



- Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

California WaterFix

California WaterFix is a proposed project to improve the state's water delivery system in the Delta. Metropolitan is considering the proposed project to improve long-term State Water Project water supply reliability, along with aiding in the restoration of the Delta's fragile ecosystem. This proposed project is the product of more than a decade of review, planning, and rigorous scientific and environmental analysis by water experts, engineers and conservationists, as well as extensive public comment. On July 21, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) completed its environmental review process by certifying the 2016 Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR), along with adopting the findings of fact, statement of overriding considerations, and mitigation monitoring and reporting program. At the same time, DWR, as the lead agency in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), approved California WaterFix and filed the Notice of Determination (NOD) with the State Clearinghouse in Sacramento. With the culmination of this action, focus now shifts toward actions to pursue implementation. Once the NOD is published, the statute of limitations for initiating litigation is 30 days. Relying on DWR's environmental documentation, Metropolitan as a responsible agency under CEQA will now be able to review and consider this information and deliberate on the next steps Metropolitan can take on California WaterFix. With three white papers (infrastructure, operations, and cost allocation) being presented to the Board in July and August outlining key aspects of the proposed project, the Board of Directors will be presented with a set of actions to consider for a Board decision on California WaterFix in the near future.

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 potential 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. The Sur-Rebuttal for Part 1 of the hearing was completed in July. Staff anticipates that the closing briefs for Part 1 will be scheduled by the SWRCB soon. Part 2 of the hearings, is expected to be scheduled soon since the EIR is approved and Federal Endangered Species Act permits have been issued addressing potential impacts to fish and wildlife from the proposed project.

Science Activities

Staff continues to participate in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP). Staff worked with the Delta Smelt Scoping Team to prepare briefing materials and presentations for the CSAMP Policy Group meeting in July, which was focused on discussing the science underlying the Fall X2 action in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Biological Opinion for Delta smelt, and monitoring plans for this fall. Staff also provided technical input to the design of monitoring studies to evaluate the outcomes of fall flow conditions in 2017.

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Staff continued science efforts related to longfin smelt. On June 27, staff provided a briefing to the Special Committee on Bay-Delta on Longfin smelt studies, and on July 11, the Board of Directors approved entering into an agreement with ICF consultants, utilizing funding from a Proposition 1 grant awarded to Metropolitan, to conduct a study investigating factors affecting longfin smelt. The longfin smelt research program is being conducted by Metropolitan staff in collaboration with state and federal agencies as well as research institutions and consulting firms. This month, staff participated in field work being conducted for the study examining the distribution of juvenile longfin smelt in the San Francisco Estuary. Staff is also participating in the Longfin Smelt Management Analysis and Synthesis Team (LFS MAST), which is a collaborative effort to develop an overall conceptual model and report describing the biology and ecology of longfin smelt in the San Francisco Estuary.

Staff continued to work with ESSA Technologies Ltd. on a project to evaluate the reliability of environmental correlations with fish populations in the Delta. The project includes 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. During June and July, staff provided ESSA with numerous historical correlations for use in the study.

In July, staff also continued efforts to develop salmon related science and restoration projects. Staff hosted a tour of Butte Sink to identify science and restoration actions that will benefit Chinook salmon populations. Participants included local landowners and staff from state and federal agencies, local water districts, nongovernmental organizations, and university scientists. Science and restoration proposals will be identified in an upcoming workshop.

Staff participated in the first in a series of workshops on the Winter-Run Life Cycle Model that has been used in the recent National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion. The workshop provided stakeholders an opportunity to understand the model, identify knowledge gaps, and propose improvements. Staff will be coordinating future workshops with representatives from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and NMFS.

Staff participated in a tour of Livingston Stone National Fish Hatchery, the conservation hatchery responsible for rearing winter-run Chinook salmon and Delta Smelt. The tour included meetings with USFWS and California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff, and visits to salmon rearing habitat in the Upper Sacramento River in an effort to identify restoration possibilities in the upper river.

Metropolitan Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Expenditures

The following is a description of Metropolitan's cumulative BDCP expenditures updated for the quarter ending June 2017. Staff will continue to provide these on a quarterly basis in the Bay Delta Board Report.

