



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Delta Stewardship Council

In May, the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) adopted the final Delta Plan, approved the final regulations, and certified the final Program EIR for the Delta Plan and associated regulations, setting the stage to move toward implementation. The proposed regulations must now be sent to the Office of Administrative Law, which will have 30 working days to approve or disapprove the regulations. On May 24, 2013, the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority and Westlands Water District filed suit in Sacramento Superior Court, challenging both the EIR and the Delta Plan. On June 14, the State Water Contractors also filed litigation in Sacramento Superior Court challenging the EIR and Delta Plan. By June 17, five other suits were filed by environmental organizations, fishermen's associations, and in-Delta water districts.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Habitat Restoration

Progress continued in June on the Lower Yolo Bypass Tidal Marsh Restoration Project (Lower Yolo Restoration Project), which could create over 1,500 acres of both salmon and Delta smelt habitat to meet the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service requirements in their respective biological opinions. The public comment period for the Lower Yolo Restoration Project Draft EIR ended on June 6. The final EIR is expected to be released on July 8, 2013.

Delta Emergency Preparedness

A draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for the placement of emergency response stockpile sites pursuant to the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery Plan was submitted to the State Clearing House for public distribution in April 2013 and completed public review in May 2013. The final Mitigated Negative Declaration, expected in July 2013, would support land purchases, facility improvements, and continued stockpiling of emergency materials at three storage sites in the Delta to provide effective response to major floods or earthquake disasters.

DWR is scheduled to lead a multiagency emergency field drill in November 2013, that will test emergency response functionality of DWR, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA), U.S. Coast Guard, California Conservation Corps, National Park Service, Homeland Security, Delta counties, and other local agencies, in response to major Delta flood and earthquake events. This drill will result in an after-action report. An additional emergency drill, led by Cal EMA, is being planned for 2013, based on Federal Emergency Management Agency procedures that would involve a number of local, state, and federal response partners under an extreme flood event with multiple island failures, expanding DWR's understanding and integration of federal procedures into their emergency plans.