



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING | Agenda**  
**MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024**  
**FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY**  
**854 N. HARVARD AVE., LINDSAY, CA 93247**  
**8:30 AM (CLOSED SESSION) 09:30 AM (OPEN SESSION)**

Members of the public may access the open session portion of the meeting remotely through the following link:

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Meeting ID: 257 824 530 103

Passcode: cQoN8w

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – (Erickson)**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – (Erickson)**

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS – (Davis)**

**ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

**1. CLOSED SESSION**

**A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**  
(Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1))

1. *NRDC v. Rogers*, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California (Sacramento Division), Case No. 88-CV-1658-JAM-GGH.
2. *California Natural Resources Agency v. Raimondo*, United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, Case No. 1:20-CV-00426-DAD-EPG.
3. *CDWR Water Operations Cases*, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. JCCP 5117.

**B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**  
(Government Code section 54956.9(d)(2))  
Significant Exposure to Litigation: Four potential matters.

**C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- INITIATION OF LITIGATION**  
(Government Code section 54956.9(d)(4))  
Initiation of Litigation: Two potential cases.

- D. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS  
(Government Code section 54956.8)  
Property: Friant-Kern Canal facilities and right-of-way  
Agency negotiator: CEO, COO, CFO, General Counsel  
Negotiating parties: United States (Bureau of Reclamation)  
Under negotiation: Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project Cost Share Agreement  
(price and terms of payment)

### **RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION (09:30 AM)**

Announce reportable action taken during closed session.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS – (Erickson)**

Public comment is welcome at this time on any matter within the jurisdiction of the Board that is not on the agenda. Under the State's open meeting law - the Brown Act - no action may be taken on any item not on the agenda. Public comment on items on the agenda will be allowed at the time the Board considers the item.

### **2. ACTION ITEMS (15 Minutes)**

- A. Approval of the Minutes – Executive Committee meeting of April 15, 2024. (Erickson)

### **3. DISCUSSION / DIRECTION (35 MINUTES)**

- A. Water Operations Update. (Buck-Macleod) (10 minutes)
- B. FKC Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project Update. (Amaral/Phillips) (5 minutes)
- C. Pending Federal and State Legislation. (Phillips) (15 minutes)
- D. CEO Report. (Phillips) (5 minutes)

### **ADJOURNMENT**

#### **Public Participation Information**

Agenda reports and other disclosable public records related to each Open Session agenda item are available on FWA's website under "Calendar" at [Friantwater.org](http://Friantwater.org) and at FWA's main office, 854 N. Harvard Ave., Lindsay, CA 93247, during regular business hours. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you require a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aides or services, please contact Vivian Felipe at 559-562-6305 or [vfelipe@friantwater.org](mailto:vfelipe@friantwater.org) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING | Minutes**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024**  
**FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY**  
**854 N. HARVARD AVE., LINDSAY, CA 93247**  
**8:30 AM (CLOSED SESSION) 10:00 AM (OPEN SESSION)**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** – Jim Erickson called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.  
Committee members present: Borges, Erickson, Pitigliano, Loeffler, Miller. Absent: Camp and Leider.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** - The agenda was approved unanimously. Ayes – Borges (2<sup>nd</sup>), Erickson, Loeffler, Miller, Loeffler, and Pitigliano (1<sup>st</sup>); Nays – None; Absent – Camp and Leider.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS** – There was no public comment on any closed session items.

**ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

**1. CLOSED SESSION**

**A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**

(Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1))

1. *NRDC v. Rogers*, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California (Sacramento Division), Case No. 88-CV-1658-JAM-GGH.
2. *California Natural Resources Agency v. Raimondo*, United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, Case No. 1:20-CV-00426-DAD-EPG.
3. CDWR Water Operations Cases, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. JCCP 5117.

**B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**

(Government Code section 54956.9(d)(2))

Significant Exposure to Litigation: Four potential matters.

**C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-INITIATION OF LITIGATION**

(Government Code section 54956.9(d)(4))

Initiation of Litigation: Two potential cases.

**D. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS**

(Government Code section 54956.8)

Property: Friant-Kern Canal facilities and right-of-way

Agency negotiator: CEO, COO, CFO, General Counsel

Negotiating parties: United States (Bureau of Reclamation)

Under negotiation: Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project Cost Share Agreement (price and terms of payment)

## RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

There was no reportable action taken during closed session. (10:04 a.m.)

## PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There was no public comment on any open session items.

### 2. ACTION ITEMS

#### A. Approval of the Minutes – Executive Committee meeting of March 11, 2024.

The minutes were approved unanimously. Ayes – Borges (2nd), Erickson, Loeffler (1<sup>st</sup>), Miller, Loeffler, and Pitigliano (2nd); Nays – None; Absent – Camp and Leider.

#### B. Recommendation to Board regarding Resolution Authorizing Application for and Participation in Bureau of Reclamation Snow Water Supply Forecasting Grant Program. WRM Buck-Macleod provided the report. He emphasized the importance of the ASO Program in terms forecasting water run-off volumes and that the local cost share component of the grant would be addressed through FWA’s OM&R budget process.

