



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of the activities related to the Bay-Delta for July 2010.

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP): BDCP activities for the month of July continued to focus on several ongoing technical efforts. Work continued on the Effects Analysis for aquatic species, further refining the terrestrial resources conservation strategy, and developing a scientifically sound strategy for managing near-term operations. Metropolitan considered a governance proposal presented by the federal and state agencies. Governance issues under consideration include the role the water contractors will have as it relates to implementation of the BDCP and obligations under the permits. On July 21, the State Water Resources Control Board released its report on *Development of Flow Criteria for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecosystem* (see discussion below). How this report will be considered in the BDCP for the development of flow- and operation-related conservation actions has yet to be determined and will likely be the topic of considerable discussion in the coming weeks. Metropolitan continues to be actively engaged in all BDCP-related activities.

Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program (DHCCP): Work continued this month on planning, engineering and cost estimate evaluations for the DHCCP conveyance options, which include the east alignment, west alignment and all tunnel options. The water contractors continue to work on completing the analysis of optimum benefits for various sizing alternatives for the conveyance options. Technical studies evaluating sizing alternatives are analyzing water supply, water quality, and environmental components.

Delta Stewardship Council (DSC): At their July 22-23 meeting, the DSC continued the discussion of the Interim Plan. The purpose of the Interim Plan is to provide a framework for early actions by the DSC until their Delta Plan is adopted by January 2012. The second draft Interim Plan was released for public comment on July 15. Metropolitan worked with the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency to review the draft and submit two sets of comments on the second draft Interim Plan. The issues emphasized in the comments included the need for the Interim Plan to include specific proposed early actions, and concerns with how the draft is overstating the decision-making role of the DSC provided by the 2009 Delta Legislation. The DSC intends to adopt the Interim Plan at its meeting on August 27, 2010.

Near-Term Delta Actions

State Water Resources Control Board Issues: The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) released its draft *Development of Flow Criteria for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecosystem* report (Report) on July 21, 2010. This Report is the SWRCB's response to legislative direction in Senate Bill No. 1 of the 2009-2010 Seventh Extraordinary Session to develop flow criteria for the Delta ecosystem necessary to protect public trust resources. The SWRCB considered the draft Report at its normally scheduled August 3, 2010 meeting and received oral comments presented at the meeting and written comments submitted by July 29. Following oral comments and discussion, the SWRCB adopted the report at the meeting. Metropolitan staff reviewed the draft Report and prepared and submitted comments by the July 29 deadline. Metropolitan's main concerns with the draft Report that were outlined in the written comments include the lack of a rigorous science-based approach and limited consideration of measures other than flow that are impacting the Delta ecosystem, such as habitat, water quality, food web, and invasive species. Metropolitan also submitted comments with other export water agencies through the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency.

Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

Delta Emergency Preparedness

Metropolitan, in a lead role working with State Water Contractors (SWC) and Central Valley Project contractors, continues toward preparation of DWR's Delta Flood Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) in coordination with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The EPRP covers emergency response strategies for scenarios ranging from isolated Delta levee failures, to catastrophic multiple-island failures causing severe export water supply disruptions. Stockpiling of emergency preparedness materials would facilitate implementation of an emergency freshwater pathway to the export pumps in the event of a catastrophic earthquake in the Delta region. A signed DWR/USACE Memorandum of Agreement is the basis of federal and state cooperation for the preparation of the EPRP. Funding for the EPRP and rock stockpiling activities to date has been through Proposition 1E and SBX2_1 appropriations. DWR advises a draft EPRP will be completed in 2011 and a final in 2012. Initiatives are underway between DWR, USACE, and local levee reclamation districts through the USACE's Levee Stability Program to strengthen freshwater pathway levees, minimize levee slumping, and facilitate pathway restoration following a major earthquake. An initial cost sharing agreement is being prepared for these purposes.