

## **Summary of 11/18/15 Stanislaus Operation Group Meeting 1-3pm**

### **Participants**

Reclamation: Liz Kiteck, Amanda Bahls, Carolyn Bragg, Kristin White, Peggy Manza, Janice Pinero, Michelle Palmer

NMFS: Barb Byrne

FWS: J.D. Wikert, Craig Anderson

DFW: Pat Brantley, Dom Giudice, Tim Heyne

DWR: James Edwards, Mike Ford

SWRCB: Chris Carr, Larry Lindsay, Michael George

### **Operations**

- Reclamation is currently meeting the 200 cfs required flow. 200 cfs is the required baseflow through mid-April, with the exception of two small winter instability flows. In February of 2015, when low storage and hydrology were a major concern, NMFS determined that “Given the current context and severity of drought conditions, NMFS agrees that it is appropriate for the natural storm pulse in February 2015 to be considered in lieu of a controlled release to satisfy the February winter instability flow.”
- Current New Melones elevation is 797’ (265 TAF). This is 11% of capacity and 20% of the historical average for this time. Recent rains have kept the storage level fairly steady.
  - There was some storage gained last month due to upper reservoirs drawing down to their winter operating range, but the drawdowns are completed.
  - Districts’ 2016 formula water volume includes all current inflows up to 600 TAF
  - 200 cfs is being released from the lower level outlet (LLO).
    - Reclamation’s Central Valley Operations Office recommended shutting the LLO later this week and using the main outlet to reduce risks associated with use of the LLO<sup>1</sup>, and because there is little to no temperature benefit from the LLO.
    - Reclamation will notify the Stanislaus Drought Operations Group (S-DOG) via e-mail of this recommendation, since there was agreement on the 11/10/15 S-DOG call that the LLO would continue to be used at least through 11/24.
- Tulloch is at winter operating levels, and no further drawdown is expected.

### **Temperatures**

- The latest 7DADM was 57.8°F
- River temperatures have met the goal of 60°F 7DADM at Orange Blossom Bridge.

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<sup>1</sup> While not explicitly discussed during SOG, Reclamation’s Regional Engineer had previously advised SOG to minimize use of the LLO.

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/drought/docs/tucp/2015/usbr\\_memo\\_lowleveloutlets.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/docs/tucp/2015/usbr_memo_lowleveloutlets.pdf)

- The goal shifts to 56°F on November 25<sup>th</sup><sup>2</sup>, but the plan submitted to the State Water Board acknowledges that these are targets that may not be met.
- CDFW has had some delays with their reservoir temperature profiles.

### **October Pulse Flow**

- The Fall Pulse Flow was completed November 10th.

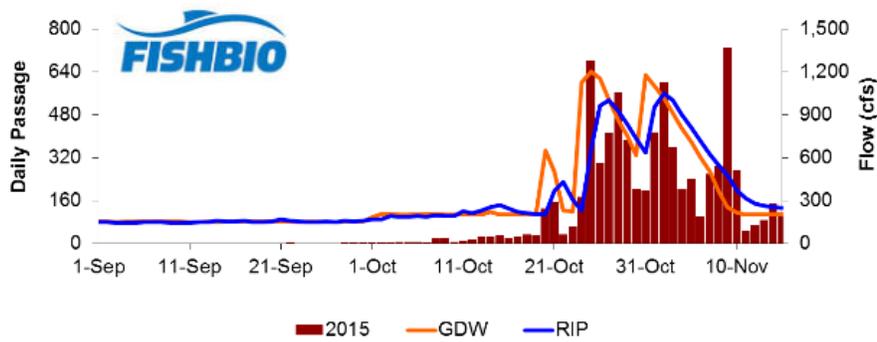
### **Fish**

- The California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) began conducting fall-run Chinook carcass and redd surveys the week of 9/28/15. Through the week of 11/9/15, CDFW has observed 403 redds on the Stanislaus River (compared to 29 on the Tuolumne and 25 on the Merced). A few fish were also seen on last week's carcass survey. Murky water created by pulse flows prevents accurate fish and redd counts.
- The Stanislaus weir near Riverbank began sampling on Friday, 9/15/15. Through 11/16/15, the net upstream passage of adult fall-run Chinook salmon at the weir just downstream of Riverbank was 7532 – the highest passage observed since the weir sampling began in 2003. One *Oncorhynchus mykiss* (ad-clipped, <16") has been observed passing upstream at the weir. The figures below were provided by FISHBIO in their 11/17/15 Stanislaus weir update.
- While there are a lot of fish, the ad fin clip rate is approximately 25% which suggests that the hatchery proportion is close to 100%. It was noted that the current drought has required that hatchery fish be trucked and released outside of their tributaries; it is difficult for these fish to end up back in their natal tributary.

