

Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team

Fall Flow Reduction Coordination

Tuesday, October 20, 2020 | 11:00 am – 11:30 am

MEETING SUMMARY

Participants

Reclamation	Tom Patton, Elissa Buttermore, Liz Kiteck, Natalie Wolder, Janice Pinero, Ben Nelson, Randi Field, Allison Febbo
USFWS	Jim Earley
NMFS	Evan Sawyer
CDFW	Doug Killam, Duane Linander, Mike Harris
DWR	Kevin Reece, Mike Ford, Brett Harvey
SWRCB	Diane Riddle, Matt Holland, Michael Macon
SRSC	Thad Bettner, Anne Williams
Kearns & West	Terra Alpaugh, Julie Leimbach, Alyson Scurlock

Action Items

- Reclamation to check with controllers re: CDEC reporting flows of 6,000 cfs and report back to the USST.
- All to revisit topic of further fine-tuning flows in October at the next USST meeting.

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

Meeting Objectives

1. Collaboratively develop flow reduction alternatives that enjoy broad support from USST members
2. Test of support for any immediate changes to flows
3. Test support for any proposed long-term changes to flow releases
4. Shared understanding of interests and external conditions for fall flow scheduling

Operations Update

Reclamation provided the following operations update:

- The last flow cut (200 cfs) was made the morning of 11/20 to 5,000 cfs and flows are currently being held there.
- Willkins Slough daily flows have been updated in the spreadsheet.
 - The daily flow average was 3,885 cfs as of 10/19.
 - Flows are very low at Willkins Slough down to Verona.
- Reclamation is going to hold off on an additional 200 cfs flow cut to 4,800 cfs and continue to monitor things while they hold flows at 5,000 cfs.
- Flows at Rio Vista are within the acceptable range, and the cross channel gates are helping.

Perspectives and questions shared by USST members included:

- NMFS asked if there was a reason why actual flows at Wilkins Slough are lower than expected flows.
 - Reclamation said that there are a couple of factors at play. In the previous spreadsheet, accretions were estimated to be closer to 500 cfs. Reclamation is not seeing accretions into the system they had anticipated and as a result, has adjusted them to 300 cfs . This is not a large adjustment, but every bit counts when there are very low flows. The depletion estimates have also been refined and now include other diverters on the river within the current 1556 cfs depletion value. Reclamation explained that they are updating these values on a real-time basis and that they are trying to predict something that is hard to predict.
 - SRSC said that they have also been seeing slightly fewer natural accretions and that the dry conditions have caused more depletions on the river.
 - NMFS said that their initial request was to consider an additional decrease of 200 cfs and thanked Reclamation for the further investigation and explanation.
 - Reclamation noted that the next reduction is not until November and that they can still explore cutting flows to 4,800 cfs if things change prior to that. There is room for flexibility as long as it does not impact downstream users.
 - SRSC said that everyone will know more after a few days as there are travel times for cuts to make it down the river.
 - NMFS noted that they were requesting to fine-tune flows in early October. In later October or November, there is more of a consideration for fall-run and not wanting to dewater those redds.
 - Kearns & West asked if the USST should revisit this again at their next meeting on 10/27 or if the priorities would have shifted by then.
 - NMFS said that they should consider revisiting it if there is already a standing meeting. They also want to balance the needs of fall-run dewatering.
- USFWS stated that CDEC reported flows of 6,000 cfs at Bend Bridge on 10/19. USFWS is not sure if there is an error in reporting or if there is a change that happened in the latest reduction.
 - Reclamation said that they have not heard anything at Keswick and will check with the controllers to see if anything happened. Reclamation will report back to the USST.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 26, 10:00-11:30 am

Post Meeting Follow Up

After the USST on 10/20, Reclamation reported that the Bend Bridge flow data on CDEC appears to be bad data as flows upstream at Keswick and stage downstream at Red Bluff both seem reasonable.