

Conversation with Paul Fujitani, CVO Water Operations Chief, April 15, 2009, 4:25 pm.

I asked Paul what the Sacramento River targeted temperature compliance point would be. He responded that it would be Clear Creek early into Sept., which is 60 degrees F for winter run. Pursuant to WR Order 90-05, they wanted to get back to 56 by late October, but they are out of resources (cold water) by then and can't do it.

Paul said that the Trinity outlook is improved. Modeling indicates that Trinity is not as bad off for temp compliance this year as Shasta. They hope to be somewhere around the Trinity basin plan temperature requirements.

When I asked him about the effects of another year of drought, he agreed that even Trinity could have problems next year.

The Trinity Dam auxiliary outlet is showing unusual wear on the valves, if there were extensive use, they would need to inspect it. There could be more wear and damage if it's used a lot.

I asked him if he thought they could meet Trinity temperatures this year w/o significant auxiliary outlet releases and he said that the modeling indicated that it could be done, or they would be close to meeting Trinity Basin Plan temperatures anyway.

In regard to having more suitable temperatures for fall run Chinook in the Sacramento River and getting more storage, Paul said that "We are in an area of storage where a little bit makes a big difference."

I asked Paul if there is still leakage in the Shasta Dam TCD because I had read it in the draft NMFS salmon BO. He said it does have leakage where the structure abuts Shasta Dam. I asked if the temperature models take the leakage into account and he said that the models don't take the leakage into account. They have to use professional judgment and experience when reviewing the model outputs and making decisions in that regard.

I asked him if there is more of a problem with leakage when reservoir levels are low and he said that when they try to pull the cold water from a low level, it's more sensitive to leakage, such as this year.