



- Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of activities related to the Bay-Delta for March 2015.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Near-Term Delta Actions

State Water Resources Control Board

As reported last month, in January the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) submitted a Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to request temporary changes to the terms of the water rights permits for operation of the State Water Project and Central Valley Project for February and March 2015. The TUCP requested temporary modification of water rights requirements to meet the objectives for Delta outflow, San Joaquin River flow, Delta Cross Channel gate closure, and export limits. The requested changes would allow management of reservoir releases in a manner that conserves upstream storage for fish and wildlife protection and Delta salinity control while providing critical water supply needs. On February 3, 2015, the SWRCB Executive Director issued an order approving some elements and denying some elements of the TUCP, and on February 18, 2015 the SWRCB held a board workshop to hear issues raised by the public in regard to the order. Metropolitan coordinated with the state and federal water contractors to provide a joint presentation at the workshop to provide comments on the order and additional information regarding the impacts of the drought on urban and agricultural communities.

On March 5, the SWRCB Executive Director issued a revised TUCP Order for February and March 2015. The revised TUCP order approves the request for an intermediate level of export pumping under limited circumstances, approves water transfers between water contractors, with some additional reporting requirements, and removes the provision in the original order that allowed the Executive Director to direct the use of water conserved through the implementation of the TUCP.

DWR and USBR are preparing to submit a TUCP to the SWRCB for the April through September 2015 period.

The SWRCB also issued an order to all diverters in the Delta watershed on February 4, 2015 requiring all diverters to report water diverted and by which water right, each month, as well as provide documentation supporting their claimed water right. The deadline to submit the information was March 6. The SWRCB reported a 94 percent compliance rate with the order. On March 17, the SWRCB re-adopted and amended its prior emergency order regarding the collection of information from Delta diverters.

Science Activities

Dr. James Hobbs of the Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology Department at UC Davis conducted fish surveys in small tributaries to San Francisco Bay during January and February 2015 as part of a study of longfin smelt spawning habits funded by Metropolitan. Dr. Hobbs found longfin smelt larvae in several downstream tributaries, including Napa Slough, Steamboat Slough and Mud Slough in the Napa River Marsh, and in the Petaluma River. These results suggest that longfin smelt may spawn much farther downstream than commonly believed, even during dry years. Dr. Hobbs presented these study results in a poster session at the Interagency Ecological Program 2015 Annual Workshop on March 18-20. Dr. Hobbs continued the fish surveys during March, and again found longfin smelt larvae in several downstream tributaries.

Bay-Delta Initiatives staff is supervising a major study of longfin smelt vertical distribution. The study will involve several sets of round-the-clock trawls in San Pablo Bay at different water depths in the summer and fall

Date of Report: 4/14/2015

Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

this year. The study is testing the hypothesis that longfin smelt move to deeper water when turbidity decreases (and thus become invisible to the existing standard trawls).

Bay Delta Conservation Plan Expenditures

Overall. As of February 28, 2015, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has committed \$237.9 million out of the \$239.6 million budget under the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and the associated Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program (DHCCP) activities. This includes funding under the December 2008 DHCCP Funding Agreement and July 2010 Supplemental Funding Agreement. Prior to these two funding agreements, an additional \$13.5 million was expended under the November 2006 BDCP Cooperative Cost-Share Agreement for startup costs related to development and review of the BDCP and consulting resources necessary to prepare the BDCP. Additional planning funds totaling \$4.7 million are anticipated to be made available in May 2015 by the Bureau of Reclamation (USBR).

Metropolitan's Share. Metropolitan's commitment under this program totals \$63 million.

Funding Agreements	Total Project (in millions)		
	Budget	Commitment	Remaining
Dec 2008 – DHCCP Funding Agreement	\$139.6	\$139.6	\$0
Jul 2010 – Supplemental Funding Agreement	\$100.0	\$ 98.3	\$1.7
TOTAL	\$239.6	\$237.9	\$1.7

* November 2006 BDCP Cooperative Cost-Share Agreement totaling \$13.5 million was not included in the above table.

* Anticipated funding of \$4.7 million from the USBR is not included in the above table.