

**Summary of Stanislaus River Forum Meeting
November 18, 2015 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Objective: To provide opportunities for the public to present information to Reclamation regarding the Stanislaus River.

Introductions

On the call:

NMFS: Barbara Byrne

Reclamation: Carolyn Bragg, Amanda Bahls, Kristin White

CDFW: Dom Giudice

Tuolumne River Trust: Peter Drekmeier

Current operations

Releases out of Goodwin Dam are at 200 cfs, meeting the minimum requirements.

New Melones storage is at 265 TAF (20% of average). The elevation is at 797’.

Once the elevation is above 808’, engineering restrictions will make the Low Level Outlet (LLO) unusable.

During the call, it was confirmed that the full 200 cfs was being released from New Melones from the lower level outlet (LLO), but later that day Reclamation’s Central Valley Operations Office recommended shutting the LLO to reduce risk associated with use of the LLO¹ and because there is little to no temperature benefit.

Update on NMFS RPA Implementation

Reasonable and prudent alternative (RPA) Action III.1.3

The fall pulse flow began in late October and Goodwin releases returned to 200 cfs on Tuesday, November 10. After the fall pulse flow, through mid-April, the Appendix 2-E minimum flow schedule for the Critical yeartype (based on the New Melones Water supply parameter, not the San Joaquin “60-20-20” Index) requires minimum instream flows of 200 cfs (except for two winter instability flows; one each in January and February).

RPA Action III.1.2

Temperature management has been guided by the temperature management plan developed by Reclamation in consultation with the fishery agencies and the local irrigation districts. That plan, consistent with the exception procedures in the 2009 NMFS BiOp, targeted the following water temperatures during November

¹ While not explicitly discussed during SRF, 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

and December² (measured as the seven day average of daily maximum temperature, or 7DADM):

November 1 to November 25: 7DADM not to exceed 60°F at Orange Blossom Bridge (measured at CDEC station OBB).

November 25³-December 31: 7DADM not to exceed 56°F at Orange Blossom Bridge (measured at CDEC station OBB).

The 7DADM at Orange Blossom Bridge decreased from 64.8 °F on 11/1/15 to 57.8 °F on 11/17/15, and temperatures are expected to continue to cool. The 7DADM first dropped below the 60 °F target on 11/13/15.

Salmon

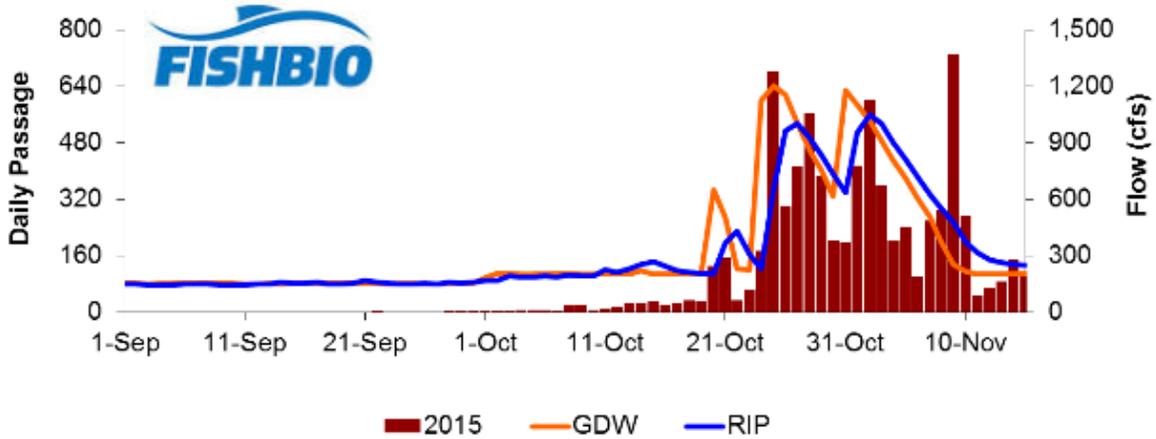
The California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) began conducting fall-run Chinook carcass and redd surveys the week of 9/28/15. Through the week of 11/9/15, CDFW has observed 403 redds on the Stanislaus River (compared to 29 on the Tuolumne and 25 on the Merced). It is difficult to assess whether the relative escapement among the three tributaries (Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced) might have been different under different flow schedules on the three tributaries.