The recommendation was approved unanimously. Ayes – Borges (2nd), Erickson, Loeffler, Miller (1<sup>st</sup>), Loeffler, and Pitigliano (2nd); Nays – None; Absent – Camp and Leider.

#### C. Recommendation to Board regarding Amendments to FWA Bylaws to Address FWA Appointments to San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Board of Directors and Committees under the Second Amended MOU. (Davis/Phillips). General Counsel Davis and CEO Phillips provided the report. There was discussion as to whether FWA directors should potentially serve as alternate FWA representatives on the SLDMWA the Board, and it was recommended that the proposed Bylaw amendments be revised accordingly.

The recommendation was approved unanimously. Ayes – Borges (2nd), Erickson, Loeffler (2nd), Miller, Loeffler, and Pitigliano (1<sup>st</sup>); Nays – None; Absent – Camp and Leider.

### 3. DISCUSSION/DIRECTION

A. Water Operations Update- WRM Buck-Macleod provided the update per the agenda report. He reported that precipitation has generally been near to slightly above average in nearly all locations in the State. Reclamation issued updated allocations for all contractors on March 22 and an update to the Friant allocation on April 2, which noted an increase to 95% for the Friant Division Class I allocation. The most recent allocations confirmed that the Exchange Contractors are to receive 100% of the contract and that sufficient supply is forecasted to be available to not require a call on Friant with a 35% South-of-Delta (SOD) Ag allocation.

B. FKC Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project Update – COO Amaral provided the update. In response to a question, he stated that resulting capacity is still anticipated to be 2400 cfs. He reported that Ave 96 opened and that there will be a ribbon cutting, with more information to follow once a date is selected.

C. CEO Report – CEO Phillips reported on the passing of a local legend, Kole Upton, who served for many years on FWA’s Board of Directors. He reminded all present of the FWA annual meeting coming on May 16th.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

## OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Aaron Fukuda	Tulare I.D.
Alex Peltzer	PR Law Corp
Austin Ewell	Water Blueprint
Bill Stretch	FID
Brandon Tomlinson	Chowchilla W.D.
Brian Person	AECOM
Brian Thomas	FWA Consultant
Chris Hickernell	FWA
Chris Hunter	LSID
Craig Wallace	Lindsay-Strathmore I.D.
David Cameron	Hanson Bridgett Counsel
David Wierenga	Delano-Earlimart I.D.
Don Davis	FWA General Counsel
Edwin Camp	(Remote)
Eric Limas	Lower Tule River I.D., Tea Pot Dome W.D.
Eric Quinley	Delano-Earlimart I.D.
Fergus Morrissey	OCID
Geoff Vanden Heuvel	Milk Producers Council
Ian Buck-Macleod	FWA
Jason Phillips	FWA
Jeevan Muhar	Arvin-Edison W.S.D.
John Bezdek	FWA Special Counsel
Johnny Amaral	FWA
Katie Duncan	FWA
Kris Lawrence	SWID
Maggie Suarez	FWA
Mia Swenson	FWA
Mike Hagman	LSID
Shane Smith	KDWCD
Sean Geivet	SID, PID, Terra Bella I.D.
Tom Greci	MID
Vivian Felipe	FWA
Wilson Orvis	FWA

**DATE:** May 13, 2024

**TO:** Executive Committee

**FROM:** Ian Buck-Macleod, Water Resources Manager  
Katie Duncan, Water Resources EIT

**SUBJECT:** **Water Operations Update**

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## SUMMARY:

Temperatures over the past month have been near to slightly above average across most of the State. April precipitation as a whole was generally below normal in most of the State, but a larger storm in the first week of May brought above average precipitation for May to most of the State. Internal operational projections using recent forecast data were developed to forecast operations through the end of summer and are compared to the most recent Reclamation projections which were developed based on the April 1 runoff forecasts. Reclamation issued updated allocations for all contractors on April 24 which increased the South-of-Delta (SOD) Ag allocation to 40%. On April 18, Reclamation increased the Friant Class 1 allocation to 100% and Class 2 to 5%. On April 26, Reclamation released an additional 40 TAF block of Tier 1 unreleased restoration flows. On April 29, Reclamation announced the availability of 50 TAF block of Uncontrolled Season Class 2 supply that must be used by May 14. On May 1, Reclamation announced the availability of an additional 60 TAF block of Uncontrolled Season Class 2 supply that must be used by May 24. It is anticipated additional blocks of Uncontrolled Class 2 supply will be made available soon.

## DISCUSSION:

### Inflow Forecasts

Precipitation in the San Joaquin watershed is approximately 180% of average for May and is currently about 90% of average for the water year. Temperatures over the last month have generally been near average. Snow water equivalent (SWE) in the San Joaquin watershed is currently ranges between 90% and 120% of normal and about 40% to 70% of the April 1 value. Elsewhere across the State, water year precipitation currently ranges from 85% to 96% of average and SWE ranges from about 77% to 131% of normal (47% to 78% of the April 1 value). Beginning this weekend, a warm-up is expected to persist over the next week. Over the next two weeks, forecasts call for a slight chance of afternoon thunderstorms in the Sierra.

