



- Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

California WaterFix

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife issued an incidental take permit for the construction and operation of California WaterFix in compliance with Section 2081(b) of the California Endangered Species Act. This permit authorizes the incidental take of state-listed species associated with future operation of the State Water Project (SWP) with the addition of the California WaterFix. This includes construction of proposed water conveyance facilities within the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta), along with operation of the SWP subsequent to and incorporating the newly constructed facilities for California WaterFix and future SWP operations. As described in the permit application, California WaterFix will implement measures for construction and operation of the project to fully mitigate the impacts of any incidental take of state-listed species, and will provide additional protection through real-time operation of the facilities in a manner that avoids and minimizes incidental take. Issuance of this permit represents another significant milestone in the California WaterFix planning process.

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 participated in the rebuttal phase of Part 1 in collaboration with the State Water Contractors. On August 10, the SWRCB issued an order setting November 8, 2017 as the deadline for submission of closing briefs for Part 1. Staff anticipates that the SWRCB will soon issue notices to initiate Part 2 of the hearings, which will address the effects of the proposed project on fish and wildlife, including consideration of appropriate Delta flow criteria.

Science Activities

Metropolitan staff participated in the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team Delta Smelt Scoping Team Outflow Group, and the Flow Alteration Project Work Team. This included helping to prepare the scope of work for the Fall X2 sampling that will be completed in 2017 and participating in the development of a Decision Support Tool based on the Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy. In addition, Metropolitan staff, in collaboration with the State and Federal water contractors, is developing an effects analysis on potential alternative actions for Fall X2 (contained in the Delta Smelt Biological Opinion) for 2017.

Metropolitan staff is working with ESSA Technologies consultants on a project to evaluate the reliability of environmental correlations with fish populations in the Delta. The project will

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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.

Metropolitan staff attended a Yolo Bypass Biological Opinion meeting on the six alternatives proposed to modify the Fremont Weir. Initial results were presented from analyses on the economic impacts on Yolo Bypass farming and fish entrainment models. A public peer-review panel will be held in September to evaluate the models being used to assess the Fremont Weir alternatives in the EIR/EIS.

Staff participated in field work being conducted by Metropolitan's consultant ICF International to study Longfin Smelt. The purpose of the study is to examine the abundance and distribution of juvenile Longfin Smelt in the upper San Francisco Estuary.

Metropolitan staff toured completed and proposed restoration sites along the Stanislaus River with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff as part of an effort to identify non-flow actions that can be taken to support salmon recovery.

Metropolitan staff also met with the Friends of Butte Creek, a community organization trying to identify a buyer for the DeSabra-Centerville Pacific Gas and Electric project on Butte Creek. Local interests are seeking a buyer that is prepared to meet the regulatory requirements for ESA-listed spring-run Chinook Salmon in Butte Creek and potentially complete habitat improvements or expansions through the removal of decommissioned dams and canals.

Delta Emergency Preparedness

Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan

Metropolitan staff is reviewing updated drafts of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan (DFEMP) and the DWR/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Delta Emergency Operations Integration Plan. The Integration Plan incorporates federal permit authorities for emergency work in the Delta region when an imminent threat to life or property is demonstrated. These are the primary reports controlling emergency operations in the Delta. The schedule for publication of the DFEMP may be delayed to the end of the year because of management priorities of the current flood season.

The DWR Division of Engineering has stated that they will be acquiring additional sheet pile as a levee break closure method in the Delta through procurement mechanisms that will include broader statewide acquisitions. Additional 2014 Proposition 1 funding sources are being made available to Delta Flood Emergency Management activities. Funding amounts are being identified and will be reported.

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. None of the state funds are state

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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.

Metropolitan's Share

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

Funding Agreements	Total Project (in millions) as of July 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 **	\$ 22.2	(\$ 7.8)
San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority	\$ 0.4		
TOTAL	\$ 254.0	\$ 261.8	(\$7.8)

* 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