



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

California WaterFix and California EcoRestore

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) will hold a public hearing to receive evidence relevant to the joint petition filed by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) requesting changes in water rights for the new points of diversion for the California WaterFix Project. The first portion of the hearing (Part 1A) concerning potential injury to other legal water right holders is scheduled to commence on July 26, 2016 and will be dedicated to the petitioners' case and cross-examination of petitioners' witnesses. DWR and USBR submitted extensive testimony to the SWRCB on May 31, 2016. The second portion of the hearing (Part IB) will be comprised of testimony from other parties and is scheduled to commence in the Fall. Part II of the hearing will address effects on aquatic resources and will commence after certification of the Environmental Impact Report for the California WaterFix project. Metropolitan is a party in the proceedings, and in collaboration with other public water agency participants, is preparing to participate.

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 to comply with the biological opinion for Delta smelt issued in 2008 by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). This biological opinion requires that 8,000 acres of intertidal and associated subtidal habitat be developed in the Delta and Suisun Marsh. SFCWA is working cooperatively with DWR to achieve this result in a timely and cost effective manner. Towards this end, SFCWA has contracted with Westervelt Ecological Services to develop the Tule Red duck club property in Suisun Marsh. Metropolitan, Westlands Water District and the Santa Clara Valley Water District jointly funded acquisition of the property in 2011, which the Metropolitan Board approved. The property is expected to generate over 420 acres of new tidal habitat. SFCWA has been working with Westervelt over the last four years to perform site reconnaissance and obtain required permits. Other significant actions have included preparing the Delta Stewardship Council Consistency Determination document, final design, plans and specifications, hydraulic modeling, habitat crediting prospectus and credit purchase agreement. The project has been cleared by the Council to proceed. Currently, the project managers are working to complete the construction contractor bidding process and move the project toward initial construction.

Science Activities

Metropolitan is refining the Delta smelt lifecycle model that it developed through consultants a few years ago. R2 Resources consultants, working under contract to Metropolitan, are updating an environmental dataset of physical, chemical, and biological parameters for the Bay-Delta. The updated dataset will be completed by the end of June and used by Dr. Mark Maunder and Dr. Richard Deriso (also under contract to Metropolitan) to rerun the Delta smelt lifecycle model using the updated data. A key objective of this modeling is to test theories advanced by the USFWS that increases in Delta outflows in spring and summer would increase Delta smelt populations.

Date of Report: 7/12/2016

Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is implementing the Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Program to fund multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects, including projects that will provide fisheries and ecosystem benefits in the Delta. Staff are developing several Prop 1 proposals for Delta smelt tagging development, monitoring Delta smelt response to nutritional and contaminant stress, Longfin smelt distribution, Chinook salmon benefits from floodplain rearing, Steelhead monitoring, and floodplain management for salmonids. The proposals will be submitted June 24.

Staff is working with other investigators to conduct a salmon predation study funded by a grant from CDFW. The project team is coordinating with state and federal agencies to obtain Endangered Species Act take permits and access to sites for conducting the study. Some of the permits have been acquired and additional permits are being reviewed by the Interagency Ecological Program to be prepared for the study in 2017-2018. Access to sites are also going through the review and approval process.

In May, staff attended the Society of Freshwater Science Annual Meeting in Sacramento, which included a number of informative presentations on multiple stressor effects, environmental DNA and DNA barcoding technologies, and the integration of science, management, and water policy.

Delta Emergency Preparedness

Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan

The California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) is planning to issue a draft Northern California Catastrophic Flood Response Plan in late August for public review. The plan describes broader initiatives of Cal OES and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to meet citizen needs in major emergencies, and interfaces with operational plans of DWR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who are responsible for repair of levee failures.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has indicated a commitment to maintain on call contracts for timely response to large-scale emergency operations in the Delta region. DWR's emergency operations contracting is governed by the California Water Code wherein broad authority is provided to enable emergency services on a timely basis for repair of critical water facilities, including levees.

The revised DWR Emergency Response Tool (ERT) to assess real time levee repair times and resources in emergencies has reached the testing phase. DWR flood management and operations staffs are performing drills to work through internal operational strategies. Initial runs to assess time and resources to implement the emergency freshwater pathway will be performed in July 2016.

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) 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. To date, \$5.7 million of additional funds have been received and are reflected in the table below including the budget total. The State has indicated that any funding needs to complete the planning phase beyond the secured funding of \$245.3 million shown below will be provided by other State or Federal sources.

Metropolitan's Share. Metropolitan's commitment under this program remains at \$63 million.

Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

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Funding Agreements	Total Project (in millions) as of May 2016		
	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	\$ 12.1	(\$6.4)
TOTAL	\$ 245.3	\$ 251.7	(\$ 6.4)

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