

From: Hinojosa, Tracy@DWR <Tracy.Hinojosa@water.ca.gov>

Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 4:54 PM

To: Ekdahl, Erik@Waterboards <Erik.Ekdahl@waterboards.ca.gov>

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Subject: Electronic Transmittal: Report on Hydrologic Forecasting Improvements and Operations Outlook for TUC Orders Conditions 3 & 5

EXTERNAL:

Good afternoon—

Consistent with the February 15, 2022 and April 4, 2022 Temporary Urgent Change Orders (TUCOs) granted by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and in compliance with Condition 3 and Condition 5 of those Orders (respectively), DWR and Reclamation hereby submit this report and Operations Outlook.

This Operations Outlook will also be posted to DWR's website under the Hydroclimate and Water Supply tab on [DWR's Drought Preparedness web page](#).

Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Tracy

Tracy Hinojosa
Regulatory Compliance & Reporting Branch
SWP Operations Control Office
☎ 916-574-2333 (office)
☎ 916-915-7519 (mobile)

2022 Operations Outlook (based on May projections)

Accretions / Depletions (Condition 5b.)

Values in TAF	April	May	June	July	August	September
Sacramento Valley	147	-67	-130	-189	-119	-48
Net Delta Consumptive Use	71	133	219	267	232	147

Note: May-Sep Sac Valley values are negative to represent Depletion

Deliveries (Condition 5c.&5d.)

Values in TAF	April	May	June	July	August	September	Basis of Water Right or Contractual Agreement
SWP - Feather River Service Area	32	119	115	129	73	29	A005630, A014443, Feather River Settlement Agreements
SWP - North of Delta Contract Deliveries	4	4	5	6	5	5	A016950, A016952, A017514A, A021443
SWP - South of Delta Contract Deliveries	39	38	23	30	22	5	A005630, A014443, A014445A, A017512, A025435, A025511, A025988, A026058
CVP - Settlement Contractors	187.5*	47.5	47.5	47.5	47.5	47.5	This is comprised of 75% of the Exhibit A quantities listed in the Settlement Contracts. It doesn't include the small Short Form Settlement Contracts. However, the Short Form Contracts only represent approximately 1.4% of the SRSC water quantities. (*This is the number scheduled, but prior to the April 14 notice, contract diversions would be limited to 18%. No contract diversions in April from storage releases. As of May 10, Reclamation will start counting against the contract.)
CVP - Sacramento River Agricultural Water Service Contractors	7	9	10	10	7	4	Water used by these contractors is part of the 75% allocated to the Settlement Contractors (allocation to NOD Water Service Ag Contractors is 0%.)
CVP - Sacramento River Municipal and Industrial Contractors	0.997	1.285	1.948	2.357	1.726	1.419	This includes the City of Redding's M&I Settlement Contract water and the McConnell Foundation and Centerville CSD's exchange water.
CVP - American River Municipal and Industrial Contractors	0.4	0.45					PHS for SMUD. Allocation to ARD CVP M&I Contractors is zero.
CVP - Contra Costa Water District	4.246	6.613	5.936	7.300	7.250	5.600	CVP M&I estimated scheduled diversions.
CVP - North of Delta Refuges	0.420	0.900	4.100	1.381	2.147	8.937	Includes Water to be Exchanged with DWR for Gray Lodge.
CVP - Exchange Contractors	44.7	79.8	104.5	119.5	96.7	49.8	Includes water being transferred to other districts, transfers are based on consumptive use reductions.
CVP - South of Delta Agricultural Water Service Contractors	0	0	0	0	0	0	Allocation to SOD Water Service Ag Contractors is 0%.
CVP - South of Delta Municipal and Industrial Service Contractors	1,450	1,650	0	0	0	0	
CVP - South of Delta Refuges	7.869	14.684	6.06	5.085	10.46	47.49	Refuge Water Supply Contract: 01WC201756, 01WC201758, 01WC201754
CVP - OID & SSJID Water Right holders	49	69	80	75	63	47	1988 Operations Agreement
CVP - New Melones East Side Division	0	0	0	0	0	0	Per Eastside Division Shortage Policy, Contractors' allocation is zero.
CVP - Friant Unit	12.329	25.549					

Delta Flows (Condition 5b.)

