



- Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

California WaterFix

The planning phase for the California WaterFix project is anticipated to be completed in the near future. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) continues to take the final steps toward the approval of the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) documents, including completing the California Environmental Quality Act-required Findings of Facts and Statement of Overriding Consideration and the Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program, in anticipation of an action on the project following the release of the final Biological Opinions from the federal fish agencies. This will be a major milestone resulting from a several-year effort by the state, federal government, and the public water agencies to develop a sound solution to improving water supply reliability and infrastructure flexibility, and to contribute toward improving the Delta ecosystem consistent with the stated co-equal goals policy.

Near-Term Delta Actions

State Water Resources Control Board

The California WaterFix Petition proceedings before the State Water Resources Control Board are ongoing. Part 1 of the hearings addresses the effects of the proposed project on legal users of water. Staff is participating in the rebuttal phase of Part 1 in collaboration with the State Water Contractors. DWR submitted rebuttal testimony on March 23, 2017, and the hearing for the Part 1 rebuttal started on April 25, 2017. Part 2 of the hearings, which are scheduled to begin once the EIR/EIS and Endangered Species Act permits are approved, will address the effects of the proposed project on fish and wildlife.

Science Activities

Staff continues to participate in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), providing input to current Delta smelt studies and to the development of work plans addressing priority salmon and Delta smelt science questions. In May, staff collaborated with technical staff of the state agencies, federal agencies, and non-governmental organization (NGO) groups to develop presentation materials and participate in the CSAMP technical forum addressing the Fall X2 action in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 2008 Biological Opinion. The technical forum included discussion of the scientific basis for the Fall X2 action and of Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy actions and monitoring planned for this year.

Staff prepared and submitted a Central Valley Project Improvement Act joint charter study proposal to better understand if modification or elimination of predator contact points results in decreased predation mortality and increased juvenile salmonid survival. Contact points are manmade structures associated with increased predation mortality of juvenile salmonids (e.g. diversions, scour holes, pilings). The charter was prepared in collaboration with USFWS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Southwest Fisheries Science Center, and the East Bay Municipal Utility District.

This month staff participated in a tour of the Sutter Bypass with the state agencies, federal agencies, and NGO groups to discuss restoration opportunities to benefit juvenile and adult Chinook salmon. Discussions focused on

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restoration opportunities to modify Tisdale Weir to facilitate adult and juvenile passage, modifications to Weir #1 to facilitate adult passage, and research needs to fill knowledge gaps regarding when and how juvenile salmonids use the bypass system (e.g. migration corridor, rearing habitat, predator refugia).

Metropolitan staff is participating in the coordination of Prop 1 and Interagency Ecological Program funded research for Longfin smelt. The studies will examine the factors that affect the distribution of Longfin smelt. The principal investigators include Metropolitan staff and researchers from ICF, UC Davis, and San Francisco State University. Field and analytical work is ongoing and will continue for the next three years.

Delta Emergency Preparedness

Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan

As reported previously, DWR is conducting simulations using the Emergency Response Tool (ERT) to test the effectiveness of the emergency freshwater pathway. In May, DWR completed ERT simulations to estimate the amount of time it would take to resume water project operations following a major breach of multiple Delta levees and island flooding. DWR found that with levee repairs following a multiple levee failure event, and pulse flows from the San Joaquin River and Sacramento River, that exports could resume in about 5 to 6 months following the emergency. Additional simulation runs may provide strategies to further reduce export disruptions.

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 USBR have provided additional planning funds, and the most recent additional funds of \$390,000 have been provided by the San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority. None of the state funds are state general fund dollars. To date, \$14.4 million of additional funds have been received and made available to the budget and are reflected in the table on the next page.

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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 April 2017		
	Budget	Commitment	Remaining
Dec 2008 – DHCCP Funding Agreement	\$ 139.6	\$ 139.6	\$ 0
Jul 2010 – Supplemental Funding Agreement	\$ 100.0	\$ 100.0	\$ 0
Post MOA Phase:			
USBR Federal Funding Agreement/DWR State Water Project Funding	\$ 14.0 **	\$ 20.7	(\$ 6.3)
San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority	\$ 0.4		
TOTAL	\$ 254.0	\$ 260.3	(\$ 6.3)

* 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