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.

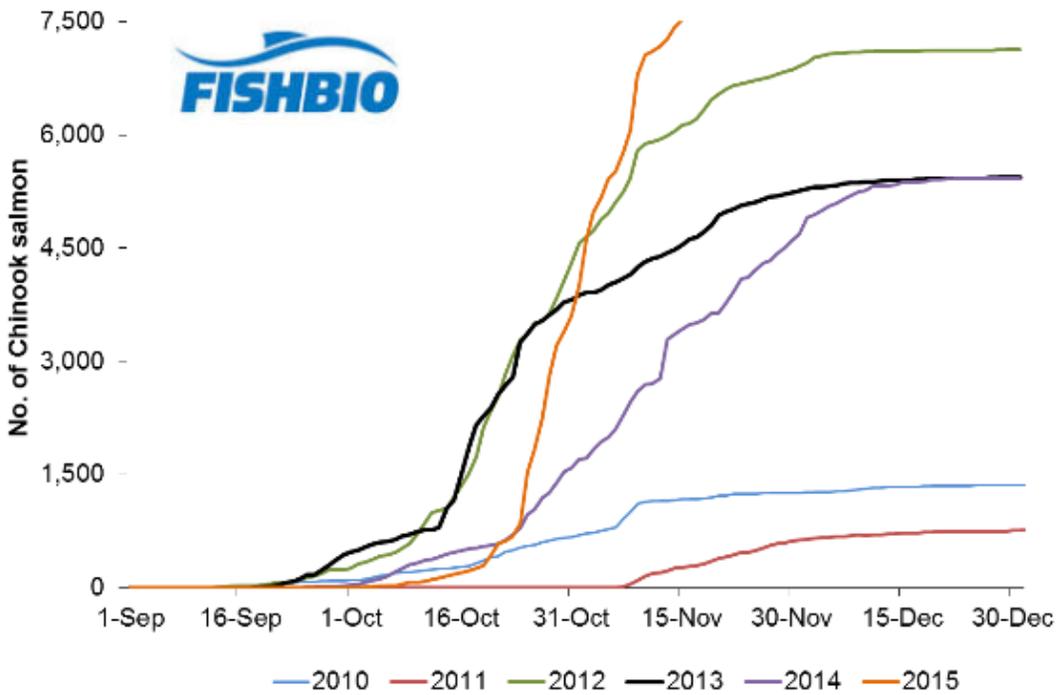
² That plan also noted that “given the severe drought conditions and uncertainty about operations this year, the following temperature targets might not be achieved on the targeted timeframe, but real-time blending decisions will be guided by these general targets with the limited resources available.”

³ The date of the temperature target shift was incorrectly reported at the meeting as occurring on November 20th.

