c. Items to elevate to WOMT
 - i. None

11. Next Meeting

12. Wednesday, October 19, 2022 (10 a.m.–12 p.m.)