



- Bay-Delta Management Report

## Summary

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

## Purpose

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Informational

## Detailed Report

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### Long-Term Delta Actions

#### Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California WaterFix

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is conducting hydrologic studies to evaluate how much water could have been stored if the California WaterFix was in place and operational. This winter has brought significant rain to California, with high Delta inflows. However, the use of federal and state water project pumps has been limited to comply with criteria imposed in the federal biological opinions, mainly those limiting south Delta reverse flows. The new intakes, tunnels, and operating criteria proposed by California WaterFix would have allowed more water to be captured and stored while complying with endangered species laws and water quality standards. DWR has been tracking the winter storms since January 2016 and estimates that, based on the project operations described in the draft Biological Assessment for the California WaterFix, approximately 486,000 acre-feet of water could have been captured and used to support agricultural and urban purposes as well as recharging critically low reservoirs and groundwater basins from early January 2016 through March 3. Updated information can be found on the [californiawaterfix.com](http://californiawaterfix.com) website.

### Near-Term Delta Actions

#### Near Term Actions: Turbidity Forecasting

The Delta Conditions Team continued to hold weekly calls. OMR flow restrictions continued to control export operations during the high flow conditions experienced this month; the biological opinion restrictions have had an estimated combined project impact of 560 TAF for the season.

#### SWP & CVP Regulatory Issues: State Water Resources Control Board

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) granted an extension for a public hearing 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. The first hearing date is currently scheduled for May 5 2016, and opening briefs by DWR are due March 30. Staff, in collaboration with public water agency attorneys, is preparing for participation in the proceedings.

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 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. The hearing was held the week of March 21. Paul Hutton, representing the SWC, provided rebuttal testimony at the hearing. His testimony was focused on issues relevant to the SWC stored water complaint.

### Science Activities

A study of longfin smelt larval distribution continued in March. Dr. Hobbs (UC Davis) and Dr. Grimaldo (ICF) sampled for longfin smelt larvae both in Suisun Bay marshes and in San Pablo marshes and shallow

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water. Many larvae have been detected; however, counts by fish species have yet to be completed. The study is designed to test the hypothesis that increases in longfin abundance in wet years result from downstream production linked to local runoff rather than from upstream production linked to Delta outflow. In March, staff also met with researchers at Oregon State University to receive an update on their re-analysis of historical fish survey data. Work on this project is progressing rapidly, and preliminary estimates of fish abundance, distribution, and possible bias factors should emerge from the work in the next few months. Staff continues to coordinate with these researchers to discuss study findings and consider next steps.

### **Delta Emergency Preparedness**

#### Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan

DWR updated the scope for enhancing the Emergency Response Management Tool (ERT) to estimate time and resources to repair multiple island failures in the Delta. Model enhancements are expected to be completed by September 2016, which will be followed by completion of the DWR Delta Flood Emergency Response Plan.

The ERT work will accommodate hydrodynamics of very large flooded island volumes and concurrent channel flows during actual breaches of a scale warranting implementation of the emergency freshwater pathway. This will include mechanisms to simulate refined Delta Cross Channel operations, real time model response based on observed data, and the ability to predict effects of short-term increased flows from San Joaquin River reservoirs, in addition to Sacramento River reservoirs. The enhanced ERT will be able to assess response of land-based levee repair to concurrently restore levee slumping and closure of breached levees.

### **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 agreement was executed between DWR and the USBR to provide additional planning funds by the USBR. To date, \$5.7 million of additional funds have been received and are reflected in the table below. Funding from the USBR, in addition to the \$5.7 million provided to date under the DWR/USBR Federal Funding Agreement, is currently being processed.

As of February 29, 2016, DWR has committed \$248.2 million. The amount incurred as of the same date is \$244.9 million.

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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	\$ 100.0	\$ 0
USBR Federal Funding Agreement	\$ 5.7	\$ 8.6	(\$2.9)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 245.3</b>	<b>\$ 248.2</b>	<b>(\$ 2.9)</b>

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