2015 Chinook Passage and Stanislaus River Flow



Cumulative Chinook Passage at the Stanislaus River Weir



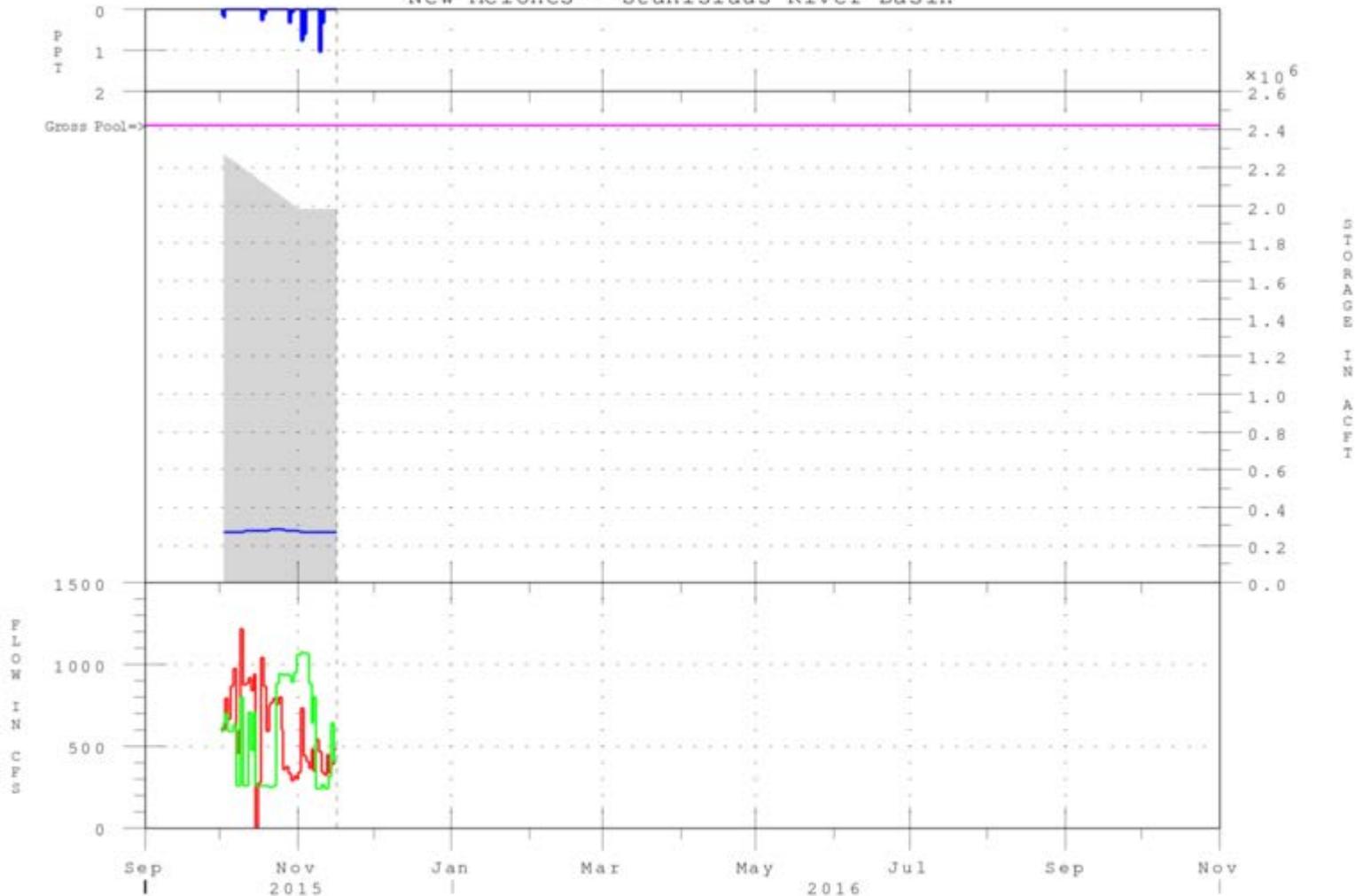
Tuolumne

La Grange Dam is undergoing FERC re-licensing. A part of this process involves the irrigation districts looking into fish passage above the dam, most likely by trucking. The next workshop for this will be held November 19th at Modesto Irrigation District.

Tuolumne “Paddle with the Salmon” events have not been observing many salmon this year.

Next Meeting: December 16, 2015

New Melones - Stanislaus River Basin



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

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
TOTALS			-5.8	6,456	4,749	0	4,420	146	1.44	2.90
ACRE-FEET			-5,800	12,805	9,420	0	8,767	290		

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

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NOVEMBER 2015

TULLOCH RESERVOIR DAILY OPERATIONS

RUN DATE: 11/16/2015

DAY	ELEV	STORAGE ACRE-FEET RES. CHANGE	COMPUTED* INFLOW C.F.S.	NEW MELONES RELEASE	POWER	RELEASE - C.F.S. SPILL	OUTLET	EVAP C.F.S. (1)	
		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	
TOTALS			+765	7,894	9,169	7,459	0	0	49
ACRE-FEET			+765	15,658	18,187	14,795	0	0	97

