



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of the activities related to the Bay-Delta for July 2011.

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

A series of working groups have been established to provide input on key BDCP issues. These working groups are composed of representatives of various stakeholder groups, and the meetings are open to the public. The working group effort this month centered on the Yolo Bypass Fishery Enhancement working group. The approach to Conservation Measure 2 of the Working Draft of the BDCP, known as "Yolo Bypass Fishery Enhancement," is a key issue that requires resolution prior to the completion of the BDCP. This presents an ideal opportunity to work collaboratively with interest groups from the local community and to ensure that their working knowledge of, and considerations about, the Yolo Bypass help determine the final version of Conservation Measure 2 and the subsequent Yolo Bypass Fishery Enhancement Plan. Work also continued on the Effects Analysis and preparation for updating the working draft BDCP for a spring 2012 release of the public draft documents.

Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program (DHCCP)

During this past month, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the DHCCP consultants continued to work on the geotechnical investigations for the program. The initial field geotechnical work at 30 locations at the north end of the proposed conveyance near the proposed pumping plants, intakes, forebay, and intermediate pumping plant was completed on schedule. Additional field geotechnical work will now begin at 18 locations at the south end of the conveyance facilities near Clifton Court Forebay. This work is expected to be completed by November 2011. The geotechnical investigation is on the schedule critical path.

The Fish Facilities Technical Team (FFTT) has completed their evaluation of the intake facilities and prepared a draft report with their recommendations. The FFTT is composed of participants from DWR, Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The FFTT evaluation included, but was not limited to, operational criteria, sweeping and approach velocities, size and location of facilities, and proposed near and long term studies. Staff is reviewing the draft FFTT report in coordination with the State Water Contractors. Staff continues to review the All Tunnel Conceptual Engineering Report to identify areas where Metropolitan can assist DWR in the preliminary design of the conveyance facilities.

Delta Stewardship Council (Council)

In July, the Council continued to focus on the development of the Delta Plan. The purpose of the Delta Plan is to coordinate and guide state and local agencies to take actions to achieve the coequal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The Council reduced their meeting schedule in July to focus on revisions to the Delta Plan. The Council held a meeting on July 29 that included a focused discussion on the finance chapter, including potential sources of funds necessary to implement the Delta Plan. Council staff will provide a framework of potential costs associated with implementation of the Delta Plan at upcoming meetings. The Fifth Draft Delta Plan was released on August 2, 2011, and the accompanying draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is expected to be released in three to four weeks. Staff is planning a comprehensive review of the fifth draft Delta Plan and draft EIR, and will coordinate with other water contractors to prepare comments.

Date of Report: 8/16/2011

Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

Near-term Actions

Habitat Restoration

The State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA), of which Metropolitan is a member, has been investigating opportunities for habitat restoration in the Suisun Marsh, in addition to the Lower Yolo Bypass, to comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Biological Opinion to develop 8,000 acres of intertidal habitat for Delta smelt. DWR has the ultimate obligation for restoring Delta smelt habitat and SFCWA is working cooperatively with DWR to achieve this result in a timely and cost effective manner. Toward this end, SFCWA is working with several project proponents interested in public-private joint ventures to restore tidal marsh habitat. Using local knowledge, these partners could provide a valuable contribution towards meeting ESA requirements. Based upon a recently completed agreement, one of the local parties, Westervelt Ecological Services, has started initial project planning for the Tule Red property in the Suisun Marsh. Ultimately, the Tule Red project objective is to restore over 300 acres in the brackish zone, immediately west of the Delta region. With Metropolitan staff assistance, SFCWA has prepared easement appraisals and various agreements to help advance the project.

State Water Resources Control Board (State Board)

Staff coordinated with the State Water Contractors last month to provide input at the State Board scoping meeting for the update and implementation of the 2006 Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan), focused on south Delta salinity and San Joaquin River flow objectives. The State Board anticipates filing a final environmental document for the update of the 2006 Bay-Delta Basin Plan by June 2012. Staff, through SFCWA, continues to participate with the San Joaquin River Group and several interested power utilities to develop modeling tools that will be used to evaluate the impact of proposed State Board flow criteria on hydropower generation. An initial evaluation of impacts downstream of major reservoirs will commence by the end of August.

Delta Emergency Preparedness

Delta Flood Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery Program

Following a meeting with DWR Flood Management, DWR is attempting to secure the small remaining increment of local funding under a Federal Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) for Bacon Island pathway levee improvements, which are an important part of the Delta emergency response measures. The FCSA feasibility study cost is also being investigated to determine if available funding would be sufficient to meet study needs. An updated seismic stability analysis of emergency freshwater pathway levees has been completed by URS consultants indicating higher seismic shaking and levee slumping can be anticipated than previously estimated, but with slumping mitigated by the addition of landside fill.

Metropolitan has offered assistance in making the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' comprehensive draft mapping data base of all existing federal, state and local emergency preparedness and response plans in the Delta into an automated electronic application. This would accompany the DWR Delta Flood Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery Plan.