



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California WaterFix

As part of the state and federal Endangered Species Act compliance that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) are undertaking with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the California WaterFix, the Delta Science Program convened a scientific panel to review the draft Biological Assessment (BA). The purpose of the California WaterFix Aquatic Science Peer Review (Peer Review) is to provide an independent scientific evaluation of the methods and approaches for developing the joint Biological Opinion requirements and analyses prepared for the CDFW 2081 (b) Incidental Take Permit application. The results of the panel review are scheduled to be released in May 2016. Staff worked with the State Water Contractors to submit a letter that includes several areas of comment regarding the scope and focus of the Peer Review and relevant scientific studies that the panel should consider in its evaluation of the draft BA. Staff attended the two-day workshop and will monitor the forthcoming recommendations and further development of the BA and Biological Opinion/2081 permit.

Near-Term Delta Actions

State Water Resources Control Board

On March 28, 2016, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) hearing officers for the California WaterFix water right change petition hearing regarding additional points of diversion received a letter from DWR and USBR (collectively Petitioners) requesting a 60-day continuance of all dates and deadlines associated with the hearing. The hearing officers also received additional requests from other interested parties to delay and stay the hearing pending resolution of several matters. In response to the various requests, on April 25, the SWRCB granted a 60-day continuance of the proceedings. The proceedings are now scheduled to begin with the first hearing date on July 26.

Staff continues to provide input to the SWRCB enforcement actions related to SWRCB-issued curtailment notices. On March 21, 2016, the SWRCB commenced a consolidated hearing phase for the enforcement actions against two in-Delta water users – Byron-Bethany and Westside Irrigation Districts. On March 23, 2016, the hearing officers provided an opportunity for further redirect testimony and recross-examination of the witnesses of the prosecution team. After considering the testimony and evidence received, the first and subsequent phases of the hearing were suspended. A further written ruling or order of the SWRCB will follow.

Science Activities

Staff continues to work with researchers on priority science investigations. As part of the longfin smelt larval distribution study, Dr. Grimaldo (ICF) prepared a draft journal article on the distribution of larval Longfin Smelt in the Bay Delta system. The paper suggests that longfin smelt spawn primarily in the shallows and wetlands ringing Suisun Bay and San Pablo Bay, and that they are much more tolerant of salinity than previously believed. Accordingly, downstream production should be very important in wetter years and that habitat restoration around Suisun and San Pablo Bays would boost longfin spawning habitat.

Date of Report: 5/10/2016

Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

Staff participated in key fishery science forums over the past month and provided presentations at the Pacific Coast Steelhead Management Meeting, the Western Division American Fisheries Society Meeting, the Delta Science Program Symposium, and the Salmonid Restoration Federation conference.

Staff continued to participate in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program to provide input to on-going Delta smelt and salmon science studies related to the existing biological opinions. The Salmon Gap Analysis report is expected in June 2016. Staff is also developing potential projects addressing model development for wind and turbidity relationships, Hyacinth control impacts on lower trophic levels and fish, ocean sampling for longfin smelt, and salmon predation.

Delta Emergency Preparedness

Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan

DWR has updated the scope for enhancing the Emergency Management Tool to estimate time and resources to repair multiple island failures in the Delta. Model enhancements are expected to be completed by September 2016; however, simulation runs can be made as early as June 2016. Model limitations for larger island breach scenarios are being corrected and calibrated, and real time barrier installation timelines and Sacramento and San Joaquin reservoir operations and related Delta flow regimes are being integrated.

DWR has advised that the DWR/U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Delta Emergency Operations Integration Plan is being upgraded to form a “hands on” Users Guide for use during actual emergencies, and has received executive level DWR and USACE coordination. DWR is planning a field exercise to test the readiness of enhanced Delta communications tools developed over the last several years, including use of common federal, state, and local radio communication frequencies, a new radio communication tower on Twitchell Island, and a USACE Mobile Information Collection System data collection tool.

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 these additional funds have been received and are reflected in the table below including the budget total.

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	\$ 8.9	(\$3.2)
TOTAL	\$ 245.3	\$ 248.5	(\$3.2)

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