*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

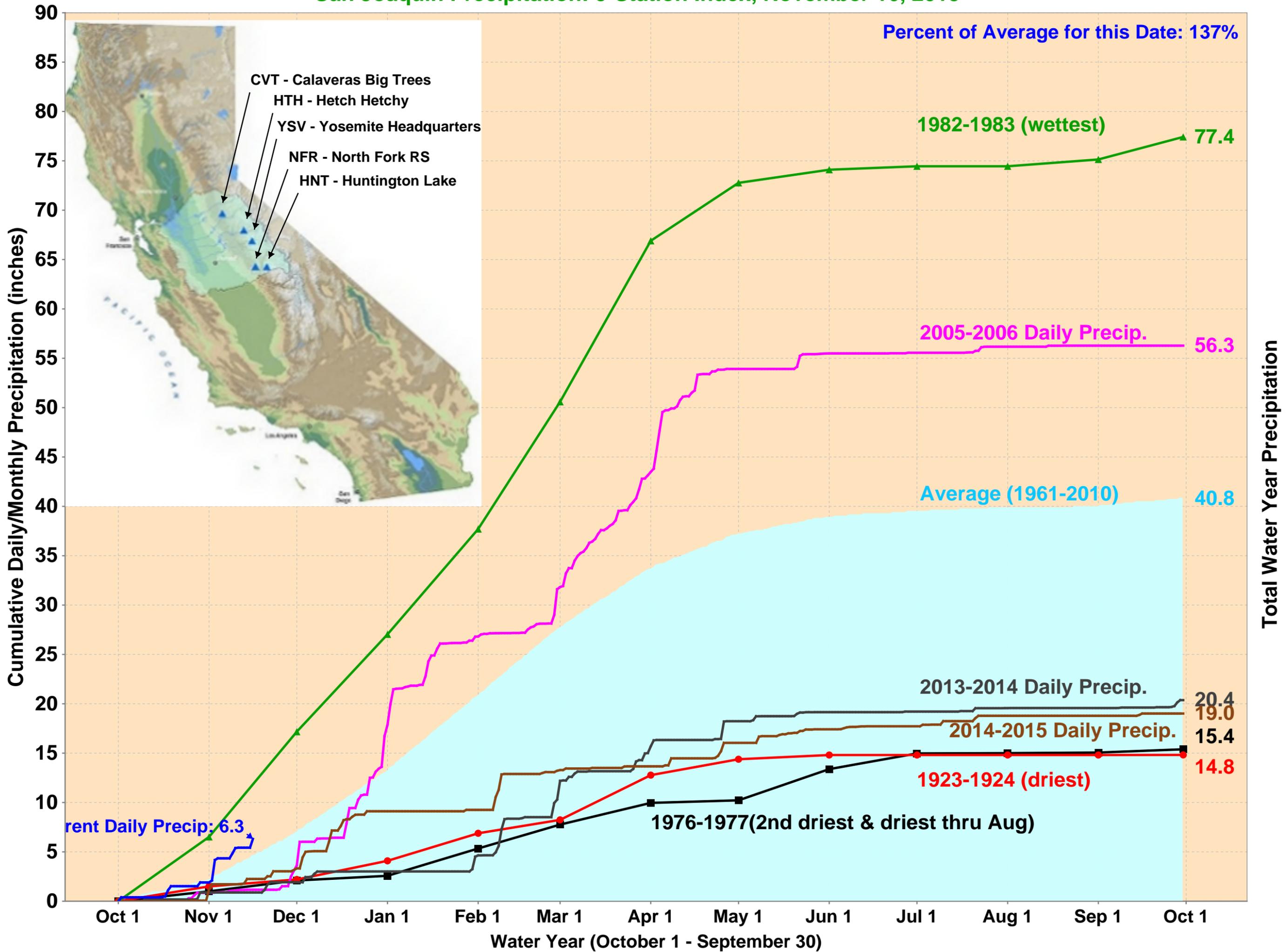
DAY	ELEV	STORAGE		TULLOCH	RELEASE - C.F.S.			
		ACRE-FEET	CHANGE		RES.	RIVER	SPILL	CANALS
				RELEASE	OUTLET		JOINT	MAIN
		566						
1	360.38	564	-2	1,066	0	1,103	8	0
2	360.33	560	-4	971	0	1,016	6	0
3	360.27	556	-4	882	0	911	6	0
4	360.22	552	-4	780	0	808	6	0
5	360.16	548	-4	685	0	709	6	0
6	360.11	545	-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
TOTALS			-41	7,459	0	7,515	83	0
ACRE-FEET			-41	14,795	0	14,906	165	0

