



## ● Bay-Delta Management Report

### Summary

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This report provides a summary of the activities related to the Bay-Delta for April 2012.

### Detailed Report

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#### Long-Term Delta Actions

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

As reported previously, the first administrative drafts of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/S) were posted on the BDCP website ([baydeltaconservationplan.com](http://baydeltaconservationplan.com)) in late February 2012 for the public to view, as part of the state's commitment for an open and transparent process. Staff is continuing to review the first administrative drafts in coordination with other public water agencies. Additional work and refinement of these documents is expected before the release of the second administrative drafts and the public drafts this summer.

In fall 2011, the Delta Science Program convened an Independent Science Review Panel (Panel) to assess the scientific soundness of the BDCP Effects Analysis components. This review is being conducted in multiple phases. In November 2011, the Panel reviewed the Draft BDCP Effects Analysis' Conceptual Foundation and Analytical Framework and the Entrainment Appendix as an example of the application of the conceptual understanding, methods and analyses discussed in the Conceptual Foundation and Analytical Framework. This month the Panel will reconvene to review BDCP Chapter 5: Effects Analysis, and many of the associated technical appendices to assess the scientific soundness of the documents and make recommendations for how they may be improved to achieve their stated goals. The Panel will meet April 30 and May 1, 2012 to receive presentations on the Effects Analysis and discuss their initial findings and recommendations.

##### Delta Stewardship Council (Council)

The Council continues to work on development of the Delta Plan. During the March 2012 meetings, the Council discussed comments received on the draft Delta Plan EIR and potential changes to the fifth staff draft Delta Plan. The Council held a meeting on April 26. The main topics addressed at the meeting included a report from the new Delta Science Program Lead Scientist, Dr. Peter Goodwin, on Delta Science Program activities, and discussion on tasks underway to complete the final staff draft Delta Plan, including areas for Council input. The Council staff has indicated that the proposed release date of the final staff draft Delta Plan is now mid-May. Metropolitan staff continues to meet with Council staff and with the Association of California Water Agencies' Ag-Urban Coalition.

#### Near-Term Delta Actions

##### Habitat Restoration

Progress continued in April on the Lower Yolo Bypass tidal marsh restoration project, which is located in the lower Yolo Bypass just to the north of Liberty Island. This project should create over 1,000 acres of both salmon and smelt credits to meet the Fish & Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service requirements in their respective biological opinions. This month a bidder's conference was held for consulting firms to assist with the preparation of regulatory permits for the project. The conference was well attended. An expanded analysis of thirteen alternative soil disposal sites was also conducted. The city of West Sacramento recently expressed an interest in reusing some or all of the 1.5 million cubic yards of soil that would be excavated as part of the project for Sacramento River levee related improvements. While West Sacramento is evaluating the suitability of the material to meet their needs, the draft EIR and the draft prospectus are being written to include this possible option

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and are nearing completion. This alternative is attractive for the following three reasons: (1) sharing in costs; (2) improved flood control benefits in the Yolo Bypass; and (3) the city's timeline for construction appears to be consistent with ours, thus eliminating the need for double handling and added costs.

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

The State Water Board is continuing its phased review and update of the 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta WQCP). In January 2012, the State Water Board initiated a process for the Phase 2 comprehensive review and update of the Bay-Delta WQCP, including a supplemental Notice of Preparation and Notice of Scoping Meeting for Environmental Documentation for the update of the Bay-Delta WQCP. This month staff coordinated with other public water agencies to develop and submit scoping comments in a joint state and federal water contractors' letter by the April 25 deadline. The water contractors' scoping comments expressed concern with the scoping process due to the lack of a defined project and urged the State Water Board to consider recent scientific information and studies that are relevant to the Bay-Delta ecosystem and the update of the Bay-Delta WQCP. The State Water Board will have a scoping meeting to receive oral scoping comments on May 16, 2012.

The state and federal water contractors and other water interests have been encouraging the State Water Board to host a series of workshops to obtain updated scientific information relevant to the Bay-Delta WQCP review. On April 24, the State Water Board issued a Save the Dates notice for proposed Phase 2 Bay-Delta WQCP workshops on August 22, September 5 and 6, and October 1 and 2, 2012. The proposed workshops will be organized to facilitate expert scientific input on selected topics, including:

- Ecosystem changes and the low salinity zone
- Measures to protect salmonids
- Measures to protect pelagic organisms including Delta smelt and longfin smelt
- Analytical tools for evaluating the water supply, hydrodynamic, and hydropower effects of the Bay-Delta WQCP

Each workshop will include a panel of independent experts who will respond to technical questions on each topic. Interested stakeholders will also be able to provide comments on the workshop topics. Metropolitan staff will work with other public water agencies to prepare for these workshops.

### **Delta Emergency Preparedness**

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

The EPRRP executive level review scheduled for April is delayed as Department of Water Resources (DWR) consultant GEI adds details to the plans regarding response logistics, cost sharing, and downstream water quality considerations. A revised schedule will be provided this month. DWR flood operations management will take a leadership role in finalizing the documents, which will include a simulation exercise to test procedures, preparedness, and response capabilities. DWR is soliciting Metropolitan's input on response logistics and construction techniques.

Budget plans are being developed by DWR over the next three fiscal years for staging areas land acquisition, water user and reclamation district stockpiles, and equipment and facilities to support emergency response. Capital outlay budgets are being assigned for these purposes within an allocation of \$80 million in Proposition 1E funds for Delta flood emergency planning and implementation.

Efforts continued this month to identify levee improvements that would help reduce levee slumping during major seismic events along emergency freshwater pathway levees and reduce pathway levee improvement costs. East Bay Municipal Utility District consulting engineers have provided details regarding ongoing levee improvements to protect the Mokelumne Aqueducts, which also contributes to the eastern levees of the emergency freshwater pathway. Metropolitan is coordinating with Reclamation District 2028 in the budgeting of Bacon Island levee improvements on the western levees of the pathway. Under Metropolitan agreement, URS consultants are assessing the capabilities of these improvements to withstand severe seismic activity and remain functional as a component of the pathway.