

**Meeting Summary**  
**DWR/Interested Party Meeting**  
**September 4, 2025**  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency, Yuba City, CA 95992**

**Participants**

- Todd Kimmelshue, Butte County Supervisor/OCAC Commissioner
- Bill Connelly, Butte County Supervisor/OCAC Commissioner
- Robert Bateman, OCAC Commissioner
- Angie Mannel, Butte County Emergency Manager
- Kevin Zeitler, ORAC
- Matt Mentink, community member
- Richard Thompson, community member
- David Gordon, DWR
- David Sarkisian, DWR
- Laurence Sanati, DWR
- Annie Wagner, DWR

**Meeting Purpose**

To address follow-up questions with DWR regarding Flood Protection and Dam Safety

**Documents Provided at Meeting**

- CNA Dam Safety Updates Document – September 4, 2025
  - From DWR
- Oroville Dam USACE 1970 Water Control Manual (WCM), Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations Final Viability Assessment (FIRO FVA), Dam Safety, and Forecasting evaluation documents
  - From Matt Mentink

**Action Items**

- David Gordon will share the handout and concerns discussed in the meeting with the SWP Water Operations team. A meeting with SWP Water Operations will be forthcoming.
- DWR will present Dam Safety progress at the next OCAC meeting in alignment with the documentation of CNA progress provided at this meeting. However, the level of detail will be minimized for presentable facts.

## Summary

### Water Operations and Studies

Mr. Mentink shared a packet of documents with participants. These documents are a collection of snapshots of various studies and reports on Oroville water operations (e.g., 1970 USACE WCM and FIRO FVA). Mr. Mentink's shared his concerns on the studies of Oroville water operations with highlighted edits in the documents. Below is summary of the Oroville water operations objectives and concerns shared in the meeting:

- 1970 WCM objective was to pass a Standard Project Flood (SPF) event without releases exceeding 150,000 cfs
- 1970 WCM SPF event was identified in the WCM as a 1/500-year event was the with peak flows of 440cfs,
- SPF hydrograph is similar to the Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations Final Viability Assessment (FIRO FVA) - 120% scaling of the 1997 event for Oroville Reservoir,
- FIRO FVA modeling of the 120% scaling of the 1997 event for Oroville Dam, causes releases from the Dam to exceed 150,000 cfs and downstream flow targets as well.
- Flood space capacity should not be limited to ~835 ft elevation as modeled in bottom of the FIRO FVA flood space.

DWR explained that the 1970 WCM and the FIRO FVA efforts are very different. Inputs used in creating a defined return period flood are subjective. DWR staff attending the meeting do not have background or expertise in the development of the FIRO FVA, nor do they have the expertise in water modeling or water operations to speak to the various scenarios outlined in the report. Technical questions regarding this subject will need to be answered by those involved in the development and review of the reports.

It was noted that Mr. Mentink wanted our SWP Water Operations to know that FIRO FVA model run ID4 showed the best results in the Study.

- After the meeting, DWR staff met with SWP Water Operations personnel. SWP Water Operations sited a resource that would clarify the current DWR Enhanced Flood Pool and how some of the concerns about the SPF and Marysville Dam were used to establish the DWR Enhanced Flood Pool. This resource, **Lake Oroville 2018-2019 Flood Ops Plan**, is located on DWR's website and attached to these meeting notes.

### Wetness Index

Attendees shared their concern with the use of the wetness index when there is a significant snowpack. Due to this concern, Mr. Mentink and Mr. Bateman would like to remove the use of the wetness index in the Water Control Manual.

DWR clarified its stance and the importance of accounting for snowmelt through the forecasting process and not by augmenting the wetness index.

### **Dam Safety Projects**

DWR went over a packet of information provided that shows the progress of actions in the Comprehensive Needs Assessment.

There was a request by Mr. Bateman for the October OCAC meeting to explain the FERC Part 12 Dam Safety Inspection with updates and for additional details on the Flood Control Outlet Gates studies.