



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of activities related to the Bay-Delta for June 2018

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

California WaterFix

On June 12, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) released the Administrative Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the California WaterFix project. The updated environmental document covers the footprint changes resulting from proposed water conveyance facility design modifications that further minimize the impacts of the project on local communities and the environment. DWR and USBR are making the administrative draft available on the California WaterFix website for use by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) as part of the ongoing California Waterfix proceedings. The public Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS is expected to be released in July 2018 for public review and comment. The Final Supplemental EIR/EIS is planned for fall 2018.

The SWRCB proceedings for the California WaterFix Petition for additional point of diversion are ongoing. The evidentiary portion of Part 2 of the hearings, which consider the effects of the proposed project on fish and wildlife, concluded on April 25, 2018. On June 18, the SWRCB issued a notice regarding the schedule for the Part 2 rebuttal phase. The deadline for parties to submit rebuttal testimony and exhibits is July 10, 2018, and the presentation of rebuttal testimony will commence on August 2, 2018. Staff is coordinating with other State Water Project contractor agencies to prepare rebuttal testimony and prepare for the hearings.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Science Activities

Staff is participating in the Sutter Bypass workgroup, which is identifying research needs in the Sutter Bypass to better understand benefits of this habitat to juvenile salmonids. In June, the workgroup met to discuss initial results of a pilot study conducted this year studying fish growth and food availability in the Sutter Bypass. Results of the pilot study highlighted the different ways in which water moves through the bypass during flood and non-flood events. Even during non-flood events (when the weirs are not overtopped) backwater from the Feather and Sacramento Rivers results in flooding of the lower bypass, which may have benefits for food production and fish growth. The group is seeking funding to implement the full study next year.

Staff met with USBR, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the State Water Contractors to demonstrate a salmon entrainment model that ICF consultants developed that can be used to evaluate loss and salvage at the export facilities under different environmental and operational scenarios. The model predicts weekly salvage of salmonids based on a suite of variables that can be forecasted one month into the future. All agencies see value in using this as an additional tool in the decision making process to inform water project export operations throughout the year.

Staff is participating in the Structured Decision Making for Scientific Management in the Bay-Delta (Delta SDM) process, sponsored by USBR and the Delta Science Program, to provide technical input. The process is facilitated by Dr. James Peterson of Oregon State University. The purpose of the Delta SDM process is to generate stakeholder decision support models for salmon and Delta Smelt that can be used to identify priorities for implementation.

Date of Report: 7/10/2018

Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). On May 22, staff participated in the CAMT Delta Salmonid Research Workshop. The workshop provided an opportunity for researchers and managers working in the Delta to interact, discuss needs and challenges, and explore opportunities for addressing those needs and challenges together. The workshop was specifically designed to promote dialog between scientists doing research on salmonids in the Delta, and managers that use that science to make decisions and direct funding. The workshop revolved around a set of management questions that reflect management needs for information. Staff is participating in the CAMT salmon subcommittee, which is currently summarizing information learned at the workshop to present to CAMT and CSAMP. Outcomes from the workshop will be used to prioritize future funding investments in salmon studies and actions.

Delta Emergency Preparedness

Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan

DWR continues to develop and refine the Emergency Response Tool (ERT), which is a modeling tool to analyze proposed emergency response actions to respond to catastrophic levee failures in the Delta. The ERT now includes a water quality component, which is integral to determining water quality conditions for export resumption following levee failure emergencies. The ERT has the capability to evaluate freshwater conveyance independent of other levee repairs in the Delta. The ERT analysis shows that short term Sacramento River and San Joaquin River reservoir releases in conjunction with emergency freshwater pathway development and channel diversions provide limited but early export resumption and increased exports associated with pathway restoration.