



- Bay-Delta Management Report

## Summary

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

## Purpose

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Informational

## Detailed Report

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### Long-Term Delta Actions

#### Bay Delta Conservation Plan

The public comment period for the Draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR/EIS) and Implementation Agreement closed on July 29, 2014. The total number of comment letters received is about 11,000. Lead Agencies and consultants are carefully reviewing the letters over the next several weeks to identify the comments. The letters were submitted by a broad range of stakeholders, including local governments, elected officials, environmental, business, labor and community groups, and individuals. The BDCP participating public water agencies submitted comments on behalf of their respective agencies including Metropolitan, Kern County Water Agency, Santa Clara Valley Water District, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, and the State Water Contractors. The comment letters and responses to comments will be published as a part of the Final Draft EIR/EIS documents.

#### Delta Stewardship Council

The Delta Stewardship Council (Council) met on August 28. As part of the meeting, the Council went on a field trip of Dutch Slough and the Antioch Dunes to hear about the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan and to tour potential habitat restoration sites. After the tour, the Council convened to consider an issue paper about habitat restoration in the Delta and to receive an update on the Delta Levee Investment Strategy.

On August 27, the state and federal agencies leading the BDCP announced that they would be recirculating portions of the related BDCP documents for additional public review in early 2015. Given the complexity of the proposal and process, this is not an unusual step. The full scope of the new information in the recirculated documents is expected to be known in mid-October. The comment letters and responses to comments from both the previous public comment period and the upcoming recirculation will be published as a part of the Final Draft EIR/EIS documents.

### Near-Term Delta Actions

#### State Water Resources Control Board

As previously reported, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issued a statewide notice of water shortages and potential for future curtailment of water right diversions, and held a workshop in May 2014 to discuss potential options for curtailing water use. Metropolitan staff monitored this workshop and provided input to the SWRCB. Notices of curtailment were issued in May 2014 to all post-1914 water right holders in the Delta and Sacramento and San Joaquin River watersheds, instructing them to cease diversions. Due to limited response to the curtailment notice, emergency regulations were instituted in July 2014 to curtail post-1914 water right holders. The emergency regulations also allow for curtailment of senior water right holders on a case-by-case basis. On July 23, 2014, DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) submitted a letter to the SWRCB requesting that it use its statutory authority to obtain information from certain Delta water users to support their assumed right to water or require curtailment as unauthorized diversions. Delta interests have countered by filing letters alleging that DWR and USBR are illegally diverting water from Delta watersheds. Metropolitan staff continues to monitor these and related activities.

Date of Report: 9/9/2014

## Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

The Delta Science Program posted an independent scientific review panel report on interior Delta flows and related stressors. The report was prepared in support of the SWRCB's review and update of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan and summarizes presentations made to the panel in April 2014, including a presentation by the public water agencies. Metropolitan staff is reviewing the report and continues to collaborate with other water users regarding the SWRCB process.

### **Delta Emergency Preparedness**

Several state and federal agencies are planning to conduct emergency preparedness exercises related to the Delta. DWR is planning for a department wide exercise dealing with a major earthquake initiated emergency. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is preparing for a related flood emergency exercise later this year focusing on the Delta. The California Office of Emergency Services is preparing a multi-agency management plan, including Delta flood and other emergencies. The USBR is evaluating the readiness of the Delta Cross Channel (DCC) gates under various operations. Staff has provided input to USBR advising that this evaluation should also address the reliability of DCC gates operations following a severe earthquake. The DCC gates are critical infrastructure to assure fresh water is reliably delivered to the central Delta in such events.

DWR is planning to develop contracts in the current fiscal year to construct materials handling equipment and facilities, place additional rock stockpiles, and introduce stockpiles of large scale pipe pile and sheet pile at their Stockton and Rio Vista stockpile sites.