Table 1 shows the unimpaired inflow forecasts for Shasta Lake and Millerton Lake from the California Nevada River Forecast Center (CNRFC), California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and current Millerton forecast developed for the Restoration Program for the 2024 water year. The CNRFC and DWR forecasts are fairly consistent at the 50% level for both Shasta and Millerton. The current CNRFC 50% forecast would result in a water year flow this is 102% and 104% of average for Shasta and Millerton, respectively.

**Table 1. Unimpaired Inflow Forecasts for WY 2024**

Item	Exceedance		
	90%	50%	10%
CNRFC Shasta Unimpaired Inflow (TAF) <sup>1</sup>	5,680	5,710	5,750
DWR Shasta Unimpaired Inflow (TAF) <sup>2</sup>	5,530	5,755	6,270
CNRFC Millerton Unimpaired Inflow (TAF) <sup>1</sup>	1,820	1,850	1,900
DWR Millerton Unimpaired Inflow (TAF) <sup>2</sup>	1,630	1,750	1,910
BOR Millerton Unimpaired Inflow (TAF) <sup>3</sup>	1,681	1,799	1,982

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> As of May 9.

<sup>2</sup> As of May 1.

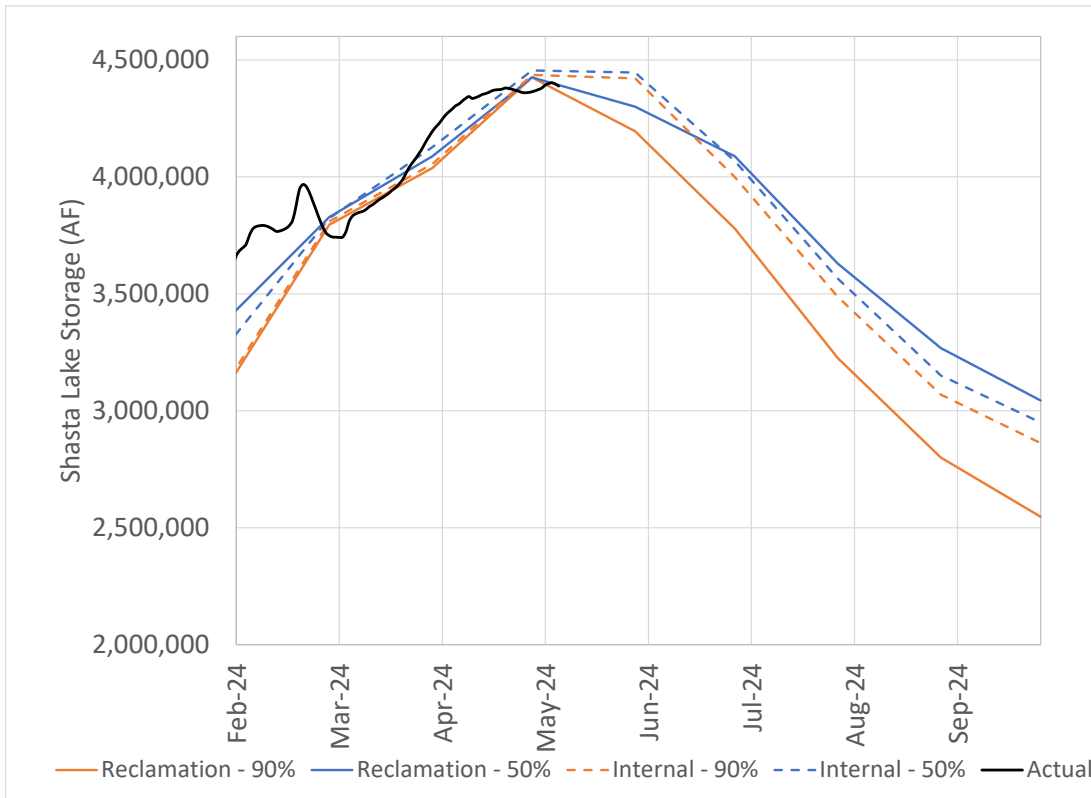
<sup>3</sup> As of May 2, smoothed and adjusted.