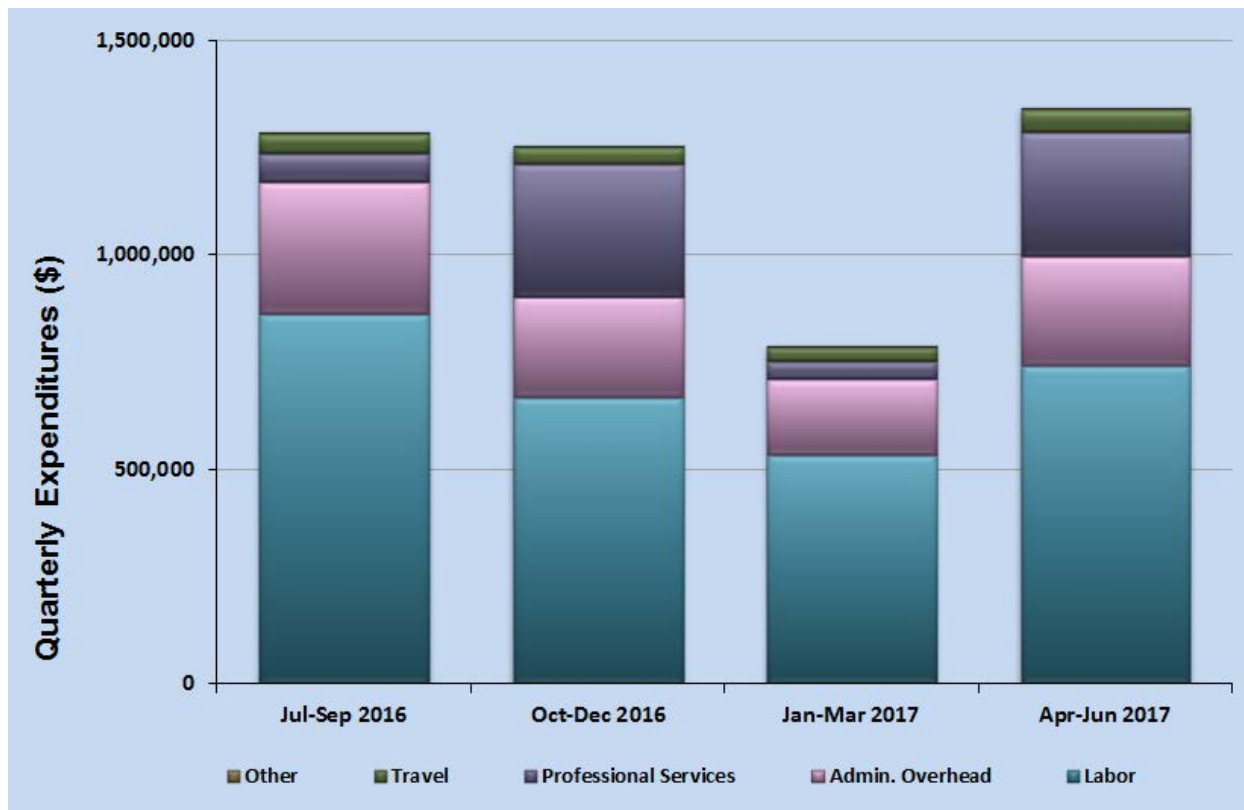
Total (July 2005 – June 2017)

BDCP – Internal MWD	Total Costs (12 yrs.)
Labor & Benefits ⁽¹⁾	\$ 25.78M
Professional Services	\$ 5.01M
Travel	\$ 1.34M
Other ⁽²⁾	\$ 0.16M
SUBTOTAL	\$ 32.29M
Administrative Overhead	\$ 9.71M
TOTAL	\$ 42.00M

⁽¹⁾ Labor costs include salary, leave and non-leave benefits

⁽²⁾ Other include charges for materials and supplies, trainings & seminars, conferences & meetings, reprographics

Quarterly (July 2016 – June 2017)



Bay Delta Conservation Plan 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 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 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 June 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 **	\$ 21.5	(\$ 7.1)
San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority	\$ 0.4		
TOTAL	\$ 254.0	\$ 261.1	(\$ 7.1)

* 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