



## ● Bay-Delta Management Report

### Summary

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

### Detailed Report

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#### Long-Term Delta Actions

##### Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

The U.S. Department of the Interior and the California Natural Resources Agency provided an opportunity for members of the public to comment on the "First Amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Collaboration on the Planning, Preliminary Design and Environmental Compliance For the Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program in Connection with the Development of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan" (MOA). The comment period closed on November 16. Metropolitan collaborated with 15 other Southern California agencies (including member agencies) and submitted a joint comment letter expressing support for the MOA and the BDCP process.

In November, the California Natural Resources Agency notified interested parties that they would be refining the public meeting process for BDCP which will include a public meeting each month, and asked that each interest group appoint representatives to participate in the meetings. The November 16 public meeting included an update on the BDCP planning process and a roundtable discussion focusing on how demand management for water from the Delta interacts with BDCP. Metropolitan coordinated with other State Water Project (SWP) contractors to participate in the meeting.

##### Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program (DHCCP)

During this past month, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and DHCCP consultant's staff completed the initial field geotechnical work at 18 locations. These borings were located at the south end of the proposed conveyance facilities near Clifton Court Forebay. These borings are the last remaining on public lands for this phase. This work was completed on schedule. To move ahead with additional geotechnical investigations on private lands, DWR has taken the first step in the eminent domain process by notifying affected property owners of the process and obtaining Resolutions of Necessity from the California Water Commission. DWR will continue to work with the property owners to gain access for the investigations, however, DWR can proceed with the eminent domain process, if required. This affects geotechnical work at 30 locations on private property. The field geotechnical work on private lands represents approximately 40 percent of field geotechnical work planned for this phase.

##### Delta Stewardship Council (Council)

On November 4, the Council released a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to review its Fifth Staff Draft Delta Plan. Comments on the plan are due 90 days after its release. Staff is planning a comprehensive review of the 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 coequal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem.

The Council held a hearing on the draft EIR to take public comment on November 17 in Sacramento. At least five other hearings are planned around the state between December 2011 and mid-January 2012.

## Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

### **Near-Term Delta Actions**

#### State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board)

The State Water Board is continuing its process to update the 2006 Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan to protect beneficial uses in the Bay-Delta watershed. The current focus of the process is on the update of the southern Delta salinity and San Joaquin River flow objectives and the program of implementation for those objectives. In October, the State Water Board released its "Technical Report on the Scientific Basis for Alternative San Joaquin River Flow and Southern Delta Salinity Objectives" (Technical Report). The State Water Board also provided for an independent peer review of the Technical Report. In November, the State Water Board released the formal comments of the five independent peer reviewers. Staff is coordinating with other SWP contractors to review the independent peer review documents.

### **Delta Emergency Preparedness**

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

DWR is expected to issue an Administrative Draft of the EPRRP for DWR executive review in the first quarter 2012, for multi-agency review in the second quarter, and as a final document in the fourth quarter. Staff is coordinating with DWR to ensure the Middle River emergency freshwater pathway reviewed with Metropolitan's Board is included in the program. A reduction in feasibility study costs is being considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) for Bacon Island freshwater emergency pathway levee improvements, based on an expression of interest in the levee improvements by the local Reclamation District. The addition of landside fill to mitigate levee slumping along the pathway will utilize available ACOE borrow sources in the Delta. In addition to the EPRRP being managed by the DWR's Flood Safe Program, the DWR Flood Operations Program is evaluating broader water supply hazards and risks to SWP facilities in coordination with the SWP contractors.