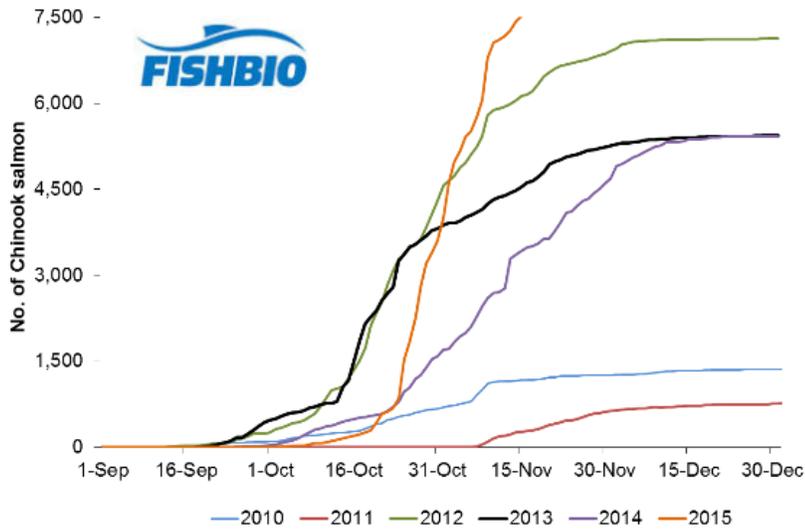
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<sup>2</sup> The date of the temperature target shift was incorrectly reported at the meeting as occurring on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

### 2015 Chinook Passage and Stanislaus River Flow



### Cumulative Chinook Passage at the Stanislaus River Weir



### Restoration

- The Knights Ferry restoration project has hit a serious obstacle; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has concerns associated with the increase in human visitation that has accompanied past restoration projects.
- The Button Bush restoration project is still underway and currently involved in the permitting process with USACE.

### Update on Stanislaus River Forum

- Peter Drekmeier (of the Tuolumne River Trust) announced a workshop on the fish passage study being conducted for LaGrange Dam: to be held on November 19<sup>th</sup> at Modesto Irrigation District.

### Drought Planning

- The Districts have stated their support for the Temperature Management Plan submitted to the SWRCB which calls for 2-E flows through the end of December.