Values in cfs or TAF	April	May	June	July	August	September
Delta Inflow at Freeport (cfs)	8285	6161	7731	10440	9885	6753
Net Delta Outflow Index (cfs)	7434	4134	4005	4011	3008	3027
SJR at Vernalis Flow (cfs)	941	846	710	520	553	672
CVP Export (TAF)	54	56	48	156	178	102
SWP Export (TAF)	32	33	14	16	59	30

Transfers (Condition 5e.)

Values in TAF	April	May	June	July	August	September
NOD to SOD (estimated)	N/A	N/A	N/A	TBD	TBD	TBD

Reservoir Inflow (Condition 5a.)

Values in TAF	April	May	June	July	August	September
Trinity	62	65	14	8	4	3
Whiskeytown	58	8	4	2	1	1
Shasta	252	204	155	140	134	136
Folsom	256	189	81	75	80	67
New Melones	74	46	27	28	27	25
Oroville	341	187	62	93	124	109

Reservoir Releases (Condition 5a.)

Values in TAF	April	May	June	July	August	September
Trinity Release to Trinity River	79	67	27	28	53	52
Carr Tunnel diversion	25	29	25	30	31	30
Whiskeytown to Clear Creek	12	12	12	9	9	9
Spring Creek Tunnel diversion	8	10	15	20	20	20
Shasta Release to Sac River	194	234	268	277	277	238
Folsom Release to American River	69	64	161	266	264	100
New Melones to Stanislaus River	27	25	30	9	9	9
Oroville	78	114	161	268	201	127

Reservoir End-of-Month Storage (Condition 5a.)

Values in TAF	April	May	June	July	August	September
Trinity	766	732	690	636	552	471
Shasta	1808	1780	1673	1545	1412	1322
Folsom	769	855	758	547	344	297
New Melones	922	863	776	720	674	655
Oroville	1917	1865	1644	1334	1176	1123
San Luis Reservoir	950	908	743	695	769	750

Monthly COA Balances (Condition 5f.)

Values in TAF	April	May	June	July	August	September
Monthly Balance	216	155	94	0	0	0



DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Division of Operations and Maintenance
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 300
Sacramento, California 95821



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Central Valley Operations Office
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 300
Sacramento, California 95821

Erik Ekdahl
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Condition 3 of the February 15, 2022 Temporary Urgency Change Order and
Condition 5 of the April 4, 2022 Temporary Urgency Change Order

Dear Mr. Ekdahl:

Consistent with the February 15, 2022 Temporary Urgent Change Order (TUCO) by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issued to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and in compliance with Condition 3 of that Order, DWR and Reclamation hereby submit this report by the State Water Project (SWP) and the Central Valley Project (CVP), also collectively referred to as Projects.

As you know, Condition 3 specifically requires DWR and Reclamation to identify and implement needed improvements to forecast methods to avoid significant over- or under- estimates of available water supplies and provide updates to the Board on these efforts along with updates on current hydrologic and operational forecasts for the water year on a monthly basis starting in April of 2022 and continuing until the drought emergency is over.

Condition 3 also requires DWR and Reclamation to submit in writing monthly hydrologic and operational forecasts and include information on forecasted inflows; reservoir releases; water supply deliveries; reservoir storage levels; any Coordinated Operations Agreement debts; planned water transfers, forbearance agreement actions, exchanges, and other actions of this nature; and other relevant information that may be requested by the SWRCB's Executive Director to inform future drought-related decision making.

