



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of activities related to the Bay-Delta for April 2019.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

California WaterFix

In response to Governor Newsom's redirection for the new Delta conveyance facilities, the state has been developing a plan on how to best meet the Governor's vision for securing reliable future supplies for the State Water Project (SWP). Further clarification on the state's water infrastructure proposal is expected sometime in the next couple of months. Staff will provide updates to the Board on the direction of the state as details become known.

As reported previously, on March 1, 2019, the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (collectively petitioners) requested that the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) place the petitioners' joint water right change petition for WaterFix (change petition) in abeyance and stay the hearing for 60 days in order to allow DWR enough time to assess how this change will affect existing and any new permit and planning work, including the change petition process. The SWRCB granted the petitioners' request for the stay on March 5, 2019. DWR is expected to communicate the state's direction on the petition prior to the end of the 60 days.

California EcoRestore

California EcoRestore was launched in 2015 by the California Natural Resources Agency to accelerate the restoration of 30,000 acres of habitat across the Delta by 2020. The initiative's primary focus is coordinating state-led habitat restoration projects to accelerate on-the-ground results. In 2018, five restoration projects broke ground, which will create new tidal wetlands, establish new riparian upland habitats and address fish passage barriers. Many more restoration projects are in the planning phase. In an effort to communicate EcoRestore accomplishments, the Natural Resources Agency released a video on April 17 highlighting the benefits of the EcoRestore projects. The video includes speakers from state agencies and stakeholders. Alison Collins, Senior Resource Specialist in Bay-Delta Initiatives, is one of the speakers in the video. The video can be found at the following link: <http://resources.ca.gov/ecorestore/2019/04/ecorestore-restoring-californias-great-estuary-video-released/>.

Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

Near-Term Delta Actions

State Water Resources Control Board

In January 2019, the Independent Scientific Advisory Panel (Panel) that was organized at the request of the SWRCB to develop recommendations concerning biological goals produced a draft report. The Panel charge was to provide recommendations on scientifically defensible methods for formulating biological goals that can be used to assess progress toward achieving the proposed Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan narrative objectives. Staff provided comments on the report through the State Water Contractors and participated in the Bay-Delta Biological Goals Scientific Advisory Panel meeting on March 4, 2019. The final Panel report was released on April 26. Staff is reviewing the Panel's final report.

Science Activities

Staff toured the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program fish hatcheries to learn about the conservation hatchery efforts on the Colorado River and how to successfully run a conservation hatchery to address concerns regarding genetic viability, competition, and survivorship. Lessons learned here can be applied to investigations regarding the possibility of reintroduction of hatchery raised sensitive fish species, such as Delta Smelt, into Delta waterways.

Staff attended a workshop organized by the Sacramento River Science Partnership, a science enterprise formed between National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, DWR and Sacramento River to provide collaborative research, modeling, monitoring and synthesis to support recovery of salmonids and other species of concern. The workshop was well attended, and included several short presentations from their ongoing and recent research. The organizers had panel discussions on monitoring, restoration and modeling, and were seeking input from the participants on research priorities.

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). In April, CAMT focused on science governance issues, Delta Smelt Science Plan implementation, and structured decision-making for the Delta. The science governance issues in the Delta have been highlighted as an area of focus for the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee and the role of CSAMP and CAMT in science governance is being discussed. CAMT discussed pilot testing some of the recommendations in the Delta smelt Science Plan and approved a test implementation approach.

Staff participation in the Float Alteration Management Analysis and Synthesis Team has produced a draft document synthesizing the lines of evidence evaluated in regards to Fall flow in 2017 on Delta smelt and factors that affect Delta smelt. Initial findings suggest that temperature was the dominant driver in 2017 that resulted in poor survival for Delta smelt. Staff is reviewing the draft report and providing comments.

Staff participated in the Interagency Ecological Program Estuarine Ecology Team meeting on April 18. The purpose of the team meetings is to share and discuss preliminary findings from studies in the Delta. The meeting included presentations on studies addressing zooplankton abundance under different habitat conditions, juvenile salmon distribution and growth and longfin smelt distribution modeling.

Delta Emergency Preparedness

Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan

In April, DWR and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) conducted a full-scale exercise under the Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan and allied federal and state plans to practice response to simulated significant levee erosion and potential levee breach scenarios in the Delta. The exercise involved a USACE project levee at Middle Roberts Island forming part of the State Plan of Flood Control, and at a non-project levee at Metropolitan-owned Bacon Island forming a critical link to the emergency freshwater pathway and water export operations.

The exercise mobilized the State-Federal Flood Operations Center (FOC), the US Army Corps of Engineers Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the Joint Operations Center in Sacramento, and DWR and USACE

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mobile command centers at the DWR Stockton materials storage and warehousing facility, and included participation by the California Office of Emergency Services.

The event was activated under a Unified Command in anticipation of simulated storms and deteriorating levee conditions observed by Reclamation Districts at the specified islands with anticipation that a full levee breach could occur. In the exercise, both County and DWR resources were found to be exceeded and USACE was requested to provide flood fight assistance. Requests for assistance progressed through Reclamation Districts, County and DWR levels to USACE, resulting in flood fight responses at the field level. Construction contract procurement and services would occur on a highly expedited basis.

In the exercise, the DWR Emergency Response Tool was used to test various levee erosion and potential breach scenarios, as well as identify the required material and equipment resources mix to respond to the emergency and potential water quality effects in the Delta region.

Field operations included the testing of a joint communications plan, consisting of communications equipment at FOC, EOC, field command and incident locations, including portable repeaters, satellite, radio, cell phone and laptop communications. Common communications briefing techniques were utilized to bring all elements together, fostering improved relationships. DWR and USACE will complete de-briefing and identify lessons learned exercises following the exercise.

Metropolitan Bay Delta Conservation Plan – Delta Conveyance, California WaterFix & EcoRestore (BDCP/CWF-CER) Expenditures

The following is a summary of Metropolitan’s cumulative BDCP/CWF-CER expenditures updated for the quarter ending March 2019. In April 2015, the California WaterFix & EcoRestore proposed approaches were defined. This report includes the total internal costs related to the BDCP, as well as the CWF-CER alternatives and subsequent Delta Conveyance efforts with the new state administration. The reimbursable and non-reimbursable costs related to work under the DCA are not included in this report.

Staff will continue to provide this report on a quarterly basis in the Bay Delta Management Report.

Total (July 2005 – March 2019)

BDCP/CWF-CER Internal MWD	Total Costs (13.75 yrs.)
Labor & Benefits ⁽¹⁾	\$ 31.81M
Professional Services	\$ 6.34M
Travel	\$ 1.64M
Other ⁽²⁾	\$ 0.18M
SUBTOTAL	\$ 39.97M
<u>Administrative Overhead</u>	<u>\$ 11.71M</u>
TOTAL	\$ 51.68M

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

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

Quarterly Summary (April 2018 – March 2019)

	FY17-18 Q4	FY18-19 Q1	FY18-19 Q2	FY18-19 Q3
	Apr-Jun 2018	Jul-Sep 2018	Oct-Dec 2018	Jan-Mar 2019
Labor	1.295M	0.737M	0.482M	0.428M
Professional Services	0.252M	0.104M	0.091M	0.318M
Travel	0.060M	0.051M	0.044M	0.022M

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Other	0.003M	0.008M	0.003M	0.001M
SUB-TOTAL	1.610M	0.900M	0.620M	0.769M
Admin. Overhead	0.427M	0.246M	0.162M	0.140M
TOTAL	2.037M	1.146M	0.782M	0.909M