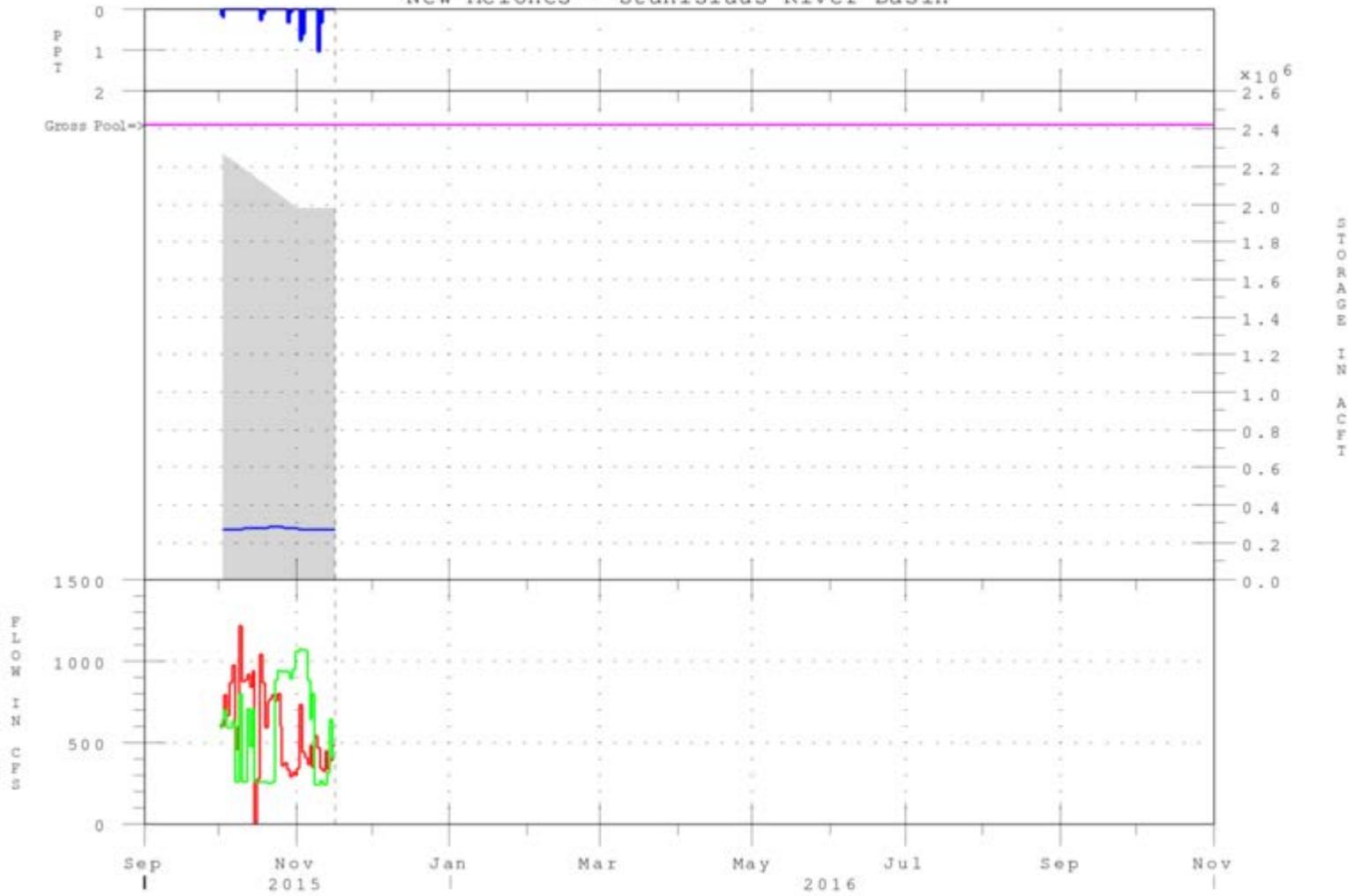
## **Miscellaneous Information**

- SSJID has a new General Manager. Jeff Shields has retired; Peter Rietkerk (formerly General Manager of Patterson Irrigation District) is the new GM. <http://www.modbee.com/news/article32395140.html>
- The State Water Board is currently hiring Environmental Scientist positions. Fisheries Biologists are heavily encouraged to apply [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about\\_us/employment/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/employment/)
- 2015 Long-term Operations Biological Opinions Annual Science Review – Review Materials, Supplemental Documents, Background Information, and Presentations. Link provides a lot of background information. <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/2015-long-term-operations-biological-opinions-annual-science-review-review-materials-supplemental>
- The EPA has been served a 60 day notice of intent to sue for failure to carry out non-discretionary federal review of California water quality standards in violation of the Clean Water Act section 303(c). <http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/kpoole/cwa%2060-day%20notice%20letter%2010-29-2015.pdf>

## **Next Steps**

- Next SOG meeting is December 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at the Central Valley Office.

New Melones - Stanislaus River Basin



- Inflow
- Reservoir Storage
- Outflow
- Precipitation
- Top of Conservation Pool

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION-CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT-CALIFORNIA

