



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Bay Delta Conservation Plan

The Public Draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and accompanying Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) are scheduled for release on December 13, 2013, for an extended 120-day formal review period. During the formal public review period, which will run from December 13, 2013 to April 14, 2014, the public, agencies, and other interested parties will be able to access copies of the document online, in repositories throughout the state, and request copies for review. The state and federal lead agencies also will hold a series of public meetings during January and February 2014 to provide information about the project and accept formal comments. Formal written comments on the Public Draft BDCP and EIR/EIS will be accepted during the official comment period and all significant environmental issues raised in comments received during the public review period will be addressed in the Final EIR/EIS. Metropolitan along with the other participating State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project public water agencies will be dedicating a significant amount of resources reviewing the public draft BDCP and EIR/EIS.

Delta Stewardship Council

The Delta Stewardship Council (Council) held a two-day meeting on November 21 and 22. The Council met jointly with the Independent Science Board (ISB) to discuss the coordination of the Council and ISB review of the Public Draft BDCP and EIR/EIS. They also discussed proposed Delta restoration projects and the use of performance measures to track their progress. Also, progress in forming the Interagency Delta Plan Implementation Committee was discussed.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Turbidity Forecasting

Staff continues to prepare for the 2013/14 adult Delta smelt season through collaboration with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). USFWS made a presentation on forecasting tools and their potential use in decision making at its November 6-7 annual review meeting with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for long term operations associated with the Delta smelt and salmon biological opinions. The presentation was well-received by the invited expert panel. A pre-season Delta Conditions Team (DCT) meeting will be held in late November in preparation for the upcoming adult Delta smelt season. Metropolitan's consultant will give a presentation on a simple to use model, which quickly simulates turbidity. Copies of the model and installation instructions will be provided to DCT participants. DWR operations staff will report on their readiness in providing modeling support to the DCT.

OCAP Biological Opinions

As part of judge-ordered process to develop a robust science and adaptive management program to inform the development and implementation of the OCAP biological opinions, Metropolitan 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 Management Process

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(CSAMP). The CSAMP and its workteam is charged with developing a workplan to address how updated science and analysis will be incorporated into the biological opinions to Delta smelt and salmonid. In November, the CSAMP and its workteam met to move forward with workplans that ultimately will be delivered to the court for review by the February 15, 2014 deadline. The court will determine if enough progress has been made to justify that the CSAMP should continue and an extension to the deadlines for the new biological opinions is justified.

Delta Emergency Preparedness

DWR completed test runs of the Emergency Response and Recovery modeling tool, and confirmed earlier Delta Risk Management Strategy estimates of more than three years for repair of multiple island levee failures accompanied by SWP export disruption following a severe earthquake. The model also confirmed that restoration of the emergency freshwater pathway would be in the range of six months under similar conditions.

A flood emergency response exercise was conducted in early November on Twitchell Island during California Flood Preparedness Week, drawing together local, state, and federal emergency response interests to respond to a major simulated flood and Delta levee failure emergency. DWR expects to release draft Delta Flood Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery documents for water stakeholder review in November, followed by issuance of the final draft of these documents in 2014.

DWR is developing an integrated schedule of stockpile materials types and quantities for future years for response following flood and earthquake emergencies. The US Army Corp of Engineers is cooperating with DWR in the extensive stockpiling of k-rails and super sacks in the Delta region that would be suitable for repair of damaged levees.