



- Bay-Delta Management Report

## Summary

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

## Purpose

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Informational

## Detailed Report

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### Long-Term Delta Actions

#### California WaterFix

The planning phase for the California WaterFix project is anticipated to be complete in the near future. Staff is expecting the release of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service Biological Opinions for California WaterFix to occur in June. Following that important milestone, action on the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) is expected.

### 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, and Sur-Rebuttal for Part 1 of the hearing started on June 15. Part 2 of the hearings, which are scheduled to begin once the EIR/EIS is approved and Endangered Species Act permits are approved, will address the effects of the proposed project on fish and wildlife, including consideration of appropriate Delta flow criteria.

#### Science Activities

Staff continues to participate in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program. Staff provided technical input to the design of an adaptive management plan and monitoring studies to evaluate the outcomes of summer and/or fall flow actions for 2017. The actions include using augmented flows for the purposes of enhancing Delta smelt survival by routing the flows through either the main stem Sacramento River and/or the Yolo Bypass. Staff participates on the Flow Alteration Project Work Team, which is charged with developing the conceptual model and general research questions that would be important for promoting survival of Delta smelt.

The California Natural Resources Agency released the Sacramento Valley Salmon Resiliency Strategy (Strategy) on June 2. The Strategy is a science-based document that addresses near- and long-term needs of Sacramento Valley salmon and steelhead, including actions to restore habitat, improve stream flow, remove stream barriers and reintroduce salmon and steelhead to ideal habitat. Staff provided input to the Strategy and will continue to monitor and provide input to implementation of the salmon actions described in the Strategy.

Staff initiated a project with ESSA Technologies to evaluate the reliability of environmental correlations with fish populations in the Delta. The project will consist of a literature search of environmental correlations that have been used in the Delta, a re-analysis of the correlations to determine if they hold up in the face of updated data, and recommendations for best practices when using environmental correlations as policy tools. A project report is expected by the end of 2017.

Staff hosted tours of the Sutter Bypass to identify science and restoration actions that will benefit Chinook salmon populations. Tour participants included local landowners and staff from state and federal agencies,

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local water districts, non-governmental organizations, and university scientists. Science and restoration proposals were identified in workshops that followed the tour and project leads are now seeking funding.

Staff met with Dr. James Peterson, of Oregon State University, to discuss his analysis of fish survey data to better understand the distribution and abundance of key Bay-Delta fish species and to look for factors that could be impacting catch patterns. Dr. Peterson found that detection of Delta smelt, longfin smelt, and several other species is highly dependent upon turbidity levels. Evaluating the survey data with consideration of the effect of turbidity may lead to a better understanding of population trends and the life history of these fish.

### **Delta Emergency Preparedness**

#### Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is documenting results of their Emergency Response Tool (ERT) simulation runs, which will lead to completion of the Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan. The ERT runs have demonstrated strategies to limit the period of export disruption to less than six months following the breach of multiple levees and island flooding.

DWR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are nearing completion of their Delta Emergency Operations Integration Plan (Integration Plan). The purpose of the Integration Plan is to define how personnel and resources from DWR and USACE integrate operations during flood emergencies and how the agencies interact under state and federal emergency operations.

The California Office of Emergency Services has indicated that their Northern California Catastrophic Flood Management Plan (Plan), including the Delta region, has been briefed to their executives and is approaching completion. The Plan elements were put into practice at an interagency level during the Orville spillway failure emergency operations and performed favorably.

### **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 (SLDMWA). 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 May 2017		
	Budget	Commitment	Remaining
Dec 2008 – DHCCP Funding Agreement	\$ 139.6	\$ 139.6	\$ 0
Jul 2010 – Supplemental Funding Agreement	\$ 100.0	\$ 100.0	\$ 0
<b>Post MOA Phase:</b>			
USBR Federal Funding Agreement/DWR State Water Project Funding	\$ 14.0 **	\$ 21.1	(\$ 6.7)
SLDMWA	\$ 0.4		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 254.0</b>	<b>\$ 260.7</b>	<b>(\$ 6.7)</b>

\* 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