**NOVEMBER 2015**

**NEW MELONES LAKE DAILY OPERATIONS**

RUN DATE: November 16, 2015

DAY	ELEV	STORAGE		COMPUTED* INFLOW C.F.S.	POWER	RELEASE - C.F.S.		EVAPORATION		PRECIP INCHES
		1000 ACRE-FEET IN LAKE	CHANGE			SPILL	OUTLET	C.F.S.	INCHES	
		271.4								
1	799.13	270.0	-1.5	338	603	0	454	32	.31	.00
2	798.92	269.3	-0.7	730	635	0	436	1	.01	.79
3	798.53	268.0	-1.3	444	629	0	436	12	.12	.64
4	798.12	266.7	-1.3	406	629	0	436	5	.05	.03
5	797.79	265.6	-1.1	364	547	0	338	12	.12	.00
6	797.69	265.3	-0.3	485	407	0	232	7	.07	.00
7	797.40	264.4	-0.9	346	570	0	232	11	.11	.00
8	797.58	265.0	+0.6	539	6	0	232	11	.11	.00
9	797.72	265.4	+0.4	465	6	0	232	2	.02	1.07
10	797.76	265.6	+0.1	345	32	0	232	17	.16	.37
11	797.81	265.7	+0.2	329	7	0	232	9	.09	.00
12	797.94	266.1	+0.4	453	7	0	232	5	.05	.00
13	797.95	266.2	+0.0	338	84	0	232	6	.06	.00
14	797.79	265.6	-0.5	394	411	0	232	9	.09	.00
15	797.83	265.8	+0.1	480	176	0	232	7	.07	.00
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>-5.8</b>	<b>6,456</b>	<b>4,749</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,420</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>1.44</b>	<b>2.90</b>
<b>ACRE-FEET</b>			<b>-5,800</b>	<b>12,805</b>	<b>9,420</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,767</b>	<b>290</b>		

COMMENTS:

\* COMPUTED INFLOW IS THE SUM OF CHANGE IN STORAGE, RELEASES AND EVAPORATION.

**SUMMARY**

	RELEASE (ACRE-FEET)			PRECIPITATION	
POWER	9,420	OUTLET	8,767	THIS MONTH =	2.90
SPILL	0	TOTAL	18,187	JULY 1, 2015 TO DATE =	4.17

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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**NOVEMBER 2015**

**TULLOCH RESERVOIR DAILY OPERATIONS**

RUN DATE: 11/16/2015

DAY	ELEV	STORAGE		COMPUTED* INFLOW C.F.S.	NEW MELONES RELEASE	POWER	RELEASE - C.F.S.		EVAP C.F.S. (1)
		ACRE-FEET RES.	CHANGE				SPILL	OUTLET	
		54,015							
1	498.59	53,805	-210	971	1,057	1,066	0	0	11
2	498.72	53,942	+137	1,040	1,071	971	0	0	0
3	498.96	54,194	+252	1,013	1,065	882	0	0	4
4	499.35	54,609	+415	991	1,065	780	0	0	2
5	499.56	54,834	+225	802	885	685	0	0	4
6	499.45	54,716	-118	526	639	583	0	0	2
7	499.83	55,122	+406	701	802	492	0	0	4
8	499.48	54,748	-374	175	238	360	0	0	4
9	499.28	54,535	-213	157	238	263	0	0	1
10	499.14	54,385	-150	192	264	263	0	0	5
11	498.97	54,204	-181	135	239	223	0	0	3
12	498.79	54,015	-189	130	239	223	0	0	2
13	498.76	53,984	-31	208	316	222	0	0	2
14	499.33	54,588	+604	531	643	223	0	0	3
15	499.51	54,780	+192	322	408	223	0	0	2
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>+765</b>	<b>7,894</b>	<b>9,169</b>	<b>7,459</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>ACRE-FEET</b>			<b>+765</b>	<b>15,658</b>	<b>18,187</b>	<b>14,795</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>97</b>

\*COMPUTED INFLOW IS SUM OF CHANGE IN STORAGE, RELEASES, AND EVAPORATION.

**SUMMARY  
RELEASE (ACRE-FEET)**

POWER	14,795	OUTLET	0
SPILL	0	TOTAL	14,795

OAKDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
 SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
 TRI DAMS PROJECT-CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 2015

