Exercise Background – Phase 2

10/21/09 F-CO FUNCIONAL EXERCISE
OROVILLE/NEW BULLARDS BAR FLOOD SCENARIOS
CONDITIONS FOR SCENARIO 2:
Simulation date & time: 10/21/09 @ 1 PM

Event date: 12/29/09 – 10 PM

Overview: For exercise purposes today is December 29

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. Heavy rainfall is expected to continue for the next few days.

The Feather and Yuba basins each recorded over 5.0 inches over the 24-hour period ending at 4 AM today. Snowline elevations are currently around 6,000 feet and expected to rise to around 8,000 feet over the next 24 hours. Forecasters predict another 9.0 inches of precipitation in the Feather basin and 14.5 inches in the Yuba basin over the next 24 hours respectively.

Lake Oroville is at 850.04 feet elevation and about 20,626 acre-feet encroached into flood control space. Inflows are around 84,000 CFS. The afternoon forecast calls for Lake Oroville inflows to peak around 450,000 CFS by 1 AM on the December 31st and then receding to around 140,000 CFS by 1 AM on January 2nd. Due to an order from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, outflows for the past week have been limited to 42,000 CFS. However, because of the magnitude of the oncoming storm, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has rescinded its order that Oroville releases be limited to 42,000 CFS. Effective immediately, Oroville shall return to normal operations.

New Bullards Bar is at 1,912.2 feet elevation and about 25,593 acre-feet below the flood control space. Inflows are around 34,000 CFS. Total current release is around 17,500 CFS. The afternoon forecast called for New Bullards Bar inflows to peak around 153,000 CFS by 1 AM on December 31st and is expected to recede below 40,000 CFS by 8 AM on January 1st.