



Westlands Water District

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CVP Operations Report

1. Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan pulse flow period ended on May 17. VAMP is 31-day pulse flow period, in the San Joaquin River near Vernalis that includes decreased export pumping. However when VAMP ended, several smelt showed up at the State and federal pumping plants, so exports have been at a minimum in late May and early June. Yesterday, Jones pumping was increased to about 1,800 cfs, with Banks remaining at 513 cfs. Later this week, it is expected that State pumping will increase to a similar level as Jones.
2. Currently, fish take, Old and Middle River reverse flow constraints (-3500 cfs) and E/I ratio (35%) dictate pumping levels. Just yesterday, OMR reverse flow was increased from -1500 cfs. OMR reverse flow restrictions are a result of the recent Smelt biological opinion. According to the fish agencies, the flow restriction will reduce the vulnerability of delta smelt to State and federal diversions by isolating Old and Middle Rivers from the hydraulic influence of the diversion facilities. For 2009, the latest tally of export impacts due to the OMR reverse flow criteria is at 537 TAF (CVP 206 TAF, SWP 331 TAF)
3. Current water temperatures near the export pumps are hovering around 22 degrees Celsius. Once the temperature reaches 25 degrees, the delta smelt biological opinion states that OMR flow restrictions are no longer necessary. So, warmer weather will allow State and federal pumping to resume to anticipated levels.

4. CVP SOD allocation is currently at 10%. However, the allocation is reliant on Joint Point of Diversion between now and the end of July. Joint Point of Diversion is utilizing Banks pumping capacity to move CVP water. SLR total storage is currently at 540,102 af. The federal side is at 108,496 af. USBR had forecast that there would be 75,000 af of water on the federal side in SLR at the end of June. Now, USBR is forecasting that the federal side could be at or near zero by the end of June. Accordingly, JPOD will be needed to fill the hole in SLR and move federal supplemental water supply. In 2009, there will not be an increase in allocation for SOD water service contractors until USBR feels confident that the additional water can be moved using JPOD.

5. Last month the State Water Project allocation was increased to 40%. Not good news for SOD CVP users, because the increase in exported State water squeezes out our water at the pumps. At a recent meeting with DWR, their operations staff forecast that they would be able to move all of our supplemental water and still have up to 100,000 af capacity available. This is the capacity that could be used to increase our allocation. DWR is due to update their operations model later this week and we have a meeting with them on June 23rd to discuss capacity constraints.

6. DWR has a permit application under review by the United States Army Corp of Engineers to temporarily increase the pumping capacity at Banks from 6,680 cfs to 7,180 cfs. For the past several years, the additional 500 cfs has been used to move Environmental Water Account water through the Delta. This year, Westlands has requested that the additional capacity be used to move contractor water. The fishery agencies have been holding up their comments on the permit application until after the new anadromous fish biological opinion is released.

7. Cooler weather and export curtailment have resulted in higher than expected storage levels at Folsom (2009 – 109% of avg) and Shasta (2009 – 2.982 MAF, 77% of avg and 66% of cap).
8. Snowpack in the Northern Sierra is about 80% of avg to date.
9. Sac Valley water year type index (40-30-30) at 50% exceedance is dry.