GOODWIN RESERVOIR DAILY OPERATIONS

RUN DATE: November 16, 2015

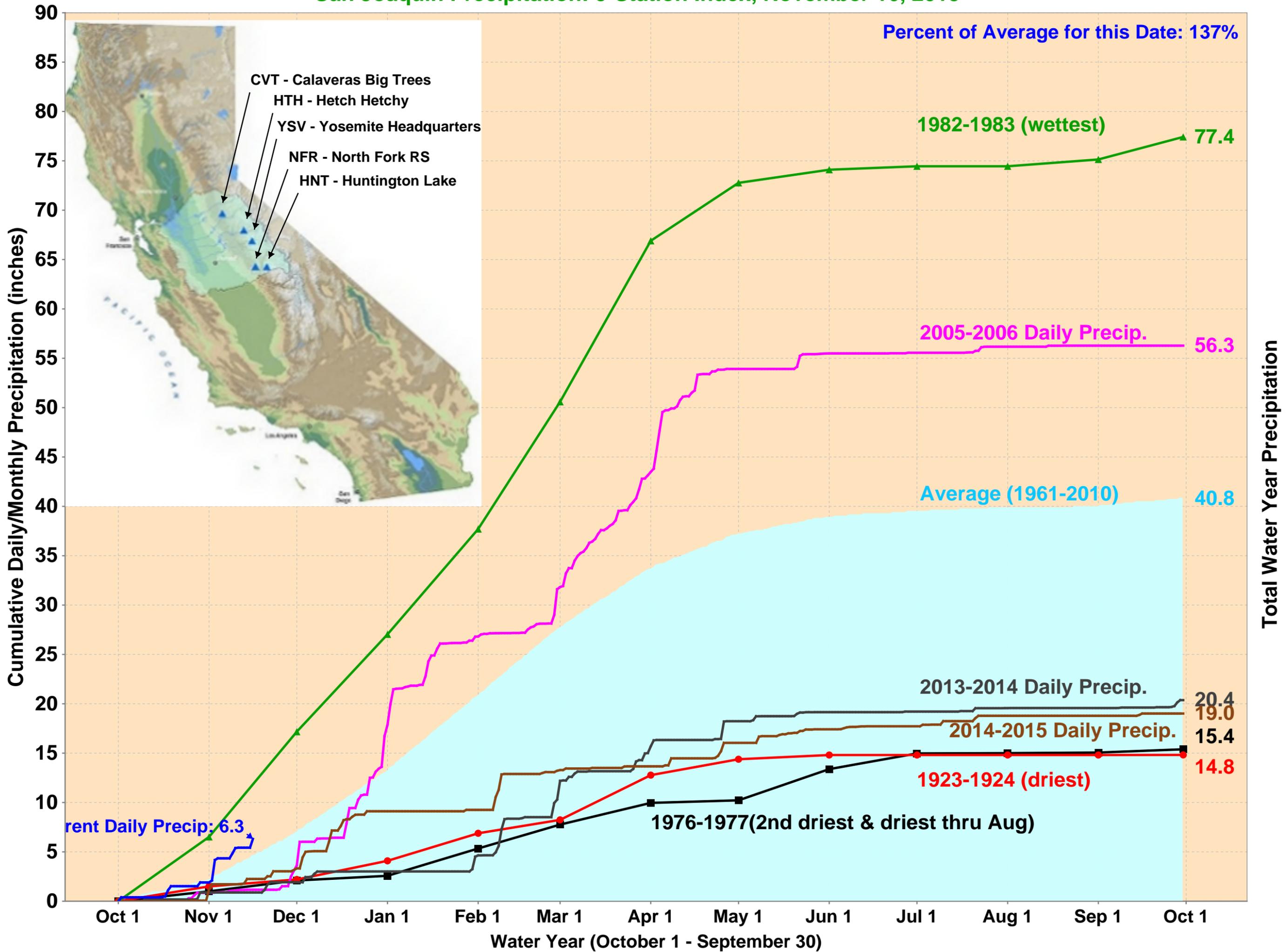
DAY	ELEV	STORAGE		TULLOCH	RELEASE - C.F.S.			
		ACRE-FEET	CHANGE		RES.	RIVER	SPILL	CANALS
				RELEASE	OUTLET		JOINT	MAIN
		566						
1	360.38	564	-2	1,066	0	1,103	8	0
2	360.33	560	-4	971	0	1,016	6	0
3	360.27	556	-4	882	0	911	6	0
4	360.22	552	-4	780	0	808	6	0
5	360.16	548	-4	685	0	709	6	0
6	360.11	545	-3	583	0	606	5	0
7	360.03	539	-6	492	0	508	5	0
8	359.89	529	-10	360	0	370	5	0
9	359.83	525	-4	263	0	253	6	0
10	359.83	525	+0	263	0	215	6	0
11	359.83	525	+0	223	0	203	6	0
12	359.83	525	+0	223	0	203	5	0
13	359.83	525	+0	222	0	202	5	0
14	359.83	525	+0	223	0	203	4	0
15	359.83	525	+0	223	0	205	4	0
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>-41</b>	<b>7,459</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,515</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>ACRE-FEET</b>			<b>-41</b>	<b>14,795</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14,906</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>0</b>

JOINT MAIN OPERATED BY SSJID AND OID.  
 SOUTH MAIN OPERATED BY OID.

