

Meeting Notes

Reinitiation of Consultation (ROC) on the Coordinated Long-term Operation (LTO) of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP): Agency Core Team Meeting

Tuesday, April 3, 2018, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

NMFS, 650 Capitol Mall, Delta Room

Attendees

Katrina Harrison, Luke Davis, Janice Piñero, Katherine McCalvin, Chris Wilkinson, Katherine Sun, Garwin Yip, Kim Squires, Armin Halston, Ben Nelson, Brooke Jacobs, Carl Wilcox, Jana Affonso, Harry Spangler, Mike Ford

Meeting Purpose

To discuss the Track 1 and Track 2 idea lists, the San Joaquin I:E Ratio Technical Team, the potential Storm Flexibility Technical Team, the process for decision support group changes, Track 3 ROC Bands, and the Species list.

Track 1 Idea List

- The Track 1 ideas list now includes an explanation of why some ideas have been removed.
- By next week, Reclamation will have developed write-ups on each of the specific ideas on the Track 1 ideas list.
- Some of Garwin's edits were incorporated into the idea list.
 - o During WIIN Act storm flexibility, the use of the DCC to deter migration and a non-physical barrier at Georgiana Slough may help keep salmonids out of the interior delta, while preferential pumping would also reduce the risk of take.
 - o Comment: Late storm events could potentially wipe out any barriers already in place.
 - Comment: The HORB had to stop construction recently due to high flows.
 - o Comment: In the California WaterFix proposed action, there is mention of installing a permanent operable gate at the Head of Old River.
 - The technical teams can discuss this further.
 - o Within the California WaterFix proposed action, there is mention of a relationship between flows at Vernalis and OMR.
 - o Comment: There is some uncertainty on how to do rapid genetic analysis permanently.
 - Comment: It may be unrealistic to analyze the fullest extent of genetic material of every fish.
 - The proposal is to make it more permanent only to assist in winter-run density dependent triggers. If analyzing additional fish can be done without additional costs, then that could be incorporated as well.
 - o This April, as well as in the future, there will be a pulse flow out of Keswick Dam to support fall-run Chinook release. It will be timed during a natural storm event, if possible.

- The water may be recaptured. There would be some benefit if it was kept in the Sacramento River down to Wilkins Slough.
- Regarding WIIN Act, has there been any guidance from DOI?
 - Reclamation has briefed water users, NGOs, management, and the commissioner on this, but have not mentioned anything regarding the technical teams to DOI.
 - Reclamation will do the appropriate briefings to make sure DOI is fully informed.
- Comment: The current decision making process works well, with regards to the working groups (e.g. WOMT, etc.)
 - Comment: During the drought, decisions were not made at WOMT, it's been mainly a reporting call.
 - Reclamation is looking to reduce/eliminate any unnecessary group calls.
- Comment: It will be good to add a list of assumptions to the Track 1 ideas list.
 - Question: Would the effects analysis for Track 1 include modeling?
 - Answer: Some further analysis would be good. Reclamation has done some initial modeling.
 - Comment: This is also dependent upon the schedule and the amount of contracting support Reclamation can acquire.

Process for Decision Support Group Changes

- Management from the five agencies will hold a meeting in June to discuss how support groups should meet.
 - Question: Is this in the context of Track 1?
 - Answer: Yes, this is back in Track 1. This may result in a simple letter exchange and might not require any official NEPA document.
- Comment: It will be useful to gather a list of all the support groups that should be discussed.
 - Reclamation will compile a list.

Track 2 Idea List

- The Track 2 ideas are still the same from when we previously discussed it on March 27.
- Question: What is the Track 2 ESA process?
 - Answer: NEPA alternatives will look at storage and conveyance, but there will be no specific action from Track 2, except possibly habitat restoration. There may not be a need for a ROD or ESA consultation.
- Questions: How will the ideas be further developed?
 - Answer: Water supply actions could be developed further through CalSIM. Power components would likely be descriptions in the NEPA document. The adaptive management framework would be the focus and could be further developed by technical teams. Other stressors components may be developed further by technical teams.
 - Question: Do people think Track 2 will lead to actions?
 - Answer: Reclamation has mentioned this is purely programmatic at this point and may not lead to actions, except possibly programmatic habitat restoration and/or the adaptive management framework.

- Comment: Change the language of “possible actions” to avoid confusion on the Track 2 ideas list.
- Comment: It makes sense to include the adaptive management framework on Track 2, but it is unclear why it would require NEPA review.
- Under the existing California WaterFix adaptive management framework, tributaries are not included robustly.

San Joaquin I:E Technical Team

- Reclamation is ready to gather the technical team together.
- Armin will inform the agencies what sort of expertise is needed for this technical team.
- Water users and NGOs will also be invited to this technical team.
- Question: What’s the purpose of the technical team? Is it to develop the proposal or the science?
 - Answer: It’s both

Storm Flexibility Technical Team

- This technical team will be upcoming soon.
- Katrina may utilize an upcoming water users meeting as a policy group on storm flexibility.
 - Comment: It may be useful to have a technical team and a policy group on storm flexibility.

ROC Bands

- This Thursday and Friday will be the Sacramento River ROC Band.
 - It will focus on the Sacramento River, as well as Feather River issues downstream of the FERC boundary. Also included will be the temperature management aspect of the Trinity River.
- A follow-up to the American River ROC Band recently occurred.
 - Reclamation may look to use a form/template for future ROC bands.

Species List

- Winter-run Chinook salmon rear in the American River, but may not only be limited to non-natal rearing in the American River – other rivers as well.

Action Items

- Brooke to send DFW’s OMR storm criteria.
- Reclamation to look into CWF Georgiana Slough and CWF analysis of Vernalis-OMR flows.
- Katrina will talk to management about storm flexibility to avoid duplicating efforts.
- Reclamation will send out any technical information and documents relating to each specific technical team.
- Katrina/Ben will add more details on the decision support groups to be discussed as part of Track 1 (e.g. WOMT, SWG, DCT, DAT)
- Katrina will add a list of assumptions to the Track 1 ideas list
- Katrina will clarify the language of “possible actions” on the Track 2 ideas list.

- Armin will inform the agencies of what expertise is needed with regards to the technical team for San Joaquin I:E.
- Agencies will inform Katrina of any additional invites to the Sacramento River ROC Band.