



- Bay-Delta Management Report

## **Summary**

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

## **Purpose**

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Informational

## **Detailed Report**

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### **Long-Term Delta Actions**

#### Bay Delta Conservation Plan

The California Natural Resources Agency held a Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Public Meeting on July 17 in Sacramento. At the meeting, the California Natural Resources Agency provided an update on BDCP Administrative Draft Chapter 8 - Implementation Costs and Funding Sources, and Chapter 9 - Alternatives to Take. The meeting was well attended by local community interests. Much of the meeting focused on the cost estimates to implement the BDCP Conservation Strategy and the various funding sources considered for implementation, as well as the assessment of the costs and benefits of the proposed project in comparison to the nine alternatives considered in Chapter 9, "Alternatives to Take." The next public meeting, scheduled for August 8, will include a presentation on the State-wide cost-benefit analysis recently released in draft.

#### Delta Stewardship Council

The Delta Stewardship Council held its monthly meeting on July 25. Several informational topics were discussed at the meeting, including current drought conditions and impacts on the Delta and water supply reliability, Delta Plan implementation with focus on habitat restoration, the Delta Independent Science Board's review of BDCP, and a proposal for who would sit on the implementation committee.

### **Near-Term Delta Actions**

#### Habitat Restoration

On July 18, the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA) Board adopted the Final EIR for 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 USFWS and NMFS requirements in their respective biological opinions. SFCWA continues to develop final design documents, crediting documents and permits. The 90 percent design drawings are complete, after incorporating expert panel design comments for maximizing food web production and experimental treatments. Monitoring and aquatic benefits assessment programs are being developed for the site, in part, to meet the crediting requirements and also to document the benefits for listed fish species. Towards this end, the SFCWA Board also approved funding the U.S. Geological Survey to install a water quality and biological monitoring station in a channel adjacent to the project site. The schedule for construction of the project has been adjusted to 2014 to allow time to complete this ongoing work.

### **Delta Emergency Preparedness**

A Notice of Determination for the Mitigated Negative Declaration for emergency response stockpile sites pursuant to DWR's Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery Plan was adopted by the State Clearing House on July 8, 2013. This document supports land purchase, facility improvements and continued stockpiling of emergency materials at three storage sites in the Delta.

Staff worked with the State Water Contractors to submit comments on DWR's framework report for Delta levees funding prioritization. The comments suggest additional detail and information is needed to define the funding prioritization process. Specifically, factual findings within recent DWR reports support funding priorities for emergency freshwater pathway levees.

URS is conducting emergency freshwater pathway levee stability analyses under contract to Metropolitan to evaluate beneficial effects of recent levee improvements, and incorporating current research findings suggesting more severe peat deformation than previously anticipated during earthquakes. Consultation and exchange of technical information by URS with reclamation district engineers has been expanded through contractual relationships to include the eastern pathway levees as well as the western levees.