



Westlands Water District

**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** SLDMWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
**FROM:** TOM BOARDMAN, WATER RESOURCES ENGINEER  
**SUBJECT:** MARCH OPERATIONS UPDATE  
**DATE:** MARCH 4, 2022

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**Project Operations**

- Jones pumping continues to operate at its minimum rate of 800 cfs due to an increased Delta outflow standard required by D1641. The moderately high Delta outflow standard of 11,400 cubic feet per second (cfs) that began February 1 will remain active until mid-March. The current outflow requirement was determined by D1641 criteria that reflects the amount of Sacramento Valley runoff brought by storms that ended early January.
- The current Delta outflow requirement is being met almost entirely with releases of stored water from upstream reservoirs. Absent additional runoff resulting from near-term storms, CVP and SWP reservoirs will release about 384 TAF to meet the Delta outflow standard that has limited exports to minimum levels since February 1.
- Reclamation's latest estimate of the accounting balance under the Coordinated Operations Agreement (COA) is about 375 TAF in favor of the CVP. The COA accounting imbalance has been declining during the past few weeks as Oroville continues its elevated release to help the CVP meet its share of the Delta outflow requirement.
- Accumulated precipitation in the Sacramento Valley finished February at 5% of average. Persistent dry conditions have caused the annual precipitation to slip from 160% of average in early January to 88% today.
- Shasta storage is about 1.69 MAF – an increase of about 70 TAF from a month ago. The current storage is trending slightly below Reclamation's latest 90% exceedance which shows the reservoir refilling to 2.0 MAF by the end of April. Projected unimpaired flow into Shasta has decreased by more than 1 MAF since mid-January due to persistent dry conditions. The latest inflow projection under 90% exceedance conditions of 2.9 MAF is below the 4.0 MAF needed to avoid a Shasta Critical year.
- Folsom storage is 524 TAF which is 42 TAF below its maximum allowable flood control limit. Releases are holding at 2,000 cfs to meet the increased Delta outflow requirement. Reclamation's latest 90% exceedance forecast shows the reservoir refilling to 95% of capacity by late May.
- CVP demands for February were essentially at the 15-year average.

## **2021-22 San Luis Reservoir Operations**

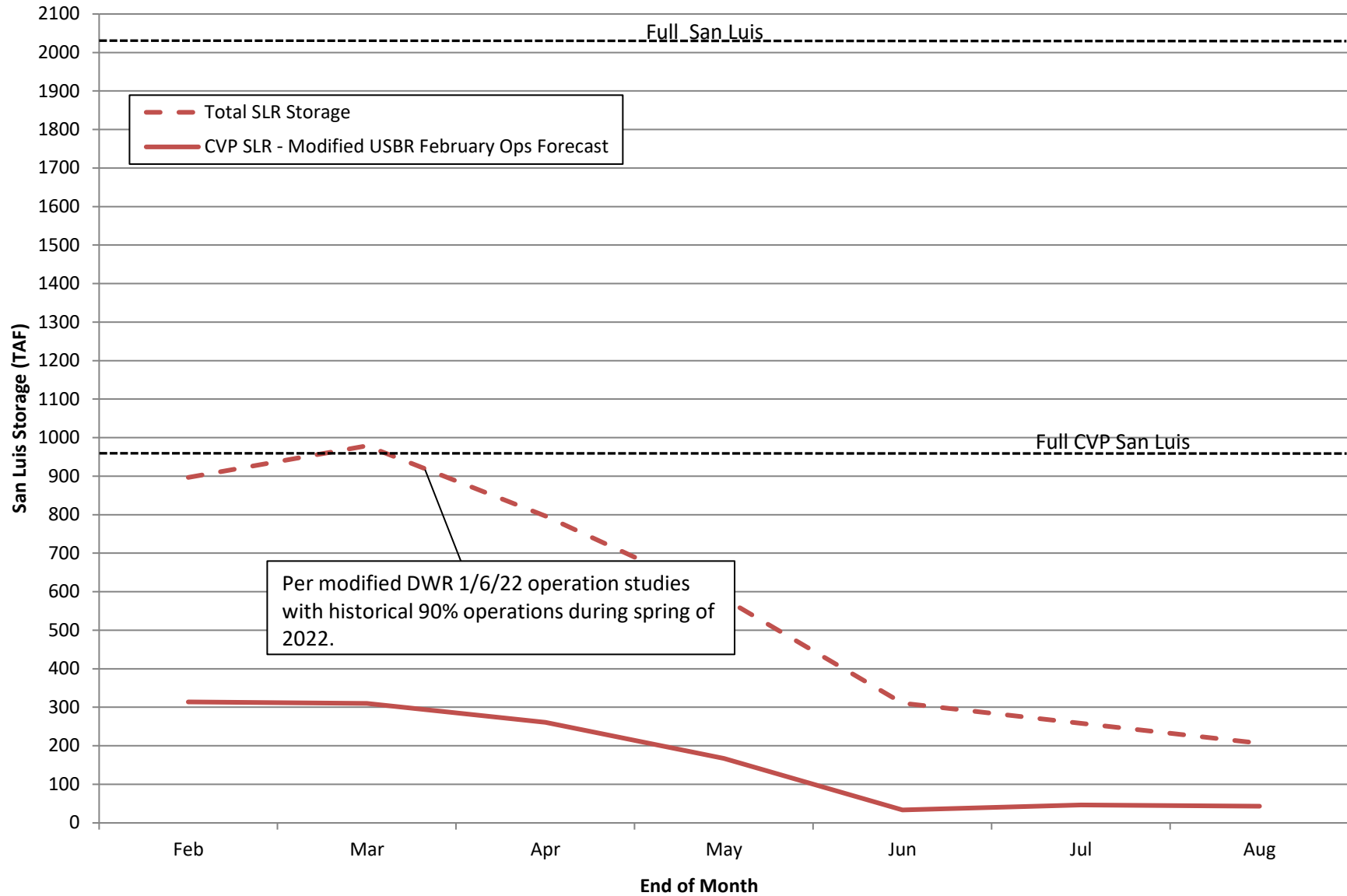
The CVP's share of the San Luis Reservoir (SLR) gained 20 TAF during the first half of February but lost the increase during second half of the month with the current storage at 307 TAF.

