

Exercise Background – Phase 1

10/21/09 F-CO FUNCIONAL EXERCISE OROVILLE/NEW BULLARDS BAR FLOOD SCENARIOS

CONDITIONS FOR SCENARIO 1:

Simulation date & time: 10/21/09 @ 9 AM

Event date: 12/27/09 - 9 AM briefing

Overview: For exercise purposes today is December 27

In the week before Christmas, a strong winter storm resulted in a large amount of snow in the Sierras, with the snow line between 6,000 feet in the north and 7,000 feet in the south. Since October 1, the Feather and Yuba Basins have had above normal precipitation and snow. This last storm has pushed the wetness index in the Feather Basin to just above 11, indicating wet ground. The Feather and Yuba basins have received precipitation in 20 of the past 30 days. Rainfall is expected to continue for the next few days.

The Feather and Yuba basins each recorded over 3.3 inches over the 48-hour period ending at 4 AM today. Snowline elevations are currently around 6,000 feet and expected to rise to around 7,000 feet over the next 24 hours. Forecasters predict another 4.1 inches of precipitation in the Feather basin and 3.6 inches in the Yuba basin over the next 24 hours.

Lake Oroville is at 847.7 feet elevation and about 10,673 acre-feet below the flood control space. Inflows are around 54,000 CFS. Total releases are around 33,000 CFS. The morning forecast called for Lake Oroville inflows to peak twice in the next five days. The first peak will be around 154,000 CFS by 2 PM on December 27th followed by a recession to 77,000 CFS by 7:00 AM on the December 30th, then built to a second peak of around 155,000 CFS on December 31st.

New Bullards Bar is at 1,908.4 feet elevation and about 41,215 acre-feet below the flood control space. Inflows are around 13,000 CFS. Total current release is around 8,400 CFS. Just like Oroville, the morning forecast called for New Bullards Bar inflows to peak twice in the next five days. The first peak will be around 67,000 CFS by 3 PM on December 28th, and is expected to recede to 17,000 CFS by 9:00 am on December 30th with renewed rises afterwards to peak at 69,000 CFS by 3 am on December 31st.