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In this letter, the Projects provide updates on current hydrologic and operational forecasts for the water year, as well as information on planned water transfers, forbearance agreement actions, and exchanges. The attached table, prepared in response to Condition 5 of the latest TUCO, issued April 4, 2022, includes the information on forecasted inflows; reservoir releases; water supply deliveries; reservoir storage levels; and Coordinated Operations Agreement debts.

Forecasting Improvements

The Bulletin 120 and Water Supply Index (WSI) forecast for April 2022 utilizes data from more sources than ever before, including updated state-of-the-art electronic monitoring stations, Airborne Snow Observatory (ASO) flights, satellite data, and modeling techniques that DWR will continue to refine and leverage in coming years to prepare for a new climate reality. Ongoing collaboration with research partners will also help us understand post-fire impacts on snow and hydrology and better model snowmelt and runoff, soil conditions, sublimation, changes to landscape from climate change, fire, and tree mortality. DWR's Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting teams are coordinating with hundreds of scientists, researchers, and partner agencies across the state to present the best picture of runoff conditions possible in the face of unprecedented drought conditions and climate whiplash.

Bulletin 120 Forecasts

The snow surveys and water supply forecasting team from DWR has provided continual outreach to Reclamation, DWR-SWP, SWRCB, and other water management partners through collaborative forecast discussions. As each forecast is issued, forecast discussion meetings have provided excellent opportunities to keep water management teams informed of the changing hydrologic conditions that impact runoff. California-Nevada River Forecast Center (CNRFC) staff have joined in on these meetings as well. DWR and CNRFC published forecasts have lined up well this year. DWR's forecasting team has been utilizing machine learning with good success as well. Machine learning has enabled DWR to consider more variables and factors in the existing forecasting procedures. Further work is planned in this area in collaboration with Scripps Institution of Oceanography Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes (CW3E) and other partners to leverage their expertise in machine learning.

Airborne Snow Observatory (ASO)

During the month of April, the Aerial Remote Sensing of Snow (ARSS) program conducted Airborne Snow Observatory (ASO) flights over the Feather, Yuba, Truckee, Carson, Tuolumne, Merced, San Joaquin, Kings, and Kaweah River basins with bi-weekly updates to the iSnoBal snow hydrology model provided in between flights. The ASO data captured Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) accumulation in the Tuolumne River watershed; however, for the watersheds from the Merced River southward to the Kaweah River, the combination of ASO data and iSnoBal model updates shows a

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continual melt of the snowpack. Further evident in the ASO data is the more rapid melt in recent burn areas; particularly in the burn scars of the Dixie Fire (2021 Feather River) and Creek Fire (2020 San Joaquin River). ASO data from these flights were considered in the updated Bulletin 120 forecasts throughout April and the May 1 Bulletin 120 forecast.

During the month of May, snow data collection flights will conclude for the season, with flights in the Yuba, Truckee, Carson, Tuolumne, Merced, Kings, and Kaweah watersheds. Data from all ASO flights will be available on the Snow Product Comparison Dashboard and will be leveraged to aid in future updates of the Bulletin 120 forecasts.

WRF-Hydro Physically Based Model

DWR's pilot program to develop WRF-Hydro physically based runoff forecast models in the Feather River and San Joaquin River watersheds has continued in parallel with the Bulletin 120 forecasts and with the collection of ASO data in these two watersheds. The WRF-Hydro model is being developed by the National Center for Atmospheric Research and factors in the physical characteristics of the watershed (geography, geology, vegetations, soils, elevations, etc.). Despite being in development mode, the preliminary results of the model have been promising in both the Feather and San Joaquin River watershed, with runoff forecast volumes resembling those forecasted by DWR and the CNRFC. Additional work on these models this summer will further explore current water operations within the watersheds to better inform the model's ability to route runoff and a look into post-fire conditions to examine the model's ability to reflect large scale changes in the watershed due to fires.

