



## ● Bay-Delta Board Report

### Summary

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

### Detailed Report

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#### Long-Term Delta Actions

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP): Metropolitan staff continued to focus on the BDCP environmental effects analysis this month. Its purpose is to evaluate the effects of the Plan on covered species and their habitats, a necessary step toward completion. The evaluation is being conducted on existing and proposed new water infrastructure facilities, long-term operations proposals, and the habitat and other stressor conservation measures. The results of the water infrastructure and operations analysis were distributed on August 20. Metropolitan staff, working with representatives of other state and federal water contractors reviewed and provided comments on this document. Additional effects analysis materials related to habitat and other stressors and the cumulative effects of the plan are expected in mid-September 2010.

Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program (DHCCP): Work continued this month on planning, engineering and geotechnical evaluations for the DHCCP conveyance options. Significant effort went into the process to select the preferred intake configuration from among the three alternatives (on-bank, near bank in-river, and in-river). DHCCP consultants are beginning to focus on the on-bank alternative because the width of the in-river alternative creates construction challenges. The intake configuration selection process involves input from environmental, permitting and engineering technical teams, and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is planning to develop a recommendation regarding the preferred intake configuration in September 2010. DHCCP efforts also focused on the geotechnical evaluations, which are critical to keeping the DHCCP on schedule. Priority locations were identified to schedule soil borings and obtain temporary entry permit access to parcels.

Delta Stewardship Council (DSC): The Delta Stewardship Council adopted the Interim Plan at their August 27 meeting after an extensive public review process. The Interim Plan is the first of two primary documents required by statute to guide state and local agency planning and management efforts in the Delta. The expressed purpose of the Interim Plan is to provide a "framework" for early actions in the Delta until the Delta Plan is adopted by the DSC in January 2012. In addition, the Interim Plan outlines processes the DSC could use to develop its recommendations for early actions, projects, and programs in the fall of 2010. The final recommendations will subsequently be added to the Interim Plan.

#### Near-Term Delta Actions

Habitat Restoration: Progress continued in August on the Lower Yolo Bypass 700-acre tidal marsh restoration project. The 3,400-acre Yolo Ranch, also known as McCormack Ranch, is located in the lower Yolo Bypass just to the north of Liberty Island, and presents an ideal location to expand tidal wetlands in the Delta. The goals of the project are to enhance regional food web productivity in support of Delta smelt recovery and to provide rearing habitats for outmigrating salmonids utilizing the Yolo Bypass. To provide these critical ecological functions, the project seeks to restore as much of the project site as is feasible to tidal marsh, with a mixture of vegetated marsh plains and tidal slough networks. Tidal marsh restoration will be carried out through excavating a tidal channel network, relocation or removal of existing tide gates, berms, and other water control structures, and under some project alternatives, excavating higher elevation lands down to intertidal elevations in order to obtain greater tidal restoration acreage.

The Yolo Ranch Restoration Project is scheduled for a final CEQA document in January 2011 and project construction in the summer of 2011. Overall, project planning is about 15 percent complete at this time. In addition to the completion of field survey work for the project, detailed hydrodynamic modeling of various

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wetland configurations has helped refine the project alternatives. Finally, opportunities to provide synergistic flood control benefits and expanded habitat restoration as part of the excavated material reuse strategy is being explored.

Two-Gates Fish Protection Demonstration Project: Assembly Joint Resolution No. 38 (AJR 38), as amended, was passed by the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on May 11, 2010 and by the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on August 10. AJR 38 resolves by the Assembly and the Senate, jointly, that the California Legislature request the U.S. Department of the Interior to complete its study of the Two-Gates Fish Protection Demonstration Project.

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Issues: The SWRCB considered the draft *Development of Flow Criteria for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecosystem* report (Report) at its meeting on August 3, 2010. After considering written comments and receiving oral comments presented at the meeting, the SWRCB adopted the report. The flow criteria developed through this SWRCB proceeding will not have any regulatory or adjudicative effect. Staff is working with the state and federal water contractors, the San Joaquin River Group, and DWR to evaluate potential water supply impacts associated with the flow criteria.

### **Delta Emergency Preparedness**

Metropolitan continued to participate in the preparation of DWR's Delta Flood Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) in coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The EPRP is focused on the stockpiling of emergency preparedness materials that would facilitate implementation of an emergency freshwater pathway to the export pumps in the event of a catastrophic levee failure in the Delta region. DWR advises the draft EPRP will be completed in 2011, and the final EPRP will be completed in the third quarter of 2012.