The attached SLR projection chart under 90% exceedance conditions shows CVP SLR storage drawing down during March. An estimated 260 TAF of non-project water is stored in CVP SLR. As such, only about 50 TAF of Project water is currently available to meet 2022 allocations. Reclamation's latest 90% exceedance forecast no longer shows enough water available to meet minimum allocations to senior water rights contractors. As such, Reclamation's Fresno office is estimating the need to release 200 TAF from Millerton to the Mendota Pool to help meet contractual delivery obligations to the Exchange Contractor under 90% exceedance conditions.

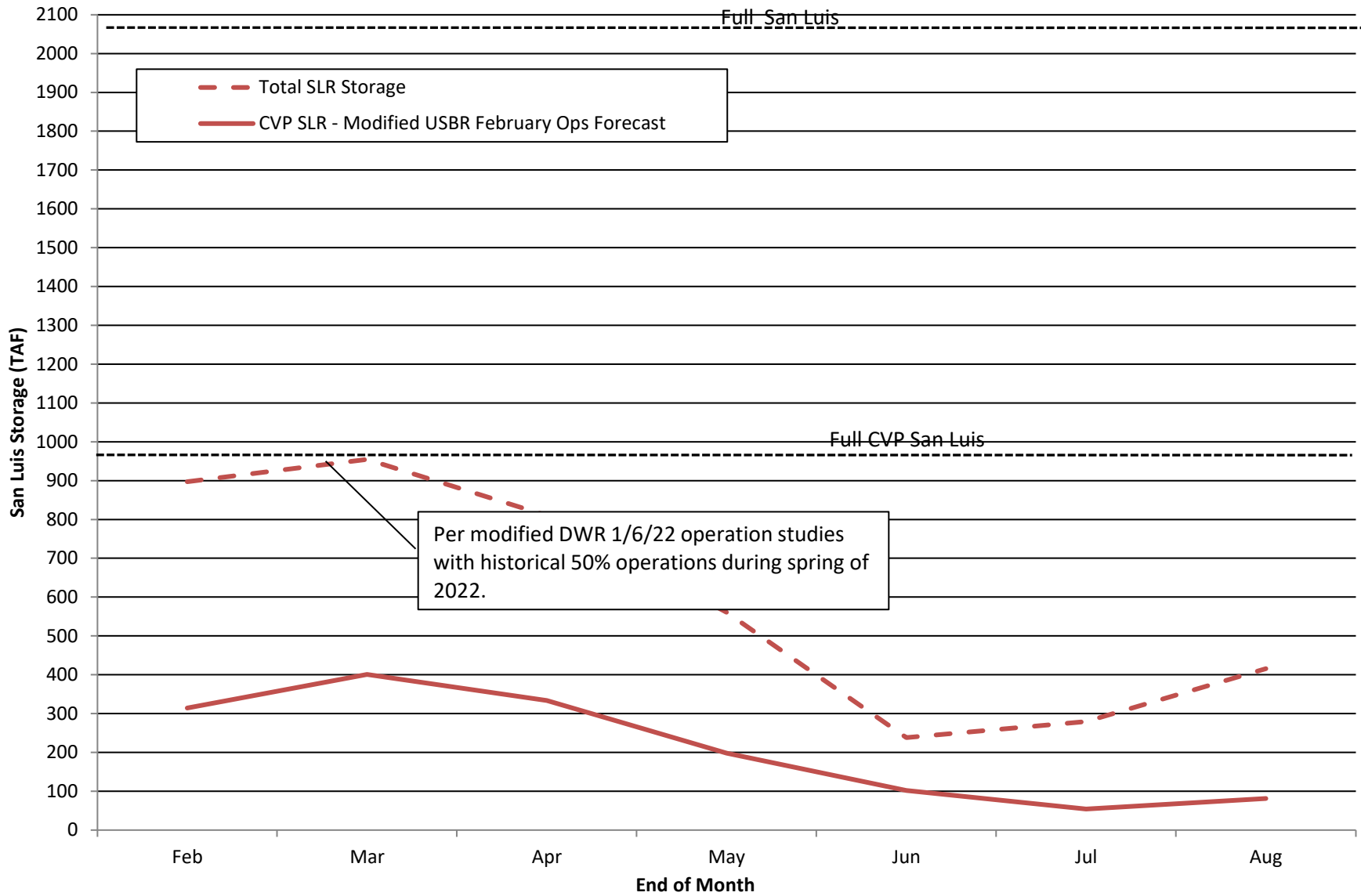
The attached SLR projection chart under 50% exceedance conditions shows CVP SLR refilling to about 400 TAF by end of March. However, given the current increased Delta outflow requirement and projected dry conditions for the next 7-10 days, the soonest an increase in CVP San Luis storage might occur would be during the second half of March. If higher exports are possible with wet conditions later in March, the additional Project water pumped will likely be used to reduce the possible Friant call before Reclamation considers any increase in the M&I allocation.

# 2021-22 San Luis Storage Projection

## 90% Exceedance Hydrology



## 2021-22 San Luis Storage Projection 50% Exceedance Hydrology



Per modified DWR 1/6/22 operation studies with historical 50% operations during spring of 2022.