



- Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California WaterFix

On January 28, 2016, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) conducted a pre-hearing conference for the California WaterFix Project water right change petition hearing. The petition requests changes in water rights for the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), which are needed to add points of diversion of water on the Sacramento River for the California WaterFix Project. Following the pre-hearing conference, the SWRCB issued a ruling on the procedural issues on February 11. The ruling modifies the hearing schedule to provide more time for interested parties, other than the petitioners, to submit their written testimony. DWR and USBR must submit opening briefs by March 1, 2016, and the hearing will begin on April 7, 2016. For other parties, the deadline for submitting written testimony has been moved to May 16, 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

As reported previously, 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.

Science Activities

Staff participated in the Central Valley Project Improvement Act Science Integration Team to contribute to the development of a Chinook salmon lifecycle model. The model will be used for science-based decision making to prioritize actions within and across watersheds according to expected outcomes. Fiscal year 2017 will be the first year this decision-support model will be used in place of expert elicitation for prioritizing Chinook salmon restoration activities.

Staff continued to work with investigators to develop fisheries studies. Staff is managing a Salmon Predation Study, including negotiating the contracts between California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Metropolitan and its subcontractors, Cramer Fish Sciences and ICF. A workplan is being developed for implementation in April 2016, and staff is also coordinating with the Southwest Fisheries Science Center and UC Santa Cruz to solicit input to improve the Salmon Predation Study. Staff is also reviewing and developing proposals for submittal to the 2016 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program. Finally, staff is involved in efforts to develop improved methods for controlling invasive aquatic weeds, such as water hyacinth and *Egeria*.

Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

Delta Emergency Preparedness

Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan

Staff is coordinating with DWR to test the readiness of the Emergency Management Tool (ERT), a tactical predictive tool developed by DWR to estimate time and resources to repair multiple island failures in the Delta, including the development of the emergency freshwater pathway for water export resumption. The tool is capable of predicting the repair times for failures up to about fifteen islands in the central and south Delta; however, it requires additional refinement for greater island failure scenarios. Based on work done to date, the ERT suggests the freshwater pathway can be restored within the range of about six months; however larger island failure scenarios must be tested. Model refinements should be completed in several months, which will be followed by completion of the DWR Delta flood Emergency Response Plan.

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) reported the draft Northern California Catastrophic Flood Response Plan over a ten-county region will be developed by August 2016. This will include response to critical emergency needs such as transportation, search and rescue, medical and public health, care and shelter, and repair of critical infrastructure. DWR will be responsible for the preparation of the response brief for critical water infrastructure in the Delta, including island repair and restoration of water export capabilities, the development of the freshwater pathway and the actions necessary for declaration of state and federal emergencies.

DWR is implementing a grant program to help ensure the readiness of counties and reclamation districts in the Delta region. This program focuses on training, materials stockpiles for emergency response and communications needs. As a result, DWR and local agencies can utilize common communication equipment and facilities for emergency response, facilitated by the installation of a large radio tower on Twitchell Island.

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, an additional agreement was 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 January 31, 2016, DWR has committed \$248.0 million out of the updated budget. The amount incurred as of the same date is \$243.9 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	\$ 8.4	(\$2.9)
TOTAL	\$ 245.1	\$ 248.0	(\$ 2.9)

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