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

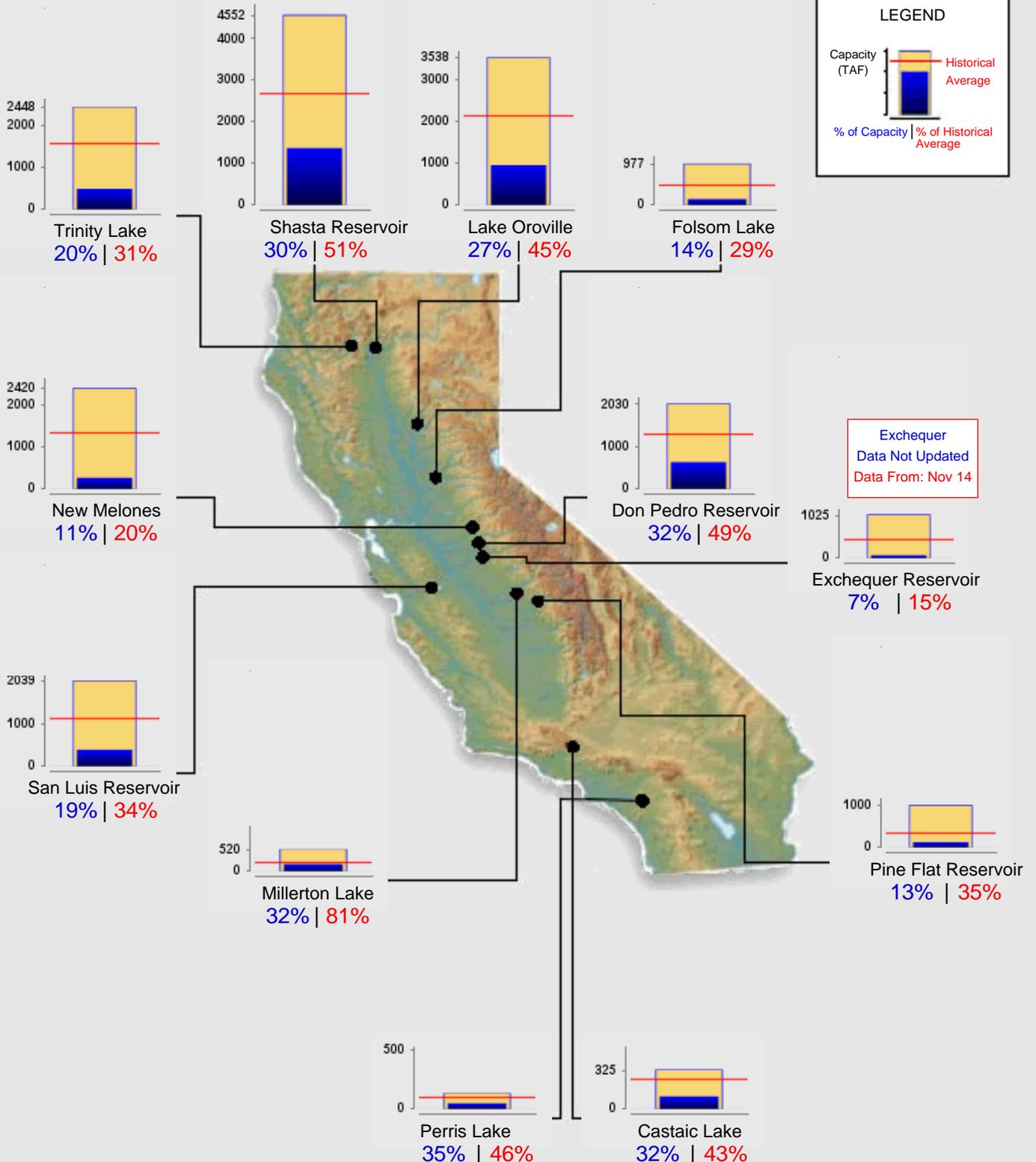




Reservoir Conditions

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

