

**Sacramento River Temperature Task Group Subgroup Call
Monday, June 15, 2015 | 2:00 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.**

MEETING SUMMARY

Participants:

- Ken Emanuel, SWRCB
- Liz Kiteck, USBR
- Diane Riddle, SWRCB
- Jason Roberts, CDFW
- Jim Smith, FWS
- Brycen Swart, NMFS
- Thuy Washburn, USBR
- Paul Zedonis, USBR

Note-taking:

- Michael Larsen, Kearns & West

Action Items

1. Reclamation staff will check with Ron Milligan to confirm that his understanding of the temperature compliance management directive matches the understanding of other agencies' staff.
2. Thuy will immediately look at tools to lower the temperature, which may include opening one of the lower gates.
3. Paul will seek a comparison of the Bella Vista monitoring location against the full river channel profile across Bella Vista. This will also include metadata about the probe location in the river.

Key Discussion Topics with Summary of Outcomes and Agreements:

Fisheries Update

Of the redds observed via aerial survey, 63% are upstream of ACID dam; 31.1% are between ACID dam and the Highway 44 Bridge. Many redds are too deep to be observed in aerial surveys and are not reflected in these numbers.

Winter-run carcass surveys (as of June 11) have found 43% of carcasses upstream of ACID dam, 24% between ACID and the Highway 44 Bridge, and 33% downstream of the Highway 44 Bridge. Since carcasses float downstream, the carcass locations are not representative of the location of spawning.

It's too early to gauge how the run size compares to last year.

Hydrology & Operations Update

Jim Smith circulated a graph that charts 2015 average daily water temperatures at Shasta (TCD-weighted), Keswick, Clear Creek, and the new Bella Vista gauge, which was installed on June 11th. The new Bella Vista station is code SAC on the CDEC.

Reclamation reported that the temperature at Clear Creek averaged 58 °F on Saturday (June 13th) and 57.8°F on Sunday (June 14th). Participants noted that TCD-weighted temperatures seem to be climbing even as weather cools, so action may be necessary to keep the water temperature below a 58°F daily average.

Participants discussed the direction received from recent management meetings. To comply with the direction from management, Reclamation will target Keswick releases of 7,250 cfs in June through August. Management determined a temperature objective of a daily average of 57 °F at Bonnyview “plus or minus,” with a target not to exceed 58 °F. Participants discussed whether this suggests the compliance point is to be 57 °F or 58 °F.

Action: Reclamation staff will check with Ron Milligan to confirm his understanding of the management directive matches the understanding of other agencies’ staff.

The group decided that to comply with the management directive, Reclamation will consider 57 °F the compliance point with the understanding that average daily temperature might temporarily exceed 57 °F but will not exceed 58 °F.

Action: They will immediately look at tools to lower the temperature, which may include opening one of the lower gates.

Participants acknowledged this will reduce the amount of cold water available in the late season. This year’s lower flow conditions might also increase the amount of time it takes for the river temperature to react to gate changes.

Participants discussed the merits of moving the compliance point from Clear Creek to the new Bella Vista location on the basis that most redds have been observed above Highway 44. Participants decided that this was a management decision rather than a SRTTG decision, and they also expressed uncertainty about how the new Bella Vista monitoring location will perform.

Participants discussed the QA/QC procedures in place both for Reclamation and CDFW temperature monitoring equipment.

Action: Paul will seek a comparison of the Bella Vista monitoring location against the full river channel profile across Bella Vista. This will also include metadata about the probe location in the river.