### North-of-Delta Operations

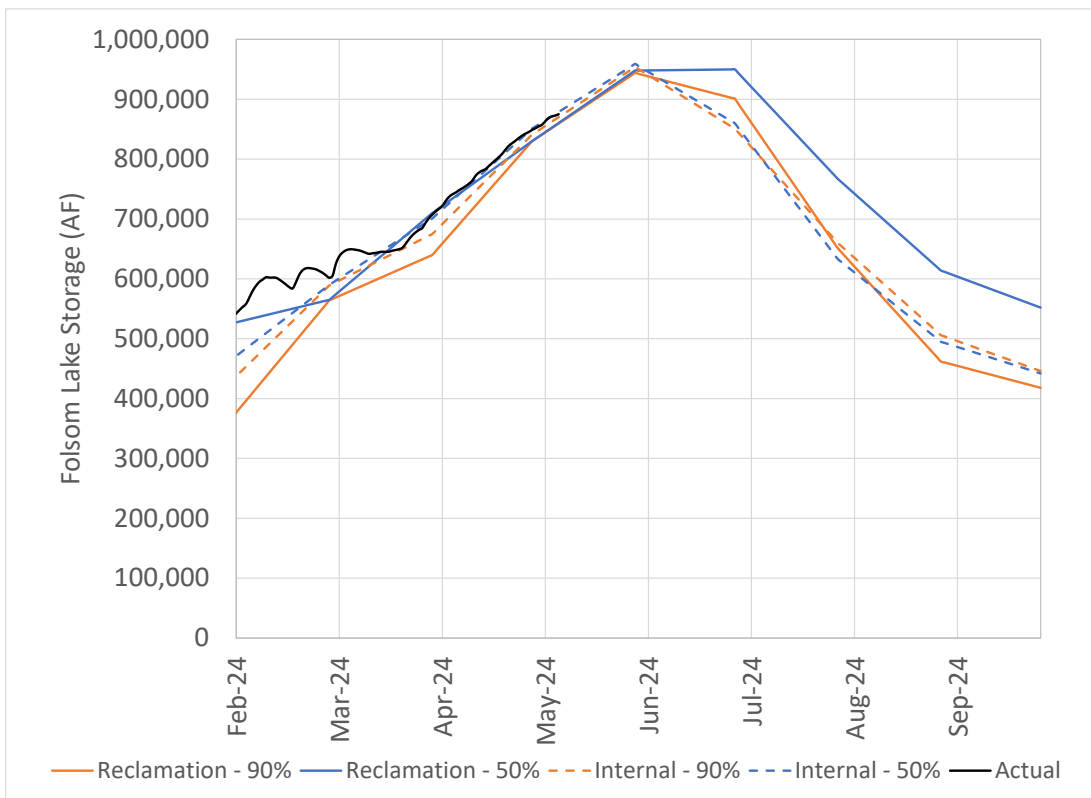
Overall Central Valley Project (CVP) North-of-Delta (NOD) reservoirs have been making flood control releases for the last several weeks, as most reservoirs are following the flood control diagram. Storage levels based on the 15-year average at Trinity, Shasta, and Folsom are currently at 121%, 119%, and 115% of average, respectively. The SWP updated their Table A allocation to 40% and the CVP updated their allocations on April 24. For the CVP, Sacramento River Settlement Contractors, Exchange Contractors, all Refuge supplies, and NOD M&I and Ag are 100% of contract; SOD M&I is 75% of contract and SOD Ag is 40% of contract.

Internal operational forecasts have been prepared for the 90% and 50% exceedance levels based on April 18 CNRFC forecasted hydrology. Although both projections are provided, differences are fairly minor between the internal 90% and 50% with slightly higher end of September carryover storage and slightly greater exports under the 50% projection. Also provided is Reclamation’s April 90% and 50% projections (based off the April 1 runoff forecast). All projections operate under a Above Normal water year type, which requires operating to the Fall X2 requirement in September and October. The internal projection makes a slightly more conservative estimate of the Delta Outflow required for Fall X2 compared to CVO’s assumption, with the internal assumption based off 2023 operations. For the internal projections, this results in slightly greater use of both Shasta and Folsom storage and slightly lower exports throughout the summer.

Figures 1 and 2 show the projected Shasta Lake and Folsom Lake storage through September based off these projections, as compared to actuals to date. Shasta is currently trending near all forecasts given the fairly small spread between each. Shasta is about 160 TAF from completely filing, but high flow pulse releases and slightly reducing inflows have dropped the reservoir since earlier last week. The internal projections show Shasta storage in September between 2.8 and 3.0 MAF, while CVO’s projections show storage between 2.6 and 3.1 MAF. Folsom storage is also currently trending near all projections, with each showing Folsom near full at the end of May. Summer projections are similar, except for a lower end of September storage under the internal projections and the Reclamation 90% due to greater use of Folsom to meet export demands in the summer.



