



- Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Near-Term Delta Actions

State Water Resources Control Board

Due to dry conditions in the Delta, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has issued several curtailment notices directing water diverters in the Delta watershed to cease diversions. As reported previously, curtailment notices were issued for all Term 91 and post-1914 water rights in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River watershed and Delta. On June 12, the SWRCB issued a new curtailment notice for pre-1914 appropriative claims commencing during or after 1903 within the Sacramento-San Joaquin River watershed and Delta. Those who are found to be diverting water beyond what is legally available to them may be subject to administrative fines, cease and desist orders, or prosecution in court. The SWRCB may levy fines of \$1,000 per day of violation and \$2,500 for each acre-foot diverted or used in excess of a valid water right. Additionally, if the SWRCB issues a cease and desist order against an unauthorized diversion, the violation of such order can result in a fine of \$10,000 per day.

On May 22, 2015, the SWRCB approved a proposal from a group of Delta riparian water right holders to voluntarily cut back water use in exchange for assurances they would not face further riparian curtailment during the 2015 growing season. Program participants could opt to either reduce water diversions under their riparian rights by 25 percent or fallow 25 percent of their land. In either case reductions would be measured from a 2013 water use baseline. Riparian water right holders who chose not to participate in the program may face enforcement of riparian curtailments later this year, though risk of curtailment would not be any greater than it would have been if the program were not approved.

The State Water Contractors (SWC) filed a complaint on June 16, 2015, requesting the SWRCB take action to protect State Water Project (SWP) releases from unauthorized diversions of stored project water in the Delta. These unauthorized diversions by water diverters south of the San Joaquin River threaten to increase the burden on limited stored water supplies, affecting both the environment and other water users. Estimates show that landowners last year diverted as much as 300,000 acre-feet of such water. The SWC are requesting that the SWRCB issue an order preventing diverters south of the San Joaquin River from making unauthorized diversions of SWP storage.

As reported previously, the SWRCB considered a Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) submitted by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) in January 2015, requesting temporary changes to the terms of the water rights permits for operation of the SWP and Central Valley Project (CVP) for February and March 2015. On March 24, 2015, DWR and USBR submitted a request to modify the TUCP order to be effective from April through September 2015. On April 6, 2015, the SWRCB issued a revised order for the April through June 2015 time period that identified the need for a salinity barrier. Installation of the salinity barrier across West False River in the western Delta was completed on May 28, 2015. On May 21, 2015, DWR and USBR submitted a TUCP renewal request for changes to Delta flow and salinity requirements for July through September 2015. The SWRCB Executive Director is expected to act on the May 21, 2015 request before July 1, 2015.

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Pursuant to the TUCP Order, USBR was required to develop and implement a Temperature Management Plan for the Sacramento River to ensure that CVP operations will provide reasonable protection for winter-run Chinook salmon and other salmonids. USBR submitted a draft temperature management plan in mid-April, 2015, and an updated plan on May 4, 2015, to the SWRCB, the National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The plan, which was provisionally approved, indicated that temperatures suitable for winter-run Chinook salmon could be maintained with the proposed operations. The plan was provisionally approved by the SWRCB and fishery agencies. On May 29, 2015, the Executive Director of the SWRCB met with staff from USBR, DWR and the fisheries agencies to discuss (1) updated data indicating that Shasta reservoir temperatures were warmer than expected; and (2) associated modeling information showing that it was unlikely that the temperature target would be met with the operations provisionally approved two weeks earlier. Following the May 29, 2015, meeting, the provisional approval of the draft temperature management plan was temporarily suspended and USBR was directed to reduce releases from Keswick Reservoir below Shasta Lake to conserve cold water supplies.

SWRCB staff continues to work with USBR, DWR and the fisheries agencies to develop a new plan of operations to protect winter-run Chinook salmon, and they have reached agreement on the basic elements of a revised plan. The revised plan will rely on real-time decision making and, due to lower releases from Shasta, will affect system-wide CVP and SWP operations and water supplies. The SWRCB held a workshop on June 24 for USBR and others to provide information on Shasta temperature operations and the associated water supply effects of these operations. Staff is monitoring these activities closely, as the revised temperature management plan could have impacts to SWP operations and water supplies.

Delta Emergency Preparedness

DWR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) released their “Draft Delta Emergency Operations Integration Plan” for stakeholder review. This document, recently prepared by means of an MOA between these agencies, defines how DWR and USACE personnel and resources integrate operations during flood emergencies statewide using existing plans and guidelines. It is directly applicable to flood and earthquake initiated emergencies in the Delta region.

DWR also provided their “Delta Emergency Tabletop Exercise Handbook” for the recent Department-wide exercise that included a major earthquake on the Hayward Fault west of the Delta region. This document provides detailed guidelines giving participants the necessary tools to fulfill their roles in the exercise. It is part of a process DWR employs to continually train personnel, perform realistic drills, and revise plans in preparation for major flood and earthquake emergencies.

Following the bid process, DWR plans to award contracts in late 2015 for the enhancement of rock stockpiles and materials, loading, and warehousing facilities at DWR, Stockton, and Rio Vista stockpile sites. Rock recently used for the False River barrier for Delta salinity control in response to drought conditions will be placed at the Rio Vista emergency stockpile site following removal of the barrier in late 2015. DWR also advises that the funding agreement for Bacon Island levee improvements, which will enhance levee stability on Old River along the island’s western perimeter, has been sent for execution to the Bacon Island Reclamation District.

Bay Delta Conservation Plan Expenditures

Overall. As of May 31, 2015, DWR has committed \$238.2 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 expected to be provided by the USBR.

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Metropolitan's Share. Metropolitan's commitment under this program remains at \$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	\$ 98.6	\$1.4
TOTAL	\$239.6	\$238.2	\$1.4

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

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