BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

SRG, Fall Flow Reduction Coordination Meeting Summary

Tuesday, September 22, 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Participants

- CDFW: Matt Johnson, Jamie Ebenal, Gang (Gary) Zhao, Tracy Grimes
- DWR: John Ford, Ryon Kurth
- NMFS: Sam Pyros, Darren Howe
- NMFS SWFSC: David Reynolds
- Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC): Darin Olsen
- Reclamation: Lisa Elliott, Tom Patton, Emily Brenton, Mechele Pacheco, Timothy Warner, Stephanie Theis (Stantec), Luke Davis, Katherine (Mandy) Migura, Derek Rupert, Janice Pinero
- SRSC: Catherine Morales-Sandoval (MBK Engineers), Anne Williams, (MBK Engineers)
- SWRCB: Craig Williams, Jeff Laird, Matthew Holland
- USFWS: Bill Poytress, Kaitlin Dunham
- Westlands Water District (WWD): Alan Rosenthal, Bradley Cavallo
- Kearns & West: Terra Alpaugh, Colin Baker

Action Items

- Reclamation to provide updates to this group if releases need to change due to downstream needs and/or additional redds (beyond those anticipated) are dewatered.
- Kearns & West to check in with Reclamation and CDFW in mid-October around the next planned decrease in releases to coordinate the next meeting and/or to send an update email to the group.

- Kearns & West to remove the calendar invites for future meetings except on October 13th. (Complete)

Topics

Welcome, Action Items & Agenda Review

Kearns & West reviewed the agenda and action items from the September 15th meeting:

- **Reclamation to** determine a preferred flow schedule based on the scenarios under discussion after the FAWOG meeting on September 16th. (*Complete)*
- **Reclamation to** share recent 750 ft water temperature data in the context of a conversation about a potential bypass at the next monthly SRG meeting.
- **CDFW to** share new fishery data at the fall flows meeting on September 22, and SRG to consider any adjustments advisable to the scheduled flows. *(Complete)*
- **MBK to** share figures of the C2 and D1 comparison tool. *(Complete)*

Fishery Monitoring Update

CDFW shared an update on shallow redds and anticipated spawning timing, including:

- Forty redds have been dewatered. Two have emerged over the past week, and more will continue to emerge after today, resulting in 66 remaining in the gravel.
- The estimated dates of emergence have been moved earlier by up to three days due to warmer temperatures out of Keswick Reservoir.

Update on Flow Schedule, Review of Dewatering Analysis, and Technical Input

Reclamation reviewed relevant operational updates, including:

- Keswick releases dropped to 6,000 cfs last Friday, September 18th, where they will remain through September and into the first half of October. Reclamation will coordinate with settlement contractors and the rice decomp program on any changes to the release schedule should any unanticipated downstream needs arise.
- Shasta storage is currently at 2.5 MAF, and the end-of-September storage is anticipated to be higher than 2.4 MAF. Minimum releases through the end of the year are still anticipated to be at 4,000 cfs.
- A minor increase to releases at Clear Creek (225 cfs) was made. Releases will likely need to continue to ramp up at IGO for temperature management purposes.
- Reclamation is holding off on lowering Whiskeytown Lake to wintertime levels until mid-October to minimize warm flows from the Spring Creek Power Plant.
- At Wilkins Slough, flows have now dropped to 5,500 cfs after the recent reduction to upstream releases. They may decrease more as well. Diversions are near the minimum for end-of-September and going into rice decomp season in October.

Reclamation presented updated dewatering analysis data on the SacPAS webpage:

- The unexpanded winter-run redd count remains at 4,412; this represents the minimum number of possible redds.
- With an expansion factor of 1.0, the 1% dewatering threshold is 44 winter-run redds. An expansion factor of 1.5 or 1.6 would result in approximately 66 to 70 redds dewatered.
- 108 shallow redds have been monitored this season. As of September 21st, two winter-run redds have emerged, and 40 have been dewatered. This leaves 66 shallow water redds of concern.
- The C2 scenario generates the lowest possible fall-run redd dewatering estimate, while staying within the 1% dewatering threshold for winter run.
- Expected end-of-September Shasta storage is predicted to be above 2,200, so no carryover effects on winter-run chook are expected next year.
- The data included preliminary predicted water cost for the C2 scenario, including average September, October, and November flows, as well as September-to-February, August-September, and September-November total water volume use. Reclamation considered adding the resulting end-of-September, October, and November reservoir volumes to the webpage, but those volumes require manual calculation adjustments, so they are not automatically included for now. However, the data are available in the GitHub repository linked at the bottom of the SacPAS webpage.
- The total expected winter-run redds dewatered is 42 with scenario C2 and increases to 45 with the 250 cfs buffer. This count would keep dewatered redds below the 1% dewatering threshold.
- The shallow water redd graph shows two redds that have emerged, 40 redds that have been dewatered, and three additional redds that are expected to be dewatered in October and November.

Comments and questions from participants included:

- NMFS asked for confirmation that the C2 scenario presented in this meeting was the same scenario presented at the meeting on September 15th and that the only difference was that this week's presentation includes updated dewatering data.
- Reclamation confirmed that the scenarios are the same; the data presented during this meeting came from CDFW's monitoring of impacts since releases were dropped per the C2 scenario on September 18th. Reclamation shared that at the September 15th meeting, the C2 scenario predicted a total of 41 redds to be dewatered and a total of 38 under the D1 scenario. This week, both scenarios predict approximately 42 redds to be dewatered. C2 shows one additional redd to be dewatered

compared to last week; however, the total number is still below the 1% threshold of 44 redds (with no expansion factor).

MBK Engineering presented figures comparing dewatering estimates from September 15th to September 21st. For the C2 scenario, the analysis previously estimated that four additional redds dewatered, resulting in a total of 41 redds dewatered for the season. Based on the latest survey data, three of those anticipated redds have already dewatered, two additional redds are still expected to dewater, and one redd was previously dewatered, resulting in a total of 42 redds dewatered this season.

Next Steps

- Reclamation shared that there will likely be no substantive changes to releases for several weeks, with releases remaining at 6,000 cfs. Reclamation will continue to coordinate with diverters about diversion schedules and will keep this group informed if anything could change. Reclamation proposed canceling future Fall Release Ramp Down Planning-Focused Meetings until needed.
- CDFW noted that they will not collect new survey data until releases are changed.
- Kearns & West noted that the next release drop is scheduled for mid-October and proposed checking in with Reclamation and CDFW at that time about meeting again and/or sending an update email to the group. Kearns & West will remove calendar invites for future meetings except on October 13th.