**Figure 1. Shasta Lake Storage – April Internal and Reclamation Projections**



**Figure 2. Folsom Lake Storage – April Internal and Reclamation Projections**

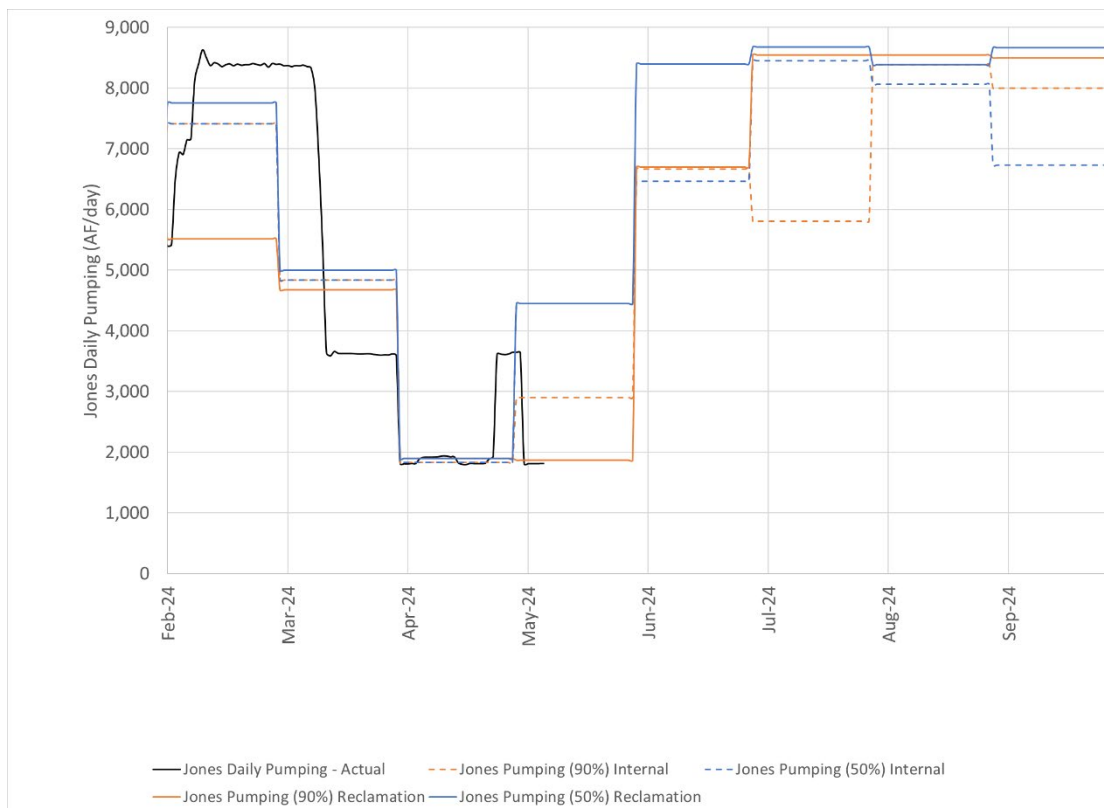


## South-of-Delta Operations

### Delta Operations

Beginning April 1, the Projects are required to operate to a San Joaquin I/E ratio of 4:1 (due to the Above Normal San Joaquin water year type) through the end of May. Under the Interim Operations Plan (IOP), Reclamation is required to operate to the I/E ratio and forego 100 TAF of exports. Higher Delta outflow during the first 9 days of April allowed for an off-ramp of the I/E requirement, which resulted in increased exports at Banks. Outside of a small increase at Jones to two-units at the end of April, the Projects have been operating to the I/E requirement and are at minimum public health and safety pumping (a combined 1,500 cfs; ~900 cfs at Jones and 600 cfs at Banks). Reclamation currently expects to meet the 100 TAF requirement within the next week. After that, pumping will likely be limited to Reclamation’s share of a -2500 OMR requirement, which will allow for a two- or possibly three-unit operation. Banks pumping is expected to remain at 600 cfs through the end of the month. Figure 3 shows the internal and Reclamation projections for daily Jones pumping through September as compared to actuals to date. Both projections show similar exports through most of the period, with the internal projections showing slightly lower exports in June and July due to differences in accretion/depletion assumptions and minor differences in upstream operations.

An approximately 6-week outage at O’Neill pumping plant due to transformer replacement had originally been scheduled for mid-April through late-May. Based on delivery constraints during this period, the outage is likely to occur soon after low point in July/August when pumping demands should be fully met by Jones pumping.

