

January 27, 2006
New Melones RPO, Water Supply Workgroup (WSG)
Meeting Summary

Disclaimer: This meeting summary was prepared by Reclamation as a means of documenting the stakeholder involvement process and recording the events of the meeting that Reclamation staff took note of. If an important point is not included or is not correctly described, you may raise the point again at the next meeting or email your concerns to: 2nmrpo@mp.usbr.gov

Meeting Location: Reclamation Offices, Sacramento, California

Meeting Time: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The attendance list is posted as a separate PDF file.

Michelle Light and Paul Fujitani made a presentation to the group, and the presentation is posted as a separate file. The discussion of technical tools for use in analyzing operations and operational effects drew comment from several stakeholders:

- T. O’Laughlin expressed concern that Reclamation was not proposing to use the Stanislaus HEC-5Q temperature model developed through CALFED.
- K. Wolf requested that the CALSIM assumptions with regard to fish flows and releases for senior water rights holders be re-evaluated; and he distributed a letter describing the concern in more detail.
- T. O’Laughlin indicated that there was a Stanislaus basin groundwater model available.
- D. Hilts asked the status of CALSIM code development by Nancy Parker of the Denver Technical Services Center.

The issue of how and when to incorporate operational changes resulting from projects authorized for the purpose of reducing releases from New Melones to meet water quality and flow requirements was raised. Reclamation cannot presume what specific operational decisions would result from the environmental compliance process for recirculation, water acquisition, Refuge BMPs, etc. However, it would be possible to conduct “sensitivity analysis” or other analysis of alternative future flows and salinity in the San Joaquin River. This solution appeared to be acceptable.

The schedule for the Transitional Operations Plan (TOP) was discussed. It appeared that, given the recent wet hydrology, there was general agreement that stakeholders did not want to rush to finalize a TOP and that October 2007 may be a good target date. However, J. White urged Reclamation to avoid delay on the long-term plan.

The following issues/ideas were raised for consideration during the process:

- Analyze conjunctive use options for the TOP
- Allow non-flood control releases to exceed 1500 cfs

- Align the preliminary allocation with the water service contract requirement for a November schedule of deliveries
- Consider a TOP proposed by stakeholders? (OID, Tri Dams)
- Evaluate and reduce effects of flow fluctuations from flood control releases
- Accounting methodology should consider priority of water use and account for fish flows first
- Accounting methodology should consider D-1422 requirements first when developing accounting sequence because D1422 was in place prior to the 87 Agreement
- Clarify accounting methodology
- Minimum flows should be scheduled on a monthly and yearly basis
- Incorporate PL 108-361 requirements for reducing New Melones releases for water quality and flow requirements
- Structure the operations plan so that it can be adapted for changing conditions
- Analyze B2 accounting and assess changes to B2
- Possible flexibility in flood control storage and operations after snow melt begins
- Spicer Meadows is significantly larger now, does this provide flood control flexibility
- Factor global warming into the operations plan(s)
- TOP not necessarily constrained by the San Joaquin River Agreement
- Consider incorporating annual operations coordination through the WSG

The group did not feel a facilitator was needed for this effort given the technical nature of the meetings. The meeting locations will likely change between Sacramento and the Stockton area to help minimize the travel time among the stakeholders. Conference calls can not be accommodated for this effort.

Proposed agenda item for the next meeting: review flood control requirements, status of the Program to Meet Standards, overall task schedule, recent operations

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for March 10.