UC Davis Watershed Environmental Hydro-Climate Model

During the month of April, DWR received a draft proof of concept report from UC Davis who are under contract with DWR to develop their Watershed Environmental Hydro-Climate (WEHY) hydrologic model for the Sacramento Valley. The WEHY model contains a precipitation and snowpack accumulation model with input from industry-standard climate and weather outlook products making this a climate-informed runoff model. The preliminary draft has been reviewed by DWR staff, and while there is still a lot of work to do in order to complete this proof of concept, there is great interest to see how this model can augment DWR's runoff forecast toolbox.

May 1, 2022 – Projected Hydrology and Runoff

The DWR's Hydrology and Flood Operations Branch within the Division of Flood Management produces estimates of water year runoff, or the water supply index (WSI), for the major watersheds of the Sacramento and San Joaquin River basins. The WSI forecast is a statistically based forecast of Water Year runoff for each major river basin in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys (Sacramento, Feather, Yuba, American,

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Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Merced, and San Joaquin). The runoff forecasts are produced for six exceedance levels--99%, 90%, 75%, 50%, 25%, and 10%--and are done at the beginning of the month from December through May.

The Projects' joint operations plan uses the 90% exceedance Water Supply Index (WSI) forecast for the joint operations plan included in this report and the May Drought Plan update. The hydrologic forecast is unique to this water year and informed by precipitation, runoff, snowpack, and other antecedent hydrologic conditions as they existed on May 1, 2022. The forecast also combines the runoff associated with the antecedent conditions with the anticipated runoff resulting from precipitation forecasted to occur through September 30. For example, the 90% exceedance hydrology assumes inflows from rainfall and snowmelt at levels that are likely to be exceeded with a 90% probability, or in other words, there is a 10% or less chance of actual conditions turning out to be this dry or drier from this point forward.

The May 1 WSI forecast water year classifications and runoff for the Sacramento Valley and San Joaquin Valley are summarized as follows:

Sacramento River Unimpaired Runoff (50% Exceedance)	10.6 MAF (60% of historical average runoff)
Sacramento Valley Index (SVI) (50% Exceedance)	4.5 MAF (Critical)
San Joaquin Valley Index (SJI) (75% Exceedance)	1.5 MAF (Critical)

SWP and CVP Operations Forecasts

The operations forecast uses the runoff forecast as model inputs to simulate Project operations under various regulatory requirements and produce forecasted reservoir storages, releases, and flows under the same hydrologic exceedances. This operations forecast gives general guidance for annual water delivery, storage management, and power planning purposes for this exceedance assumption. Actual hydrologic events unfold in time steps shorter than a month and are often unpredictable more than a few days to a week out. Day-to-day operations are driven by operating criteria such as those found in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood control manuals, SWRCB D-1641 Bay-Delta Standards, the NMFS and USFWS Biological Opinions, and the ITP for the SWP. Outputs from forecast model, as provided in this Drought Plan, represent system responses to the overlay of specific expected monthly operating criteria on each of the discrete hydrologic scenarios provided in the May 1 water supply forecasts.

The forecast assumptions utilize existing storage conditions, actual precipitation through April, forecasted runoff based on the hydrology, projected water supply deliveries, and meeting existing flow and water quality standards, and fish and wildlife protections. The forecast includes monthly storage levels, reservoir releases, Delta export rates, and

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Delta outflow through September 30, 2022. DWR and Reclamation will continue to update the operations forecasts each month, and expect that with each updated operations forecast, SWP and CVP operations may change.

DWR and Reclamation have developed operational forecasts through September 2022, using the 90% exceedance forecast from the May 1, 2022, Bulletin 120 forecast. The forecast is designed to make the most efficient use of the limited water resources in 2022 for multiple beneficial uses while meeting regulatory requirements and managing the potential risks of continued drought conditions into next year. Information from the operational forecast is included in the attached Operations Outlook table.

