

WMP Environmental Flow Explanation of Draft Changes in July 12, 2018, WAM Model

Nov. 1 Evaluation:

- Environmental criteria are evaluated on Nov. 1, in addition to the March 1 and July 1 evaluation dates in the 2015 WMP. Provisions limiting environmental flow based on the status of non-Garwood interruptible curtailment or cutoffs will remain in effect until the next evaluation date at which agricultural supply is also evaluated.

Instream Flows:

- **107 cfs Rule:**
 - The following criteria will apply to the Colorado River flow gauge at Wharton any time combined storage is below 900,000 acre-feet and after Storable Inflows are fully used to meet Subsistence criteria: Releases of stored water from lakes Buchanan and Travis will be made to maintain 107 cfs flow at the Wharton gauge (the August Subsistence value).
- **1.8MAF Base Dry:**
 - Base dry instream flow criteria are in effect when combined storage is between 1.96-1.8 million acre-feet, rather than 1.96-1.9 million acre-feet under the 2015 WMP.

Bay Inflows (replacements for items 1-4 on page 4-17 of 2015 WMP):

- **Bay 25,000 acre-feet 50 percent rule:**
 - After the release of 25,000 acre-feet of water for environmental flow needs (for both instream flow and freshwater inflow needs from stored water and Storable Inflows), any additional releases of Storable Inflows to help meet freshwater inflow criteria are limited to no more than 50 percent of the Storable Inflows remaining after the release of 25,000 acre-feet for environmental flow needs.
- **Bay maximum release:**
 - Any time releases of interruptible stored water for agricultural operations in Gulf Coast, Lakeside and Pierce Ranch are cut off, Threshold is the only freshwater inflow criteria in effect for that month unless combined storage at the end of the month is greater than 1.3 million acre-feet.
 - If combined storage falls below 1.0 million acre-feet at any time, Threshold is the only freshwater inflow criteria in effect for that month and each successive month until the next evaluation date.
 - The maximum release of Storable Inflows to meet freshwater inflow criteria based on combined storage at the end of the month is limited to 25,000 acre-feet if storage is below 1.3 million acre-feet, and is limited to 82,000 acre-feet if storage is above 1.3 million acre-feet.