



- Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of the activities related to the Bay-Delta.

Detailed Report

Bay Delta Conservation Plan

Work continued on many elements of the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) this month. The BDCP Steering Committee continued to address outstanding technical issues and develop elements of the conservation plan. The BDCP Steering Committee is working toward completion of an administrative draft conservation plan by December 2009, and the public review draft conservation plan is expected in mid-2010. Metropolitan is continuing to participate in all BDCP-related workgroup efforts, and is fully engaged in the review of draft sections of the conservation plan.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Two-Gates Fish Protection Demonstration Project

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) released the Draft Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) for the Two-Gates Fish Protection Demonstration Project on October 19 for public review. Public comments on the draft are due November 17. In conjunction with the release of the draft environmental documents, USBR is holding public meetings to provide information on the project in Fresno on October 26, Discovery Bay on October 27, and Stockton on October 28. Metropolitan staff is participating in the public meetings. Final environmental documents are scheduled to be released in mid-November, and the target date to have all permits in place is November 30.

Metropolitan and the other water contractors are continuing to work on efforts to secure funding for project design and construction. Potential sources of project funds include Category III funds of the 1995 Bay-Delta Accord, remaining State bond funds from Propositions 13 and 84, and federal appropriations for fiscal year 2010. In addition, the U.S. Department of the Interior has indicated a willingness to provide funds for the U.S. Geological Survey to conduct the science and monitoring component on the Two-Gates project, including Delta smelt and salmon monitoring.

Federal Appropriations for Bay-Delta Restoration

On October 15, the conference report accompanying the fiscal year 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, H.R. 3183 (Pastor), was approved by the U.S. Senate. The U.S. House of Representatives approved the conference report on October 1. The conference agreement provides \$40,000,000 for the California Bay-Delta Restoration program. Within the available funds, the conference agreement provides \$10,000,000 for construction of infrastructure projects that will add flexibility to water delivery systems, such as the Two-Gates project. Other Bay-Delta activities intended to be supported with the funds include storage studies, Bay-Delta conservation plan, science activities, and water quality activities such as San Joaquin River salinity management.

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Issues

SWRCB Periodic Review of Bay-Delta Water Quality Objectives

The SWRCB has scheduled a public staff workshop for November 4 to continue the discussion of Dr. Glenn Hoffman's draft study report titled *Salt Tolerance of Crops in the Southern Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta*. The purpose of the workshop is to discuss responses to comments on the draft report and how the comments will be addressed in the final study report, anticipated for release by December 2009. Metropolitan staff is working with State Water Contractor staff to review the comments submitted on the draft report and prepare to participate in the November 4 workshop. The Hoffman report will provide information for the on-going SWRCB process for the

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periodic review and update of the 2006 Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP) for the Bay-Delta Estuary, which was initiated in August 2008. Currently, the SWRCB is focusing on the review and potential amendment of the southern Delta salinity objectives, which protect the agricultural beneficial uses within the Delta.