



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Bay Delta Conservation Plan

On August 29, the California Natural Resources Agency held another BDCP public meeting to provide an update on the joint state/federal proposal and on actions separate but complimentary to BDCP to help meet the co-equal goals.

Delta Stewardship Council

The Delta Stewardship Council (Council) met on August 23 and 24 to address regular business and discuss, in closed session, hiring a new Executive Director. The Council received updates on the Delta Science Program activities and BDCP, and discussed the process for selecting near term actions to help achieve the co-equal goals.

Council staff continues to revise the Sixth Staff Draft Delta Plan based on Council direction received in July 2012. The next draft of the Delta Plan will be deemed a "Council" draft, and it is expected that the Council draft will be released on September 5, 2012 for consideration at the September 13 and 14, 2012 meetings. At these meetings, the Council will consider approval of the Delta Plan to move forward as the proposed project in a supplemental draft EIR that will be released sometime this fall.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Habitat Restoration

Progress continued in August on the Lower Yolo Bypass tidal marsh restoration project. Metropolitan staff is working with the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA) and consultants to initiate efforts to obtain regulatory approvals for the project. SFCWA also met with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Fish and Game, and the National Marine Fisheries Service to address the process for official crediting of the habitat that will be created by the project. Efforts to find a partner to beneficially reuse the excavated material from the project are continuing. Metropolitan staff is also continuing to revise the Lower Yolo Bypass Project administrative Draft Environmental Impact Report (ADEIR), to address recent design changes and further evaluations of additional CEQA alternatives. The revised schedule is for the Draft EIR to be released for public review in fall of 2012, with certification of the Final EIR scheduled for December 2012.

State Water Resources Control Board

Staff continues to work closely with state and federal water contractors to prepare for the upcoming State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) workshops to receive information and conduct discussions on the scientific and technical basis for considering potential changes to the 2006 Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. On August 17, the State Water Contractors and San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority submitted a joint technical comment package assessing the available scientific information in support of the State Water Board's workshop on Ecosystem Changes and the Low Salinity Zone. This workshop is scheduled for September 5 and 6, 2012. Staff is reviewing written submittals from other parties to the State Water Board to prepare for a joint presentation at the workshop. The remaining workshops have been rescheduled to the following dates:

- October 1-3, 2012: Bay-Delta Fishery Resources – including flow, cold water pool, habitat, and water project operational constraints needed to reasonably protect Central Valley steelhead, Sacramento River winter-run,

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Central Valley spring-run, Central Valley fall-run, Central Valley late fall-run Chinook salmon, pelagic species (including Delta smelt and longfin smelt), and the interaction of these issues with non-flow related factors.

- November 13-14, 2012: Analytical Tools for Evaluating the Water Supply, Hydrodynamic, and Hydropower Effects of the Bay-Delta Plan – including the CalSim II water supply model, DSM2 and RMA2 hydrodynamic models, Plexus hydropower model, and others as applicable, together with results from applying these models to various scenarios.

Delta Emergency Preparedness

Staff is continuing to coordinate with other agencies and consultants to evaluate levee improvements along the emergency freshwater pathway. Design consultants for Reclamation Districts bordering the freshwater pathway at Bacon Island, Jones Tract, and Woodward Island have agreed to share design and construction data with Metropolitan for levee assessments by Metropolitan consultant URS under severe earthquake conditions. Coordination of levee seismic design evaluation by URS will be coordinated with Reclamation District design engineers. Reclamation District 2028 is moving forward with levee toe berm improvements at Bacon Island along Middle River with funding provided through the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Delta Levees Program.

DWR's schedule for issuance and review of their draft Delta Flood Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery Plan includes completion of a draft document in 2012 and a final document in June 2013.