



- Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of activities related to the Bay-Delta for January 2016.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California WaterFix

As part of the revised regulatory approach for the California WaterFix, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) are developing a Biological Assessment (BA) in compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The BA documents potential impacts from construction of the new water infrastructure and operations of the new facilities and existing water project facilities once the project becomes operational. Submittal of the BA begins formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service under section 7 of the ESA and leads to the issuance of the Biological Opinion by both agencies. A working preliminary draft BA was posted to the California WaterFix website on January 15. This document represents a working draft that is still under development and subject to further refinements. Staff is reviewing the document and will provide comments.

As reported previously, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) set a public hearing date of April 7, 2016, to consider the petition requesting changes in the point of diversion for the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) as part of the California WaterFix Project. A pre-hearing conference is scheduled for January 28. Opening briefs will be submitted in March 2016. Staff, in collaboration with public water agency attorneys, is preparing for participation in the proceedings.

Near-Term Delta Actions

State Water Resources Control Board

Staff continues to coordinate with the State Water Contractors (SWC) to provide input to SWRCB Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan planning efforts and enforcement actions related to SWRCB-issued curtailment notices. The SWC is actively involved in depositions pertaining to SWRCB enforcement actions against two in-Delta water users – Byron-Bethany and Westside Irrigation Districts. SWC filed a notice to appear in the defense phase of the enforcement action. SWC participation will be limited to issues relevant to the SWC stored water complaint.

As reported previously, staff continues to work with SWC to meet with SWRCB staff regarding the SWC stored water complaint, filed in June 2015. It appears that due to drought activities and SWRCB staff workload, they have not acted on the complaint to date. In the meantime, staff continues to refine technical analyses in support of the complaint.

Science Activities

Staff is participating on the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) Workshop Planning Committee. The IEP workshop showcases new and developing science in the Delta, Suisun Bay, and the tributaries. The current agenda includes presentations on sturgeon, smelt, salmon, drought, phytoplankton, and nutrients. Special sessions on fish survey Gear Evaluation and Drought Barriers are also included. The IEP Workshop will be held on April 20-22, 2016 in Folsom, California.

Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

A study of longfin smelt larval distribution supported by the SWC began in early January. Dr. Hobbs (UC Davis) and Dr. Grimaldo (ICF) are sampling for larvae both in Suisun Bay marshes and in San Pablo Bay marshes and shallow water. The study is designed to test: (1) the theory that longfin smelt abundance increases in wet years as a result of downstream production linked to local runoff rather than from upstream production linked to Delta outflow, and (2) that there is a difference in larval production between Suisun Bay and San Pablo Bay.

Bay Delta Conservation Plan 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 the USBR to provide additional planning funds by the USBR. To date, \$5.5 million of these additional funds have been received and are reflected in the table below including the budget total. Funding from the USBR in addition to the \$5.5 million provided to date under the DWR/USBR Federal Funding Agreement is currently being processed.

As of December 31, 2015, DWR has committed \$245.9 million out of the updated budget. The amount incurred as of the same date is \$242.6 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	\$ 0
USBR Federal Funding Agreement	\$ 5.5	\$ 6.3	(\$0.8)
TOTAL	\$ 245.1	\$ 245.9	(\$ 0.8)

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

* Additional funding of \$5.5 million from the USBR per the Federal Funding Agreement has been received and credited in the above table.