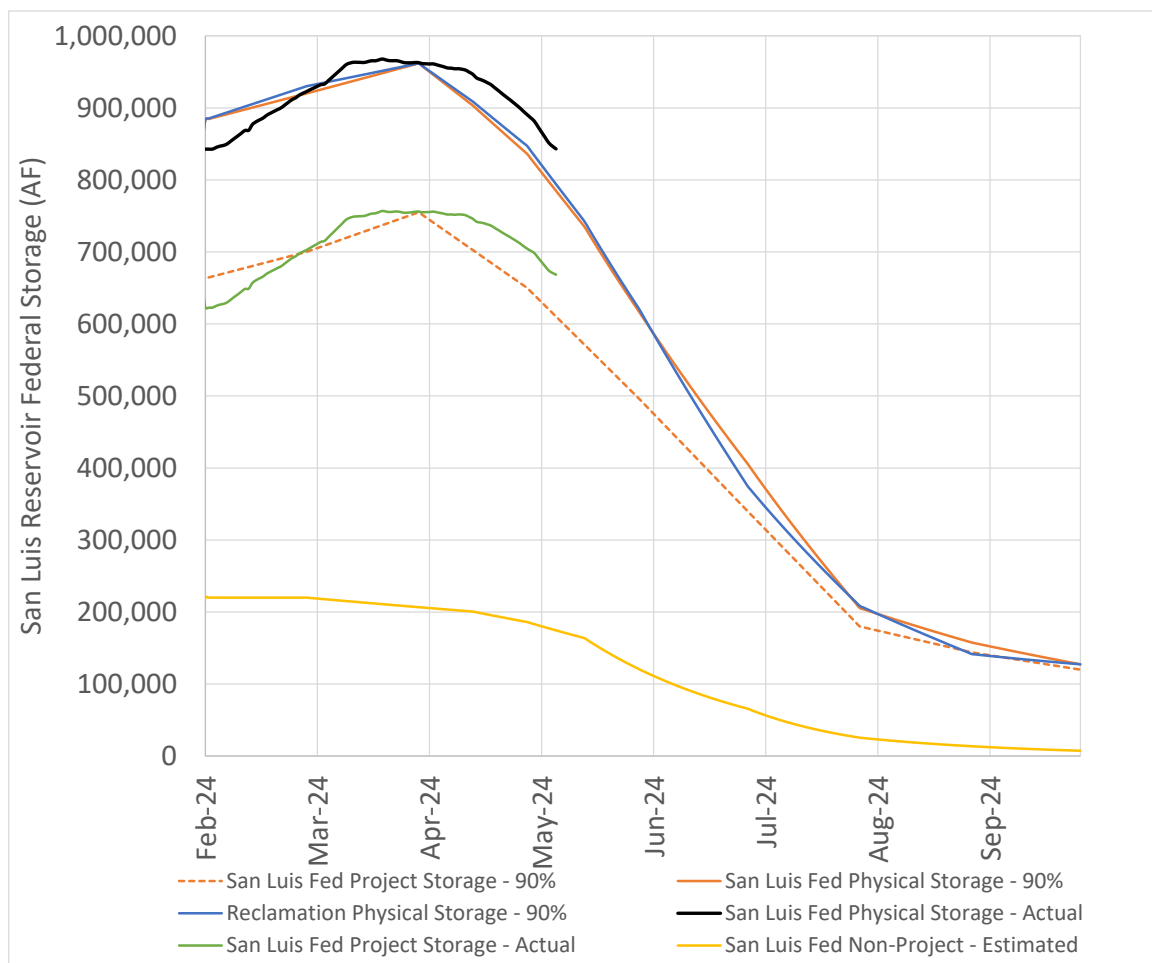


**Figure 3. Daily Jones Pumping – April Internal and Reclamation Projections**

*San Luis Operations*

CVP San Luis storage is at 843 TAF—125% of its 15-year average and continuing to decline since it filled in mid-March. Since then, CVO has been paying back water owed to the SWP from exchanges in O’Neill during 2023. There is about 100 TAF of payback remaining (of approximately 170 TAF originally owed), with the intent to payback as much as possible before the end of June. CVO confirmed that nearly 220 TAF of 2023 water supply is rescheduled into 2024. CVO also indicated that approximately 83 TAF of the water currently in CVP San Luis is reserved for a “drought reserve pool” and is not available for water supply allocations. Given assumed rescheduled water usage, approximately 600 TAF of current CVP San Luis storage is Project storage available for 2024.

Figure 4 shows the 90% internal and Reclamation projections for CVP San Luis physical storage, along with project (including drought pool storage) and non-project storages, all through September, as compared to actual. Current storage is trending slightly above both forecasts due to lower demands. The internal forecast shows low point occurring in October at about 100 TAF (including the 83 TAF of storage reserved for the drought reserve pool), while the CVO forecast shows lowpoint occurring in September at about 120 TAF.



**Figure 4. San Luis Federal Storage – April Internal and Reclamation Projections**

### *SOD Ag Allocation and Exchange Contractors*

As part of the April 24 allocation announcement, Reclamation confirmed the 100% allocation to the Exchange Contractors and increased the CVP SOD Ag allocation from 35% to 40% of contract. Our internal forecast assumed a 40% SOD Ag allocation under the 90% projection and a 45% allocation under the 50% projection. The increased Delta water quality requirements necessary in an Above Normal year (including Fall X2) limit the amount of additional water available for SOD water supply.

### **Friant Division**

#### *Millerton and Friant Allocation*

As of May 10, Millerton Lake is at 509 TAF of storage and is essentially full after incidental spills over the spillway at the top of the dam last weekend and earlier this week (cumulatively ~700 AF). Snow water content has now dropped to 93% of average to date due to rapid melt that is occurring, and total precipitation remains just below (90%) average for the water year. Reclamation's latest 90% exceedance forecast reflects a total water year runoff of 1.68 MAF and the 50% a 1.8 MAF water year and shows a 100% Class 1 and about 15% Class 2 allocation equivalent in uncontrolled season in May and potentially into June.

