



## ● Bay-Delta Management Report

### Summary

---

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

### Purpose

---

Informational

### Detailed Report

---

#### Long-Term Delta Actions

##### Bay Delta Conservation Plan

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the other state and federal lead agencies developing the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) announced in August that a Recirculated Draft BDCP, Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement, and Implementing Agreement will be published in early 2015. The agencies are currently reviewing the comments received through the public comment period that ended on July 29, 2014. The recirculated documents will include those portions of each document that warrant another public review prior to publication of final documents. The public will also have the opportunity to review the final documents prior to their adoption and any decisions about the proposed actions.

##### Delta Stewardship Council

On September 23, the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) released the Delta Levee Investment Strategy Issue Paper for public review. The paper is intended to provide background information for the Council as it works with state and local agencies and stakeholders to create a comprehensive strategy that will update Delta Plan policies and state investment priorities for Delta levee operations, maintenance, and improvements. Staff is reviewing the issue paper to determine if it provides a reasonable approach to the prioritization process by defining levee investment priorities and categories of benefits for improvement and maintenance of critical water supply corridors, important infrastructure within the Delta, and recreational and environmental restoration areas.

#### Near-Term Delta Actions

##### State Water Resources Control Board

As previously reported, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) held a workshop in May 2014 to consider potential options for curtailing water use. Following the workshop, the SWRCB issued notices of curtailment 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. In response to these letters, the SWRCB held an informal workshop on September 24 to discuss the processes that may be used to determine the sources and quantity of water supplies available for diversion and use within the southern and central Delta. Staff worked with the State Water Contractors to prepare for and participate in the workshop.

## Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

### Operating Criteria and Plan Biological Opinions

As part of a judge-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 is 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 and the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). In the past three months CAMT has continued to work toward implementing the work plans submitted to the court that address key questions involving Delta smelt and salmonids. In October, CAMT participants, including Metropolitan, must file a quarterly joint status update with the court to set forth the progress made by the group.

### **Delta Emergency Preparedness**

In conjunction with DWR's effort to complete a final Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan by late 2014, the California Emergency Management Agency is in the process of preparing a multiagency emergency management plan in the Delta region. The plan will integrate emergency operations of various infrastructure management agencies, in addition to state and federal response to export losses from catastrophic levee breach and island flooding scenarios.

In addition to URS Consultants' levee stability studies of the freshwater pathway that incorporate the most current seismic and geotechnical knowledge, all available subsurface data along Middle River and similarly along Old River is being compiled and displayed graphically in a single document to facilitate the identification of deficient levee reaches that may be critical to emergency operations.

DWR materials handling facilities and emergency stockpiles, along with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) emergency stockpiles currently in place, constitute a substantial portion of the key construction materials needed to restore levees and export operations in response to catastrophic Delta island levee failure scenarios. DWR has indicated these stockpiles will be augmented over the next several years, while USACE has advised federal emergency stockpiles can be augmented in a timely manner by transporting materials from three additional regions in the United States in response to major Delta emergencies.