



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of activities related to the Bay-Delta for April 2014.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Bay Delta Conservation Plan

The state developed a series of short videos to address common questions and topics on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and associated Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS). The Informational Episodes are designed to help the public navigate the Draft BDCP and environmental review documents, find information, and learn more about the proposed project and its alternatives. There are seventeen episodes total—8 focused on the proposed Bay Delta Conservation Plan, and 9 focused on the Draft EIR/EIS. The videos can be viewed on the BDCP website at www.BayDeltaConservationPlan.com. The website also provides a [Program Guide](#) with a synopsis of each episode along with viewing times.

Metropolitan continues its review of the BDCP and associated Draft EIR/EIS and will submit a comment letter by the end of the public comment period in June 2014.

Delta Stewardship Council

The Delta Stewardship Council (Council) met on April 24. This one-day meeting focused on efforts to increase water storage capacity in California. The discussion included panels representing federal, state, and local agencies as well as other stakeholders. The panels briefed the Council on various water storage topics, including planned and potential new projects and the public benefits of such projects. Also of note, Randy Fiorini chaired the first meeting of the Delta Stewardship Council Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee on April 9. This committee, which is mandated by the 2009 Delta Reform Act, includes state and federal agency heads or their designees. The committee discussed the California Water Action Plan, the Council's Delta Plan, federal investments in the Bay-Delta region, and various challenges they face working in the Delta. Chris Knopp, the Executive Officer for the Council, resigned, effective at the end of April. The Council discussed a search for a new executive officer in closed session at the April meeting.

Near-Term Delta Actions

State Water Resources Control Board

The Delta Science Program hosted a workshop on April 16-17 to identify the best available science to inform the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Board) decisions regarding interior Delta flow requirements included in the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP). Flows in Old and Middle Rivers were the interior Delta flows of particular interest. The independent panel assembled by the Delta Science Program provided key scientific papers, reports, and presentations to respond to the following questions:

1. What are the key studies and synthesis reports that the State Board should rely on in making their decisions on interior Delta flow requirements?
2. What are the relationships between altered interior Delta flows and native fish survival, abundance, spatial distribution, migration, and life history diversity?

Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

3. How do non-flow stressors such as predation, physical habitat, fisheries management, and water quality interact with interior Delta flows to affect the issues discussed in Question 2? How have the landscape and ecosystem scale changes of the last 100+ years altered these interactions and the functions provided by flows?
4. What metrics of interior Delta flows (such as OMR and QWEST flows, and export-inflow ratios) are most useful to assess, predict, and manage impacts to fish and the ecosystem?
5. What changes to interior Delta flows or other stressors would be most effective for improving survival, abundance, spatial distribution, and/or life history diversity of native fish and the ecosystem?

The panel heard presentations from several invited experts. Dr. Chuck Hanson was the invited expert representing the public water agencies. The key points made by Dr. Hanson were as follows:

- Need to consider interior Delta flows in the context of a highly altered Delta ecosystem with significant tidal influence.
- Providing environmental flows alone will not restore ecosystem function; we also need to restore habitat and manage stressors.
- Fishery losses at the water project facilities have been low in recent years due to improved management.
- Recent studies and development of life cycle models for native Delta fish species do not identify entrainment as a major factor affecting fish.
- Need to identify what is achievable and identify opportunities for flow functions to benefit native species, using all available tools.

The panel will summarize their findings in a written report to the Delta Science Program and State Board. The report will be one piece of information that informs the State Board's update to the Bay-Delta WQCP.