



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Joint Powers Authorities

Both the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) and the Delta Conveyance Finance Authority (Finance Authority) held meetings on July 18. Action by the DCA Board included approving a letter of credit for approximately \$847,000 for the DCA office lease and a new template for the monthly Board reports. Also during the meeting, Carrie Buckman, the Department of Water Resources' new Environmental Manager for the one-tunnel conveyance program was introduced. The Finance Authority Board approved the amended investment policy which delegates authority to the Treasurer to invest funds. In addition, the Finance Authority received a report from Kathryn Mallon, DCA Executive Director, regarding DCA activities and anticipated budget for the next three years.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Regulatory Activities

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the California 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 and State Water Project. The USFWS and NMFS are continuing to address comments on the draft proposed action and biological opinion documents, and in July the fish agencies reported that they have been granted a two-month extension for completing the biological opinions. The fishery agencies are planning to release revised draft biological opinion documents on July 31 for another round of independent peer review, and for review by the public water agencies as authorized under the WIIN Act. Staff is preparing to review the documents. The final biological opinions are expected to be released by the end of August.

State Water Resources Control Board

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is in the process of developing and implementing updates to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan). The Natural Resources Agency has been leading a separate but related effort to negotiate Voluntary Agreements (VAs) with upstream and export water users to support environmental objectives through a broad set of management tools. On July 1, the Secretaries of CalEPA and Natural Resources released a Voluntary Agreements Progress Report. The report describes progress to date on evaluation of assets, development of recommendations for a governance structure and science-based decision-making approach, and identification of key policy issues for enforcement of the VAs. The report also describes a general timeline for moving forward that includes State determination of the adequacy of the VAs by October this year, and completion of SWRCB environmental review by 2021. Staff is providing technical review of VA documents and providing input to the process.

Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

Science Activities

Staff is working with the State Water Contractors (SWC) and ITN Industry News to produce a news and current affairs-style program that will explore the threats posed to fish and wildlife. The program will highlight the impact of effective fisheries management and look at how organizations are addressing the complexities of fisheries conservation and creating a sustainable future. The collaborative science that SWC is investing in and supporting will highlight how fisheries science is being used to inform water project operations and policy decisions. This Fisheries Strong video will provide a platform for the exchange of ideas, highlight the important work of fisheries and conservation professionals, and showcase some best practice stories from across America on what people and organizations are doing well from the top down to the grassroots level. The program will be launched at the American Fisheries Society annual conference, featured on the association website, and shared widely online to their members and be featured across 50 or more different distribution channels including the AFS website, social media, newsletters, YouTube and more as a means to provide practical, real-world solutions for advancing the industry.

A scientific paper published in the June edition of the *San Francisco Estuary & Watershed Science* Journal presented results of a study funded by Metropolitan to characterize early 20th century salinity conditions in the Delta. The paper compares two salinity datasets from the early 20th century – the records of distance travelled by the C&H Sugar’s freshwater barges and salinity measurements by the State of California. The C&H Sugar’s barge data has been used extensively in the Bay-Delta community as a surrogate for the degree of salinity intrusion in the Delta. This paper finds that the salinity intrusion estimated through C&H Sugar’s barge data is systematically lower by up to 10 km when compared to other salinity measurements during the same period, and therefore, questions the conclusions about the salinity intrusion based on the barge data.

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). In July, CAMT and the CSAMP Policy Group discussed and approved the Process Guidelines for the Delta Smelt Structured Decision Making (SDM) project, which will allow the consultant to proceed with the next phase of the project. The overall objective of this SDM project 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 CSAMP Policy Group received updates on restoration projects to benefit salmon at Battle Creek, the San Joaquin River and the Yolo Bypass, and was briefed on planned Delta smelt management actions, pilot studies and monitoring activities this summer and fall related to the food web and flow management actions proposed to benefit Delta smelt.

Delta Emergency Preparedness

Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan

DWR has invited Metropolitan to participate as a member of the Delta Working Group which coordinates Delta emergency response programs among local, state and federal agencies, and provides a sounding board for current studies and initiatives. The group is composed of flood response agencies, including Local Management Agencies (LMAs), Delta counties, California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, DWR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

DWR also reported that the State Department of General Services will post for bid a large sheet pile procurement contract in August 2019 to supplement rock inventories supporting levee breach and channel closures for development of the freshwater pathway in an emergency. Previous DWR technical reports have supported pathway development through sheet pile closures in lieu of or in combination with rock closures.

DWR is receiving and making available large inventories of super sacks from commercial sources which can supplement local, state and federal agency inventories for channel closures generally inaccessible by other means. DWR also announced a new \$10 million local agency grant program to support emergency response inventories and programs of Delta LMAs.

Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

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

The following is a summary of Metropolitan’s cumulative BDCP/CWF-CER/DCP expenditures updated for the quarter ending June 2019. This report includes the total internal costs related to the BDCP, the CWF-CER alternatives and subsequent Delta Conveyance Project 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 – June 2019)

| BDCP/CWF-CER/DCP Internal MWD | Total Costs (14.0 yrs.) |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Labor & Benefits ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 32.28M |
| Professional Services | \$ 6.63M |
| Travel | \$ 1.67M |
| Other ⁽²⁾ | \$ 0.18M |
| SUBTOTAL | \$ 40.76M |
| Administrative Overhead | \$ 11.86M |
| TOTAL | \$ 52.62M |

⁽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 (July 2018 – June 2019)

| | FY18-19 Q1 | FY18-19 Q2 | FY18-19 Q3 | FY18-19 Q4 |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | Jul-Sep 2018 | Oct-Dec 2018 | Jan-Mar 2019 | Apr-Jun 2019 |
| Labor | 0.737M | 0.482M | 0.428M | 0.465M |
| Professional Services | 0.104M | 0.091M | 0.318M | 0.293M |
| Travel | 0.051M | 0.044M | 0.022M | 0.030M |
| Other | 0.008M | 0.003M | 0.001M | 0.000M |
| SUB-TOTAL | 0.900M | 0.620M | 0.769M | 0.788M |
| Admin. Overhead | 0.246M | 0.162M | 0.140M | 0.154M |
| TOTAL | 1.146M | 0.782M | 0.909M | 0.942M |