THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Report

Office of the General Manager

- **Bay-Delta Management Report**

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Joint Powers Authorities

The Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) met on June 20. At the meeting, the DCA approved amending the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement for Planning and Environmental Services in support of the environmental analysis for a potential Delta Conveyance project, approved a revised scope of services for Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., to align with new planning and environmental support services, approved the FY 2019/20 budget, authorized the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a lease for office space, and authorized amendment of the bylaws regarding meeting times and staffing flexibility. The Delta Conveyance Finance Authority did not meet in June.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Regulatory Activities

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and Department of Water Resources (DWR) have been working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on the reinitiation of consultation for the Coordinated Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP). In January 2019, USBR released a biological assessment to support consultation under the Endangered Species Act. This month the USFWS and NMFS completed the effects analyses and submitted them for peer review. The final biological opinions are expected to be released in July.

Science Activities

Staff participated in the Sutter Bypass workgroup meetings this month to discuss preliminary results of ongoing fish, zooplankton, and hydrology studies that are taking place to better identify how juvenile salmon use this habitat and what restoration actions are needed to improve salmon use and survival. Preliminary results suggest that fish in the Sutter Bypass have higher growth rates than fish in the Sacramento and Feather Rivers, with the exception of the Sacramento River near the Tisdale Weir, where fish have similar growth to fish in the Sutter Bypass. Study results also suggest that the Sutter Bypass has longer residence time of water, lower dissolved oxygen, and higher zooplankton density than the Sacramento and Feather Rivers. Seining efforts in the Sutter Bypass captured all four runs of Chinook salmon as identified by length-at-date, which will be confirmed by genetic analysis. Analysis will continue through the summer.

Staff met with the Centerville Schoolhouse Workgroup to tour different facilities of the hydroelectric project on Butte Creek and discuss potential project improvements that could be made to ensure delivery of cold water from the West Branch of the Feather River to Butte Creek to support spawning spring-run Chinook salmon. The Workgroup is a diverse group of stakeholders that are committed to ensuring the future of Butte Creek's population of spring-run Chinook salmon.

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). In June, CAMT discussed the status of the Delta Smelt Science Plan implementation effort. This CAMT effort is pilot testing the

framework laid out in the Delta Smelt Science Plan to assess the effects of ambient environmental conditions and flow-related management actions for Delta smelt. CAMT discussed the need for the pilot implementation to include all planned management actions, pilot studies and monitoring activities related to the food web and flow management actions proposed to benefit Delta smelt. CAMT also provided input to the development of process guidelines for Phase 1 of the CSAMP Structured Decision Making (SDM) Project for Delta Smelt. The overall objective of this SDM process is to identify actions to benefit Delta smelt and evaluate and rank the actions in a scientifically structured process to support consideration of prioritized management actions. The SDM process guidelines will address the SDM process, membership, development of goals, objectives and evaluation criteria, identification of management actions, and methods for estimating consequences. Staff also participated in a CAMT workshop to review a proposed spreadsheet tool that could be used to estimate salmon survival for different actions, and discuss uses and limitations of the tool.

The Delta Independent Science Board (DISB) is charged with reviewing the adequacy of the science in support of adaptive management for the Delta, and they have done this by conducting reviews of science for specific topics. On June 17, the DISB released their draft review of the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) for public comment. The review looks at the organizational and programmatic business of IEP to produce science to inform Delta management. Staff is reviewing the document and will coordinate with the State Water Contractors to provide comments by the July 26 deadline.