



## ● Bay-Delta Management Report

### Summary

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

### Detailed Report

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#### Long-Term Delta Actions

##### Bay Delta Conservation Plan

State and federal agency representatives continued a series of meetings aimed at coming to consensus on key outstanding elements related to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and operations of the new water conveyance facilities. Progress was made on some critical components that help define the project.

##### Delta Stewardship Council

On September 21, 2012, the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) announced the appointment of Chris Knopp as its new executive officer, replacing Joe Grindstaff, who is retiring. Knopp was previously a high-level official with the U.S. Forest Service, and he has extensive experience working with local, state, and federal agencies on a broad array of issues balancing ecological, social and economic concerns in California and across the country. The Council will hold its next meeting on October 25, where it will receive updates on the Delta Science Program, near-term strategies for the Delta, and the Delta Plan. The Council expects to release three documents in November 2012: (1) Final Draft Delta Plan, (2) the draft supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR) with a 45-day comment period, and (3) the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and draft regulations to start the state regulatory process, which will also have a 45-day comment period.

#### Near-Term Delta Actions

##### State Water Resources Control Board

Staff continued to work jointly with the state and federal water contractors to participate in the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Phase 2 workshops to present information on the scientific and technical basis for considering potential changes to the 2006 Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. On October 1 and 2, Metropolitan staff participated with other water contractor representatives on an expert panel at the State Water Board's workshop on Bay-Delta Fishery Resources. A key theme of the water contractors' panel presentation was that developing flow requirements without attention to key drivers of fish abundance such as food availability, temperature and predation would provide little benefit to fishery resources. Presentations by the invited panel assembled by the Delta Science Program appeared to be consistent with the water contractors' presentation and submittals.

Staff, in coordination with the State Water Contractors and the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority, submitted a technical assessment of available scientific information in support of the State Water Board's third workshop on Analytical Tools. This workshop is scheduled for November 13 and 14, 2012. Staff is reviewing submittals by other parties in preparation for a joint presentation at the workshop.

## Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

### Turbidity Forecasting

Staff met with Department of Water Resources (DWR) management this month to discuss DWR's potential role in using the new screening tool for Delta turbidity forecasting and methodology developed by Metropolitan to help make decisions on implementing the adult Delta smelt actions within the biological opinions this winter. DWR was receptive to Metropolitan's proposal, and plans to pilot the methodology this winter. Bay-Delta Initiatives staff gave a technical presentation on the turbidity forecasting methodology at the Bay-Delta Science Conference in Sacramento on October 18.

### Bay-Delta Science Conference

The 7th Biennial Bay-Delta Science Conference was held October 16-18 at the Sacramento Convention Center. More than 1000 scientists, managers, and policy makers attended the conference to present and hear the latest results of research and management actions on a wide variety of topics. The conference included three full days, with five concurrent sessions each day, on Bay-Delta topics such as fish biology and lifecycle models, food webs, contaminants, habitat restoration, and managing Delta lands. Several Bay-Delta Initiatives staff, Metropolitan consultants, and scientific researchers supported by the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency gave presentations at the conference. Staff is reviewing the information presented at the conference to identify key findings and next steps.

### **Delta Emergency Preparedness**

DWR is expected to release their draft Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery Plan (EPRRP) for public review in late 2012 and release the final report in June 2013. The document is being prepared in coordination with California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA), the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and other state and federal agencies. The water contractors, including Metropolitan, have had opportunities for input.

Cal EMA is undertaking a catastrophic flood planning effort which among other activities will include a table top drill to test the capabilities of the EPRRP based on a severe flood event. Metropolitan has advised DWR that further drills should test the capabilities of the plan under a major earthquake in the Delta region. Information received from local reclamation districts on recent levee modifications along the emergency freshwater pathway route will allow Metropolitan, through its consulting agreement with URS, to identify levee segments with higher relative risk of failure from earthquake events and measures to reduce risk.