Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team

Fall Flow Reduction Coordination

Friday, August 14, 2020 | 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

MEETING SUMMARY

Participants

Reclamation	Elissa Buttermore, Randi Field, Josh Israel, Mario Manzo, Tom Patton, Rich Robertson
USFWS	Matt Brown, Jim Earley, Donald Ratcliff
NMFS	Flora Cordoleani, Stephen Maurano, Evan Sawyer
CDFW	Matt Johnson, Ken Kundargi,
DWR	Brett Harvey, Kevin Reece
SRSC	Thad Bettner, Roger Cornwell, Anne Williams (MBK)
Kearns & West	Terra Alpaugh, Julie Leimbach

Action Items

- USST members to provide any feedback on draft schedule by Tues 8/18 AM.

Key Discussion Topics with Summary of Perspectives, Outcomes, and Agreements

Meeting Objectives

1. Establish shared understanding of USST objectives, membership, process, schedule
2. Understand parties' interests and needs for USST
3. Shared understanding of guidance document

Intro to Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team

The USST is a new team identified in Reclamation's Proposed Action and NMFS's Biological Opinion and Incidental Take Statement; USST is intended to assist in planning in the fall and winter for reservoir refill, redd dewatering minimization, and rice decomposition smoothing, and in the spring for spring pulse flow operations. Reclamation provided a description of the USST, its objectives, membership, and the general process by which it will operate.

Perspectives shared by USST members included:

- Reclamation explained that USST participants will provide their recommendation to USBR, which will share the proposed schedule with two other teams, SRTTG and WOMT. All the state and federal agencies have representatives on both those teams, so USST members can coordinate with their colleagues across teams. The SRSC and CVP contractors do not have representatives on SRTTG or WOMT and should reach out to Josh Israel about any representation or decision-making concerns.
- The Kearns & West facilitator clarified that she will support the USST to find alignment on a flow proposal and will regularly ask participants to share their agency's position on aspects of the flow proposals under discussion. If consensus cannot be achieved within the USST, participants can elevate their concerns via their colleagues on SRTTG or WOMT.
- CDFW reminded the group that the participating agencies had initially discussed developing charters

for each Technical Team and asked whether that was still intended. CDFW advocated for writing down decision-making protocols, including agencies' respective authorities and the process for resolving disagreements.

- SRSC noted that they have less standing than the other groups in the event of a disagreement; with no representatives on SRTTG or WOMT, they do not have the same ability to elevate their concerns.
- USBR noted that the guidance document provides a general schedule for fall flows planning and deliverables; USBR has applied that guidance to an initial draft schedule that lays out planning and communication milestones over the next two months. They would like USST members' feedback on whether that schedule meets their respective needs and seems feasible based on monitoring data availability. **[Action Item:** Feedback due to KW by Tues 8/18 AM.]

Guidance Document

USBR walked through the LTO Implementation Guidance Document for "Sacramento River Fall and Winter Flow Refill and Redd Maintenance and Rice decomposition Smoothing" which covers the purpose, proposed action, deliverables, process, and timeline.

Perspectives shared by USST members included:

- SRSC thanked the agency representatives for including them in the conversation. In the past, the contractors were not fully aware of the fall flow actions being undertaken and the actions did not significantly impact their diversions. This year, however, operational decisions will occur earlier than usual: the harvest is starting early (next week in some places), so farmers will need decomposition water in mid-September and. If the USST wants to change fall release patterns, it is helpful for the SRSC to know as soon as possible in order to communicate with landowners.
- SRSC explained that they usually work with CVO to determine what water is available for their use and then decide how to allocate that amongst themselves. Once they understand the timing and duration of available flows, they will communicate with the farmers and assess whether there are associated costs. Ideally, SRSC would like to have an understanding of the proposed flows within one to two meetings.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, August 18, 2019 at 10:00 am.