Planned Transfers, Forbearance Agreement Actions, Exchanges

As of May 23, 2022, five groundwater substitution transfer proposals from the Feather River watershed have been submitted to DWR's online database system Water Transfers Information Management System. In addition, four more groundwater substitution transfer proposals are in draft, and two reservoir release Intent to Transfer were submitted from Feather River and American River systems. Currently, there are no planned transfers and forbearance agreement actions from the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors to water users south of the Delta. Transfers may still occur between various contractors north of the Delta. Table 1 below shows the estimated maximum quantity of short-term transfers in various watersheds with the method to make water available to transfer.

Table 1: Estimated Maximum Quantity of Short-Term Transfers (acre-feet before any losses) as of May 18, 2022

Method to Make Water Available for Transfer	Feather River	American River	Total
Groundwater Substitution	20,243	15,695	35,938
Cropland Idling/Shifting	0	0	0
Reservoir Release	10,000	20,000	30,000
Total	30,243	35,695	65,938

On May 18, 2022, Yuba Water Agency provided the latest forecast for a total of 96,114 acre-feet of the Yuba Accord water transfer in 2022. Table 2 below shows the estimated Lower Yuba River Accord Component water quantity to DWR and Reclamation Participating Contractors. The total quantity will be updated periodically during the transfer year.

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Table 2: Estimated Lower Yuba River Accord Component Water (acre-feet before any losses)

Estimated Lower Yuba River Accord Component Water Quantity (acre-feet before any losses)	
Component 1	37,284
Component 4	62,400
Total	96,114

Ongoing exchanges through the Consolidated Place of Use (CPOU) between the two Projects continue to be reported through the CPOU monthly reports. On May 6, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board approved Reclamation and DWR's 2021-2022 CPOU supplemental request for up to an additional 100,000 acre-feet (an increase from an approved 50,000 acre-feet to a total of 150,000 acre-feet) among San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors, Arvin-Edison Water Storage District, and Metropolitan Water District. The total quantity of transfers and exchanges will not exceed 431,780 acre-feet as authorized under the 2021-2022 CPOU order.

On May 11, 2022, DWR and Reclamation submitted a Petition for Temporary Change to modify the State Water Project and Central Valley Project Authorized Place of Use through 2022-2023 CPOU request for a total amount of water to be exchanged not to exceed 393,385 acre-feet.

If you have any questions, please contact Molly White of DWR at (916) 574-2722 or Kristin White of Reclamation at (916) 979-2199.

Sincerely,

Molly White

Molly White, Manager
Water Operations Office
Division of Operations and Maintenance
Department of Water Resources

Kristin White

Kristin White, Operations Manager
Central Valley Operations Office
Bureau of Reclamation

Attachment

Subject: Condition 3 of the February 15, 2022 Temporary Urgency Change Order
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cc: Diane Riddle (Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov)
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Operating Systems:	Windows2000? or WindowsXP?
Browsers (for SENDERS):	Internet Explorer 6.0? or above
Browsers (for SIGNERS):	Internet Explorer 6.0?, Mozilla FireFox 1.0, NetScape 7.2 (or above)
Email:	Access to a valid email account

Screen Resolution:	800 x 600 minimum
Enabled Security Settings:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow per session cookies • Users accessing the internet behind a Proxy Server must enable HTTP 1.1 settings via proxy connection

** These minimum requirements are subject to change. If these requirements change, we will provide you with an email message at the email address we have on file for you at that time providing you with the revised hardware and software requirements, at which time you will have the right to withdraw your consent.

Acknowledging your access and consent to receive materials electronically

To confirm to us that you can access this information electronically, which will be similar to other electronic notices and disclosures that we will provide to you, please verify that you were able to read this electronic disclosure and that you also were able to print on paper or electronically save this page for your future reference and access or that you were able to e-mail this disclosure and consent to an address where you will be able to print on paper or save it for your future reference and access. Further, if you consent to receiving notices and disclosures exclusively in electronic format on the terms and conditions described above, please let us know by clicking the 'I agree' button below.

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