



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of the activities related to the Bay-Delta for March 2013.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Bay Delta Conservation Plan

In late February 2013, the California Natural Resources Agency (Resources Agency) released an updated study prepared by the Brattle Group that estimates the number of direct, indirect, and induced jobs that would be created by the construction and operation of the new water conveyance system and implementation of the habitat restoration measures of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). The report considers both the jobs gained as a result of implementation of the BDCP conveyance and restoration actions as well as job losses attributed to land conversion. Taken together, the report estimates that the BDCP would create 136,723 full-time equivalent jobs over the 50-year life of the permit. The complete report is available on the BDCP website.

On March 14, the Resources Agency released the first four of 12 preliminary draft chapters of the BDCP, and a schedule for release of the remaining chapters. A public meeting is scheduled for March 20 to review and discuss the chapters. Although not officially posted for public comment, staff is conducting a detailed review of the BDCP chapters. Additional chapters are scheduled for release on March 27 and the week of April 22, 2013.

Delta Stewardship Council

The Delta Stewardship Council (Council) will hold meetings on March 28 and 29, during which Council staff is expected to present a review of public comments received on all draft documents, including the Final Draft Delta Plan, the draft EIR, and the draft rule-making package. If few changes are made, the Council expects to approve final documents in May 2013. The Office of Administrative Law would then have 30 days to approve or disapprove of the Council's proposed regulations. Under this schedule, the Council could start hearing appeals of "covered actions" in the Delta as early as July 1, 2013.

Near-Term Delta Actions

State Water Resources Control Board

Staff continues to participate in the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) process to develop a proposed update to the 2006 Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP). Currently, staff is coordinating with the state and federal water contractors to prepare written comments on the draft environmental document (Substitute Environmental Document or SED) and associated appendices in support of the Phase 1 proposed changes to the Bay-Delta WQCP. Phase 1 is focused on San Joaquin River flows and southern Delta salinity objectives. Comments are due to the State Water Board by March 29. The State Water Board will hold a public hearing on March 20 to receive oral comments on the draft SED. Staff is collaborating with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to develop a brief presentation for the State Water Board public hearing.

The State Water Board announced that it plans to hold an informational item at its April 9, 2013 State Water Board meeting on the next steps related to the Comprehensive (Phase 2) Review and Update to the Bay-Delta WQCP, and the draft summary report prepared by the workshops facilitator summarizing the three Bay-Delta technical workshops held in the fall of 2012. For the April 2013 meeting, the State Water Board has requested

Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

input on the next steps in the process. Staff will be coordinating with the state and federal water contractors on responses to this requested input.

Delta Emergency Preparedness

An evaluation of ground shaking in the Delta region under severe earthquake conditions, directed by staff and prepared by URS consultants, was presented to DWR's Delta Working Group of emergency flood management agencies in March. The evaluation considered shaking from major faults beneath the Delta as well as the contributions of all faults in the central California region. Both analysis techniques indicated similar high ground shaking capable of causing severe damage to Delta levees. DWR has indicated they will consider the updated earthquake information reported by URS to assist in formulating conditions for a multiagency emergency response drill pursuant to their draft Delta Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery Plan (EPRRP). DWR is also reviewing sources of funding to enhance the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers participation in the multiagency drill to test response mechanisms of the EPRRP.