



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

BDCP working groups continued to meet in September. A new working group was convened this month to discuss adaptive limits for water operations. Adaptive limits set the range of adjustments in Delta water-related operations (and thus supply quantities) that might be made over the life of the BDCP as determined to be necessary. Metropolitan is participating in this workgroup to ensure that the BDCP goals of restored water supplies and increased reliability are not jeopardized. Work continues on updating the BDCP effects analysis and refining various chapters of the BDCP document.

Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program (DHCCP)

During this past month, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and DHCCP consultant's staff continued to work on the geotechnical investigations. The initial field geotechnical work continues at 18 locations at the south end of the proposed conveyance facilities near Clifton Court Forebay. These borings are the last remaining ones for this phase where DWR has access on public lands. This work is on schedule and expected to be completed by November 2011. The remaining initial field geotechnical work at 30 locations on private lands, are being litigated in the courts, with the next court date scheduled for October 14, 2011. The field geotechnical work on private lands represents approximately 40 percent of field geotechnical work planned for this phase. The geotechnical investigation is on the schedule critical path.

Delta Stewardship Council (Council)

The Council released the Fifth Draft Delta Plan in August 2011. The accompanying draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is scheduled to be released by October 8, 2011. Comments on the Draft Plan are due September 30 and comments on the draft EIR will be due 45 days after it is released. Staff will complete a comprehensive review of the Fifth Draft Delta Plan and draft EIR, and will coordinate with other water contractors to prepare comments. The purpose of the Delta Plan is to coordinate and guide state and local agencies to take actions to achieve the state's coequal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem.

In September, the Council held four focused work sessions on the topics of (1) Success and Performance Measures, (2) Covered Actions and Governance, (3) Economic Sustainability Plan, and (4) Finance Plan, which were attended by stakeholders and different council members. The purpose of the work sessions was to provide an opportunity for structured discussion of specific elements of the Fifth Draft Delta Plan. In addition, the Council held two full-day sessions for its monthly meeting on September 22 and 23. The monthly meeting addressed the Delta Vision Foundation Report Card, the Delta Protection Commission draft Economic Sustainability Plan, flood emergency preparedness, the State Water Resources Control Board process to adopt and implement flow objectives, among other topics.

Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

Near-term Actions

Habitat Restoration

Progress continued in September on the Lower Yolo Bypass tidal marsh restoration project. The 1,100 acre tidal marsh restoration project is located in the lower Yolo Bypass just to the north of Liberty Island. With support from Metropolitan staff, State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA) consultants are continuing to finalize the administrative draft EIR. A public draft EIR is currently scheduled to be released for public comment in October 2011. Concurrently, the SFCWA and Metropolitan staffs continue to investigate other habitat opportunities, including potential habitat restoration in the Suisun Marsh to comply with the Endangered Species Act biological opinion to develop 8,000 acres of intertidal habitat for delta smelt. DWR, as operator of the State Water Project, has the ultimate obligation for meeting the above obligation and SFCWA is working cooperatively with DWR to achieve this result in a timely and cost effective manner.

State Water Resources Control Board (State Board)

In coordination with SFCWA, staff 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. Meetings were held this month with the consulting team to review the preliminary modeling results. Study participants will determine the next steps once the modeling results are fully interpreted.

Delta Emergency Preparedness

Delta Flood Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery Program (EPRRP)

In a briefing of the Delta Stewardship Council on September 23, DWR advised that the Draft EPRRP would be submitted for internal review in the first quarter of 2012, followed by agency review in the second and third quarters. Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency participated in the monthly status and review meeting among DWR, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the water contractors in September. Options to secure remaining local funding and a reduction in feasibility study costs are being considered to proceed with a Federal Cost Sharing Agreement for Bacon Island pathway levee improvements.

A DWR and USACE initiative for emergency response mapping is being reviewed for electronic field and management use. USACE reviewed with DWR and Metropolitan staffs its new hydrodynamic, fisheries, ecological and sediment transport modeling capabilities for the Delta region, which includes a capability to highlight eminent breach conditions.