



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Joint Powers Authorities

The Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) held a Board meeting on August 15. The agenda included a workshop to discuss options for staffing the DCA. Included in the discussion were staffing with a combination of employees and consultants, proposed organizational structure, and proposed structure for salary and benefits. The DCA Board also approved a resolution authorizing an investment policy. The Delta Conveyance Finance Authority did not meet in August.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Regulatory Activities

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources 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 released revised draft biological opinion documents on July 31, 2019 for another round of independent peer review, and for review by the public water agencies as authorized under the 2016 Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act. Staff participated in the review of the documents. The final biological opinions are currently expected to be released by the end of August.

State Water Resources Control Board

The State Water Resources Control Board is in the process of updating the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan). The Secretaries of the Natural Resources Agency and California Environmental Protection Agency continued to lead the separate but related effort to negotiate Voluntary Agreements (VAs) with water users to support environmental objectives through a broad set of tools, while providing water supply reliability. In August, staff provided technical review of the environmental and biological targets for the VAs for the Delta, and provided comments and suggestions to better define the targets and ensure that they are achievable within the 15-year term of the VAs.

Science Activities

On August 19, the State Water Contractors (SWC) released their 2018-2019 Annual Report on investments in science (https://swc.org/files/SWC_2018_2019_Annual%20Science%20Report.pdf). The report highlights the importance of investing in science to provide a more reliable water supply and protect and restore the Delta ecosystem. The areas of SWC science investment that are highlighted in the report include water project operations to minimize fish entrainment, Delta stressors, models and technology development, habitat restoration, Delta outflow and collaborative science efforts. Staff participates in the SWC science program to provide input to science priorities, identify science projects, and review findings of science studies.

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). In August, CAMT finalized the CSAMP Triennial Report 2016–2018, which summarizes the activities for the program over the three-year

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period. CAMT also received a presentation on the Delta smelt entrainment study that is addressing questions of which factors affect Delta smelt entrainment and what are the effects of entrainment on the Delta smelt population. This study is scheduled to be completed this fall.