



- Bay-Delta Management Report

## Summary

---

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

## Purpose

---

Informational

## Detailed Report

---

### Long-Term Delta Actions

#### Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California Water Fix

On August 26, 2015, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) submitted a joint petition for change in water right permit and license conditions for the State Water Project (SWP) and federal Central Valley Project (CVP) to add points of diversion of water on the Sacramento River associated with the California WaterFix project. DWR and USBR filed an errata and addendum to the joint petition on September 18. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) anticipates that it will issue a formal public notice of both the petition and an evidentiary hearing on the petition in the near future. The notice will inform interested parties how they may comment on the process.

On August 26, DWR also submitted a permit application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) for the California WaterFix. The ACOE will consider whether to issue a permit to construct the California WaterFix project for portions which would occur in waters of the United States, and involve activities triggering the ACOE's regulatory authority under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. In coordination with this application, DWR also will be requesting approval from the ACOE under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act for elements of the project that may affect federal levees or other federal projects. The ACOE process presents additional opportunities for public comment on the regulatory process for the California WaterFix.

Staff is continuing its review of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California Water Fix Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for consistency with adopted Metropolitan Board Policies, and is working jointly with other SWP/CVP public water agencies to prepare comments. The public comment period concludes on October 30, 2015.

### Near-Term Delta Actions

#### Habitat Restoration

The State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA), of which Metropolitan is a member, has been pursuing opportunities for habitat restoration in the Suisun Marsh and Yolo Bypass areas to comply with the biological opinion for Delta smelt issued in 2008 by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service . This biological opinion requires that 8,000 acres of intertidal and associated subtidal habitat be developed in the Delta and Suisun Marsh. Towards this end, SFCWA is working with Westervelt Ecological Services (Westervelt) to develop the Tule Red duck club property in Suisun Marsh, which is located in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta region. Metropolitan, Westlands Water District, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District jointly funded acquisition in 2011. The property is expected to generate over 380 acres of new habitat. SFCWA has been working with Westervelt to perform site reconnaissance, conceptual design, hydraulic modeling, and crediting analyses. The project managers are working with the regulatory agencies to obtain all of the necessary permits in order to move the project toward initial construction in the fall of 2016.

## Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

### Science Activities

On August 5, 2015, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife released a proposal solicitation notice for Proposition 1 Watershed Restoration, Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Programs. The Proposition 1 Grant Program proposal solicitation is calling for scientific studies that will evaluate listed species and habitat restoration, and contain cost sharing opportunities. Staff worked with collaborating scientists at ICF environmental consulting firm and also U.C. Davis to develop three research proposals in response to the solicitation. ICF and U.C. Davis investigators will be providing the majority of the expertise, labor, and technical skills to the proposed studies. Metropolitan is proposing to provide cost sharing for each of the studies within the General Manager’s authority and is requesting the remainder from the Proposition 1 Grant Program. The first proposal would expand existing studies of longfin smelt population indicators and distribution. This three-year study would test the hypothesis that most longfin smelt hatch in San Pablo Bay during wet years and that factors affecting distribution of juveniles and adults explain declines of abundance. The second study would focus on the technical development of acoustic tags small enough to be inserted into Delta smelt. Such tags would provide higher resolution for tracking purposes and would have enormous significance in the study of Delta smelt movement and survival. The third proposal would study the health of Delta smelt captured in various surveys. The goal would be to understand the relationship between Delta smelt habitat and Delta smelt health.

### **Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California WaterFix Expenditures**

Overall. The table below shows the funding and commitments based on the December 2008 Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program (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. In addition to these funding agreements, a new agreement was recently executed between DWR and USBR to provide additional planning funds totaling \$4.7 million by USBR. To date, \$1.7 million of these additional funds have been received and are reflected in the table below.

As of August 31, 2015, the DWR has committed \$241.1 million out of the updated budget. The amount paid as of the same date is \$238.6 million.

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	\$ 100	0
USBR Federal Funding Agreement	\$1.7	\$1.5	\$0.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 241.3</b>	<b>\$241.1</b>	<b>\$0.2</b>

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

\*Additional funding of \$1.7 million from the USBR per the Federal Funding Agreement has been received and credited in the above table.