



- Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of activities related to the Bay-Delta for March 2017.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

California WaterFix

As reported previously, the Delta Science Program staff convened a phased independent scientific peer review process to review and evaluate the methods and scientific information used in developing the California WaterFix (CWF) Biological Opinions. Staff attended the independent review panel meeting held in January 2017. On March 10, the final Independent Review Panel Report for the 2016-2017 California WaterFix Aquatic Science Peer Review Phase 2B was released to the public. Overall, the review panel found improvement in the state and federal fish agencies' approaches to assessing potential impacts of CWF, however, the panel noted that there could be clarification in the way the CWF elements fit together to contribute to the protection of the Endangered Species Act listed species. Staff is reviewing the review panel report and is continuing to evaluate the analytical tools and scientific information used in developing the CWF Biological Opinions.

Near-Term Delta Actions

State Water Resources Control Board

The California WaterFix Petition proceedings before the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) are ongoing. Part 1 of the hearings addresses the effects of the proposed project on legal users of water. Staff is preparing for the rebuttal phase of Part 1 in collaboration with the State Water Contractors (SWC) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). The deadline for submitting rebuttal testimony is March 23, and the hearings for the Part 1 rebuttal will start on April 25, 2017. Part 2 of the hearings, which are scheduled to begin once the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement is approved and Endangered Species Act permits are approved, will consider the effects of the proposed project on fish and wildlife and review "appropriate flow" criteria.

As reported in previous months, staff continues to participate in several aspects of the SWRCB Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP) update process in collaboration with the SWC. The Phase 1 update of the WQCP addresses requirements for salinity in the southern Delta and San Joaquin River flows. Staff worked with the SWC to submit written comments on the Phase 1 document on March 17. The comment letter expresses concern that previous comments provided by the SWC have not been addressed, and also reiterates concerns with the use of unimpaired flow as a compliance metric and the requirement for the State Water Project and Central Valley Project to install temporary barriers in the south Delta.

Science Activities

Staff continues to participate in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program, providing input to current Delta smelt studies and to the development of work plans addressing priority salmon and Delta smelt science questions. In March, staff participated in meetings addressing the National Marine Fisheries Service's analytical tools, including a new salmon life cycle model, that are being used in developing the CWF biological opinions. For 2017, the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT) is planning to continue current

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Delta smelt studies addressing entrainment and effects of fall outflow, continue involvement in key Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy actions, and initiate new salmon studies. Staff is also participating in the CAMT Delta Smelt Scoping Team Outflow workgroup and the Flow Alteration Project Work Team. These working groups are developing a conceptual model and general research questions that would be important for promoting survival of Delta smelt. This information will inform development of an adaptive management plan for evaluating the effects of potential summer and/or fall flow actions. The actions consist of using augmented flows for the purposes of enhancing Delta smelt survival by increasing flows in the Sacramento River and/or in the Yolo Bypass.

Delta Emergency Preparedness

Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan

DWR advises that recent flood emergency operations in northern California successfully demonstrates agency mobilization, command center implementation, and resources of a scale and type similar to that required for the repair of Delta levees following a severe earthquake.

An additional contract has been bid for warehouse rehabilitation and waterside loading facilities to further support emergency materials stockpiling at the DWR north Weber parcel in Stockton. This complements other stockpiling, warehousing and loading operations at the Rio Vista and Stockton sites. The California Office of Emergency Services indicates that their Northern California Catastrophic Flood Management Plan covering a broad array of federal emergency activities, including the Delta, is approaching completion and will be available for agency review in early summer.

Freshwater pathway operations employ selected channel closures receiving water from the Sacramento River in the north Delta to facilitate fresh water movement toward the central Delta and head of the freshwater pathway near the San Joaquin River. The emergency response tool (ERT) model demonstrates pathway development and export resumption generally in the range of six months. Further model runs to include temporary closure of the Sacramento River downstream of Georgiana Slough are being performed to demonstrate response under the most critical water years and seismic emergencies to further influence freshwater flows toward the central Delta and freshwater pathway. DWR will prepare an Appendix covering ERT runs as part of the Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan.

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Expenditures

Overall

The table below shows the funding and commitments based on: (1) funding agreements between DWR and the state and federal water contractors; (2) funding from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) under a Federal Funding Agreement; and (3) funds made available by DWR. The funding agreements between DWR and the water contractors are 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, DWR and the USBR have provided additional planning funds. None of the state funds are state general fund dollars. To date, \$14.0 million of additional funds have been received and made available to the budget and are reflected in the table below.

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

Funding Agreements	Total Project (in millions) as of February 2017		
	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/DWR State Water Project Funding	\$ 14.0 **	\$ 19.0	(\$5.0)
TOTAL	\$ 253.6	\$ 258.6	(\$ 5.0)

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

** Rounding off adjustment from \$14.1 million in previous reports