



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

California WaterFix

The Metropolitan Board of Directors held a special board workshop on September 26, to continue discussion of the California WaterFix project. At the workshop staff provided follow-up presentations on key policy issues and outlined next steps in the board's decision-making process. Staff has been making presentations to member agencies and interest groups to provide information and address questions about the California WaterFix project. At the same time as the Metropolitan process to review and consider CA WaterFix, other State Water Project public water agencies are reviewing and considering their decisions as well, including Kern County Water Agency, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Zone 7.

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 participating in the rebuttal phase of Part 1 in collaboration with the State Water Contractors. Closing briefs for Part 1 are due to the SWRCB on November 8, 2017. On August 31, the SWRCB issued a ruling regarding the schedule for Part 2 of the hearings. Part 2 of the hearings will address the effects of the proposed project on fish and wildlife, including consideration of appropriate Delta flow criteria. Opening briefs for Part 2 are due November 30, 2017, and Part 2 of the California WaterFix hearing will commence January 18, 2018.

Science Activities

Staff continued its participation in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program, including in the Delta Smelt Scoping Team Outflow workgroup and the Flow Alteration Project Work Team to develop detailed work plans for the Directed Outflow Project. The purpose of the Directed Outflow Project is to evaluate the theorized benefit of fall outflow alteration for Delta smelt, and monitor fish, zooplankton, chlorophyll, nutrients, toxicity, and physical parameters in the Delta during fall 2017. The effort included frequent meetings for development, review, funding, and permitting. The Directed Outflow Project includes Principle Investigators from ICF, UC Davis, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and San Francisco State University. Sample collection for the project started in mid-September.

In 2014, Metropolitan funded scientific investigations to evaluate drought-related impacts in the Delta. One of the drought studies focused on the evaluation of newly developed technology, the "Smelt Cam," for Delta smelt monitoring improvements and to monitor Delta smelt under different conditions and locations. The project resulted in improvements in the technology to more accurately identify and distinguish between Delta smelt and longfin smelt, both key native fish species in the Delta.

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A study proposal developed by Metropolitan staff to better understand predation on juvenile salmon at contact points, structures that are associated with predation, has been recommended for funding in the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) 2018 Draft Work Plan. Staff developed the proposal with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, USFWS, East Bay Municipal Utility District, and consulting experts. The CVPIA 2018 Work Plan will be finalized in October 2017.

Staff attended a symposium on invasive species in California organized by the Delta Science Program. There are a number of invasive species present in the Delta (Arundo, water primrose, fish, insects, invertebrates, jellies), and a number of species that are expected to invade the Delta at some point (zebra and quagga mussels, water snake, nutria, beetle). New tools are being developed to map distributions of invasive species, and this can be used to alert communities that a species has been introduced so that they can put in place a response or eradication program. Significant knowledge gaps exist for invasive species in the Delta and this has been identified as an important area for science investigations.

Staff is participating 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 workshops provide stakeholders an opportunity to understand the model, identify knowledge gaps, and propose improvements. Metropolitan staff is coordinating future workshops with representatives from Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), NMFS, and the water agencies, to identify management questions that could be addressed with the model.

Staff attended and provided public comment at the Yolo Bypass Salmon Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Analytical Tool Independent Scientific Review. The purpose of this review was to independently and externally evaluate the analytical tools for assessing the project alternatives being considered in the Draft Yolo Bypass Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration Program Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report. The goal is a scientific assessment of the tools and whether they use the best available science, if the associated assumptions are being used appropriately, and to ensure results are appropriately interpreted for evaluating alternatives. The panel provided preliminary findings at the end of the two-day review, and they will provide their final findings and recommendations in October 2017.

Delta Emergency Preparedness

Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has developed a Flood Emergency Response Information Exchange system to improve flood emergency preparedness, response, and recovery in the Delta and elsewhere in the state. It is an accessible online system capable of depicting decision support information in real-time to all responsible agencies to assist with making flood operational decisions. It can facilitate and create potential outcome scenarios, based upon forecasts, actual hydrology, and geographic data for a specific location of interest. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers utilizes an internal data exchange system with similar functionality and framework to DWR's.

A contract for the northern portion of the Stockton Weber site is expected to be completed in December 2017 to provide two additional loading and off-loading facilities, space for additional rock storage, and rehabilitation of a major warehouse for flood emergency response materials. Remaining project funds are being identified for large sheet pile to be used, if needed, to close at least two major levee breaches in the event of an emergency. Purchase will be done under available DWR contracts. During an emergency, sheet pile will be spliced together as needed for lengths required in field installation.

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCCP) 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

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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 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.

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

Funding Agreements	Total Project (in millions) as of August 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 **	\$ 22.1	(\$ 7.7)
San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority	\$ 0.4		
TOTAL	\$ 254.0	\$ 261.7	(\$7.7)

* 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