**SUMMARY**  
 RELEASE (ACRE-FEET)

JOINT MAIN CANAL	165	OUTLET	0
SOUTH MAIN CANAL	0	SPILL	14,906
		TOTAL	15,071

# San Joaquin Precipitation: 5-Station Index, November 16, 2015

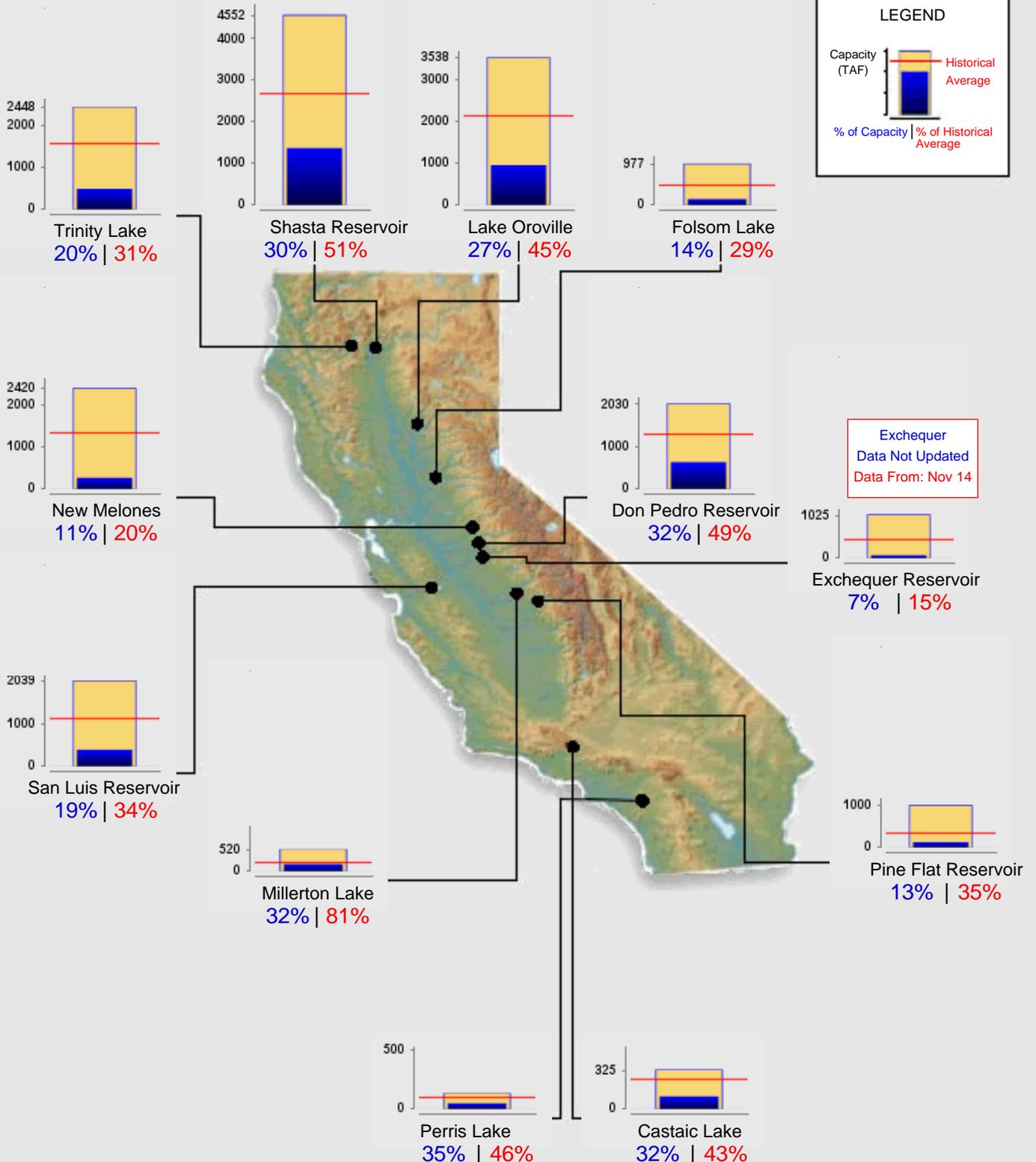




# Reservoir Conditions

Ending At Midnight - November 15, 2015

## CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS



# Stanislaus Water Temperatures (7DADM) at Ripon, Orange Blossom Bridge, and near Owl Creek from June to November 2015