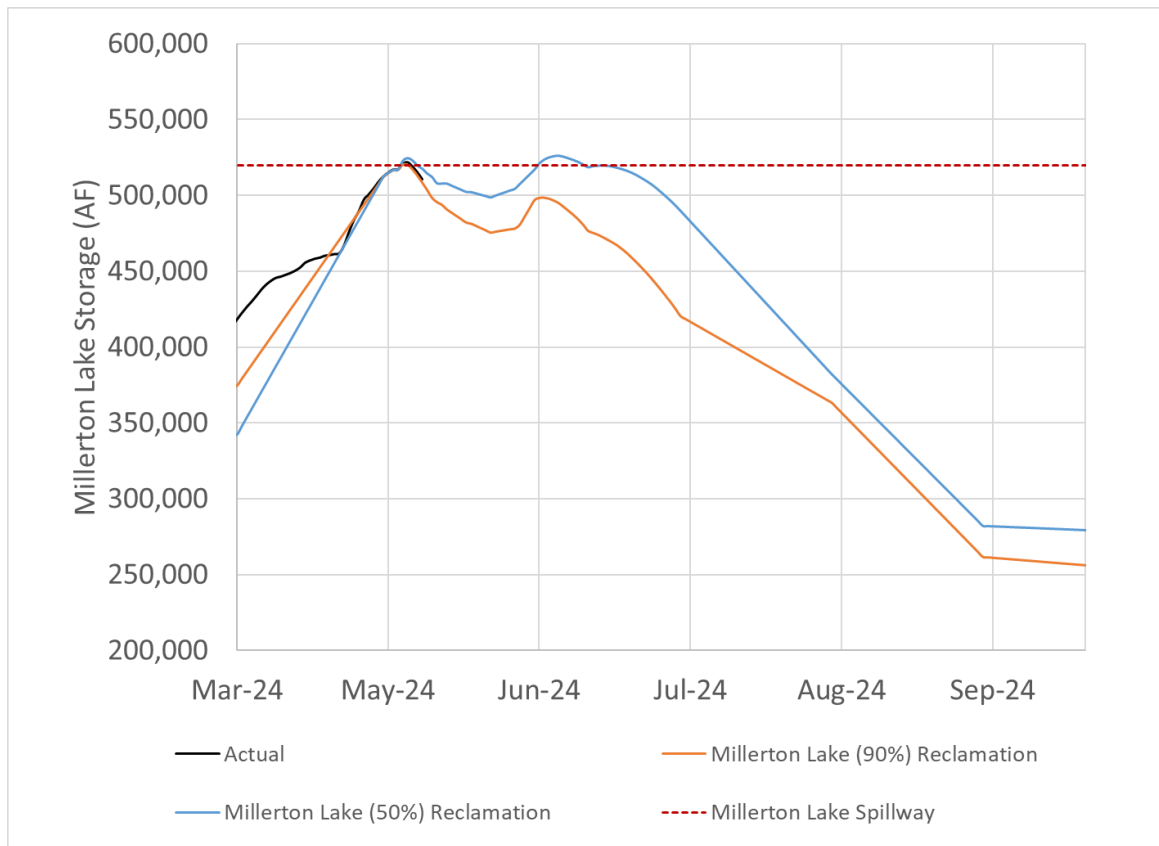
On April 18, Reclamation increased the Friant Class 1 allocation to 100% and Class 2 to 5%. On April 26, Reclamation released an additional 40 TAF block of Tier 1 unreleased restoration flows (120 TAF total to-date). On April 29, Reclamation announced the availability of 50 TAF block of Uncontrolled Season Class 2 supply that must be used by May 14. On May 1, Reclamation announced the availability of an additional 60 TAF block of Uncontrolled Season Class 2 supply that must be used by May 24.

Conditions surrounding Millerton operations (hydrology, runoff and demands) continue to be very dynamic. The recent additional supplies of URF and Uncontrolled Season Class 2 are part of flood management actions by Reclamation to control reservoir storage in Millerton Lake while also preserving residual schedulable supplies after the flood risk is passed. In addition to the recent incidental spills, Reclamation is undergoing "operational readiness" activities by lowering and raising spillway gates requiring addition flows over the top of the dam. Reclamation is making equivalent reductions in the river outlet in order for total releases to match Restoration Flows, however, it is likely there will be some additional "spills".

Friant Contractors have engaged in daily coordination calls to determine how to maximize use of available supplies, canal capacities, and contractor demands with the primary objective of avoiding flood releases from Friant Dam. It is anticipated additional blocks of Uncontrolled Class 2 supply will be made available soon to limit spills by the end of May and potentially into June. FWA staff will continue to closely coordinate with Reclamation on allocation and to continue tracking reservoir conditions to avoid or minimize any potential spill.

The San Joaquin River Restoration Program has released a 1<sup>st</sup> block of unreleased restoration flows (URFs) and we anticipate a 2<sup>nd</sup> block being released soon with a mid-May delivery deadline. FWA staff have been

coordinating closely with the Program office and SCCAO to ensure that reservoir storage and available supply including available URFs and carry over can be maximized.

