



- Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Bay Delta Conservation Plan

As part of the official process to request endangered species take authorizations, staff provided the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) with permit applications for federal Endangered Species Act Section 10 permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service, and a State Natural Community Conservation Plan permit from California Department of Fish and Wildlife. DWR will consolidate Metropolitan's permit applications along with the applications from the other participating State Water Project and Central Valley Project contractors for official submittal to the state and federal fishery agencies.

The federal government shutdown in October resulted in a delay of the release of the Public Draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement to December 13, 2013. There will be an extended 120-day formal public review and comment period.

Delta Stewardship Council

The Delta Stewardship Council (Council) held a two-day meeting October 24 and 25. The Council discussed implementation of the Delta Plan, including how the covered action appeal process will work, progress towards developing priorities for state investments in levees, and progress toward preparing for emergencies in the Delta. They also received a briefing from the State Administration on the estimated costs of moving forward with the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (from Chapter 8 of the BDCP Administrative Draft). Lead Scientist, Dr. Peter Goodwin, gave a presentation on the Proposed Final Draft Delta Science Plan, and the Council approved the Delta Science Plan and requested that the Lead Scientist report back on its implementation on a quarterly basis.

Near-Term Delta Actions

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. These technical workshops will be hosted by the Council's Delta Science Program and are expected to focus on Delta outflow and in-Delta hydrodynamics. The technical workshop on Delta outflow, scheduled for November 12-14, was postponed due to the recent federal government shutdown. The workshop will likely be re-scheduled for a date in January 2014. Staff continued to work with other water agencies to provide input to the steering committee charged with defining the agenda and schedule for the workshops.

Operating Criteria and Plan Biological Opinions

As part of the court-ordered process to develop a robust science and adaptive management program to inform the development and implementation of the Operating Criteria and Plan biological opinions, staff has been collaborating with scientists and experts from the state and federal agencies, the Public Water Agencies, and the non-governmental organization community, in a process called the Collaborative Science and Adaptive

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Management Process (CSAMP). The CSAMP and its work team is charged with developing a plan to address science and analysis needs that will inform how the current remanded biological opinions and future biological opinions address Delta smelt and salmon issues. Due to schedule conflicts with the BDCP and the federal government shut-down, the work team was only able to meet once in October, causing some delays. The members of the CSAMP must report back to the court by February 15, 2014 to show that progress has been made and that the regulatory agencies should be allowed an extension to the deadline for completing the remanded biological opinions.

Delta Emergency Preparedness

Staff reviewed the draft technical support appendices for the Delta Flood Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery Program and determined that the appendices provide reasonable strategies to respond to flood and earthquake initiated emergencies in the Delta region. Staff has advised DWR that given a severe earthquake and accompanying multiple island failures, the emergency freshwater pathway should receive high priority implementation. DWR's recently developed Emergency Response and Recovery modeling tool (ERT) will help assess and guide use of field resources during emergency operations. In its modeling protocols, the ERT indicates the emergency freshwater pathway would be given priority for Delta levee repairs if its development was warranted in severe earthquakes. It further indicates reduced periods of levee repair and export resumption with the pathway. The ERT will be integrated into DWR's emergency operations procedures, which will enhance effectiveness of real time emergency operations.