



- Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Bay Delta Conservation Plan

A draft statewide economic impact study that analyzes the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) was released in early August and discussed at the BDCP Finance Working Group meeting on August 8. The study considered the economic effects of construction and operation of a new water conveyance system and habitat restoration in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, increased water supply reliability across much of the state and the financing of the project by water users in regions dependent on Delta water supplies. The study indicates that the BDCP would result in a significant net economic benefit to the state of California. The analysis concludes that the BDCP will generate over \$84 billion in additional business output in California and almost 1.1 million jobs over the 50-year life of the plan. These figures take into account the induced economic impacts of increased water rates and taxes associated with the cost of BDCP, and the impact of construction activity and targeted restoration in the Delta. Additional benefits cited include increased hiking, birding, boating, other recreation in the Delta, and reduced emissions of greenhouse gases. A copy of the full report is available on the BDCP website.

On August 15, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced changes to the proposed BDCP water conveyance system in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that would shrink by 50 percent the total permanent footprint of the project, shift more than 400 acres of permanent and temporary construction impacts from private to public lands, and otherwise substantially reduce the effects of the project on Delta residents. The "optimization" of the new water conveyance facilities design was done in part in response to local concerns as a result of discussions with landowners and residents.

Delta Stewardship Council

On August 7, the California Office of Administrative Law approved the Delta Plan regulations submitted by the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC). The regulations will become enforceable when they are published by the Secretary of State. At that time, agencies that have a plan or project in the Delta (with some exceptions) must file a "consistency" determination with the DSC stating that the plan or project is consistent with the regulations in the Delta Plan. That determination may be appealed and is subject to a 150-day review period.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Habitat Restoration

Progress continued in August on the Lower Yolo Bypass Tidal Marsh Restoration Project (Lower Yolo Restoration Project), which will 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 State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA) filed the Notice of Determination (NOD) for the Lower Yolo Restoration Project on July 18, 2013, with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research/State Clearinghouse and the Yolo County Recorder-Clerk's Office. The NOD establishes a statutory limit of 30 days in which litigation can be filed against the Project. As of August 19, the last day of the NOD posting, no legal challenges have been filed against the project. SFCWA continues to develop final design documents, crediting documents, permits and agreements with Yolo County and the neighboring land owner.

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Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

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.

Staff continues to work with SFCWA, its member agencies, and the property owner to finalize a purchase agreement which will address purchase price, post-project irrigation/drainage, cattle grazing, and management of the restoration site. Under the newly revised schedule, SFCWA plans to request bids later this year for summer 2014 construction.

State Water Resources Control Board

Staff continues to prepare for the next round of State Water Resources Control Board technical workshops in support of the Comprehensive (Phase 2) Review of the 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary, tentatively scheduled for fall 2013. These technical workshops will be hosted by the DSC's Delta Science Program and are expected to focus on Delta outflow and in-Delta hydrodynamics. Several technical efforts are underway to develop information to present at the workshops. These efforts include description and analysis of natural (pre-development) and historical flow and salinity conditions in the Central Valley and Delta. A steering committee has been established to define an agenda and schedule for the workshops. SFCWA staff is representing the water agencies on the steering committee.

Delta Emergency Preparedness

DWR will manage an emergency exercise in November 2013 focusing on flood operations in the Delta and testing their Delta Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery Plan. A Memorandum of Understanding using matching state and federal funds is being finalized to more closely integrate DWR and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) catastrophic flood operations. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, in cooperation with the ACOE, DWR and California Emergency Management Agency have also initiated operational phases of a catastrophic Delta flood emergency exercise, recognizing the multiple roles undertaken by the ACOE in events of this scale.

DWR has prepared an operational Delta emergency response model that can estimate the time and cost of levee repairs and water supply outages under a wide variety of emergency scenarios, including catastrophic multiple island failures requiring implementation of the emergency freshwater pathway.

Subsequent to the adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration in July 2013 for emergency response stockpile sites, DWR has begun land purchases and is finalizing land leases for facility improvements and stockpiling of emergency materials at three sites in the Delta to support local and statewide needs. DWR grant programs are being made available for local reclamation district stockpiles, communication equipment, and plans for emergency preparedness purposes.