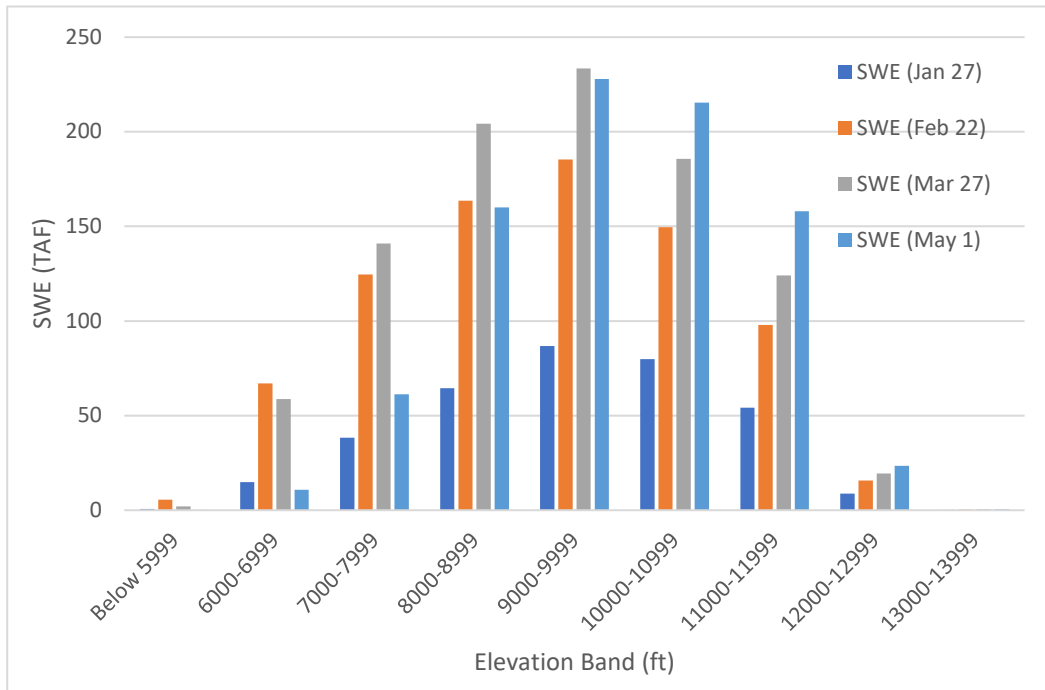


**Figure 5. Millerton Storage – May Reclamation Projections**

The north and south permanent plugs as part of Phase I of the Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project (MRCCP) will begin construction this weekend and are anticipated to limit capacity in the reach below Deer Creek to 1,400 cfs to 1,500 cfs during the duration of the construction, which is anticipated end May 24. After both plugs are completed, the new capacity should be able to be realized. FWA is actively monitoring and coordinating with contractors regarding delivery prorates and potential water quality concerns as flows are being reintroduced during and after construction.

*Airborne Snow Observatory*

The fourth ASO flight of the year for the upper San Joaquin River Basin occurred on April 29-May 1. Full basin SWE was estimated to be 857 TAF +/- 29 TAF (a decrease of 112 TAF from the March flight), with the snowline estimated to be at 7,300 feet. SWE above 10,000 feet actually increased from the March flight. Figure 6 provides a summary of the estimated SWE at each elevation band for each of the four 2024 ASO flights. The March 27 flight likely reflects peak SWE for water year 2024. Reclamation secured funding for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> flight, which are tentatively planned for around May 18, and June 7, respectively and are intended to improve understanding of runoff efficiency and timing.



**Figure 6. ASO SWE Estimate by Elevation Band**

*San Joaquin River Restoration Allocation*

On April 26th, the Restoration Administrator (RA) submitted an updated Restoration Flow Schedule based on the April 11th updated Allocation for the 2024/25 water year. The current allocation is 325,804 AF of Restoration Flows as measured at Gravelly Ford based on a 50% Exceedance forecast for the water year of 1,753 TAF, which is a Normal-Wet year type. The revised schedule included a brief pulse which occurred April 27th through May 5th of approximately 650 cfs at Gravelly Ford for the purpose of attracting returning Spring Run salmon. The schedule then ramps down to enhanced summer base flow to protect coldwater pool in Millerton. Following the recession of spring flows, the schedule then utilizes shifted spring flexible flows to maintain a connected river through October 31 by targeting at least 60 cfs at EBM. A total of 8,700 acre-feet of exchanges are called upon for the May 29 – October 31 period. Exhibit B base flows are then resumed from November 1 through February 2025. The fall pulse is likely to be deployed in two parts in November and December to support a river science experiment. The recommendation anticipates the release of about 180.764 TAF to the river, leaving about 145 TAF as URFs. To date 126 TAF have been released, leaving about 20 TAF yet to be released.

The Gravelly Ford Restoration flow target was 625 cfs from April 29 through May 7 and then is gradually decreasing to 180 cfs by May 15. Total Restoration Flows at Gravelly Ford on May 8 were 650 cfs (655 cfs total flow). The expected rate of Restoration Flows passing Sack Dam was approximately 500 cfs.

*San Joaquin River Restoration Recapture*

In April, PID recaptured 2,131 AF and BCID recaptured 3,062 AF, for a total of 5,193 AF along the lower San Joaquin. PID is currently recapturing at a rate of 30 cfs and BCID has ceased recapture for May due to capacity constraints. Total May recapture is expected to be around 2,000 AF.

