



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Delta Conveyance

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is continuing to work on the environmental planning preparatory work for Delta conveyance. DWR anticipates that the formal environmental review process will begin with the issuance of a Notice of Preparation under the California Environmental Quality Act near the end of this year.

Joint Powers Authorities

The Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) held a meeting on September 19. The DCA Board took action to establish a new Delta Stakeholder Engagement Committee. The committee will be appointed by the DCA Board, and will consist of up to 16 public members representing various Delta stakeholder groups, such as agriculture, recreation, business and environment, and up to five ex officio members from state and local agencies. The committee will be a formal advisory body to the DCA Board and will provide an important forum for the exchange of information and ideas, and consideration of engineering and design approaches that have the potential to avoid, reduce, or mitigate significant impacts. The DCA Board also authorized awarding contracts for services to support the audiovisual, information technology, and furnishing needs of its new office. The Delta Conveyance Finance Authority Board also met on September 19 and took no actions.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Regulatory Activities

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and 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 (SWP). As of the writing of this report, the USFWS and NMFS have not yet released the final biological opinions.

Science Activities

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). In September, the CSAMP Steering Committee for the Delta Smelt Structured Decision Making (SDM) project developed a goal statement to provide direction on draft decision objectives and performance measures for Delta smelt as the SDM project moves forward. The steering committee also identified participants for the SDM technical workgroup. CAMT provided input to a presentation on the CAMT Delta smelt entrainment studies that are addressing questions concerning which factors affect Delta smelt entrainment and which are the effects of entrainment on the Delta smelt population. This set of studies is scheduled to be completed this fall.

On September 18, staff participated in a kick-off meeting for a new science project to develop a relative risk model for water quality contaminants in the Bay-Delta. The objective of the project is to quantify the relative contributions of groups of water quality contaminants to the reduction in native pelagic fish species and changes

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in macroinvertebrate community structure in the Delta and Suisun Bay. At the meeting, the group discussed sources of water quality data available for the risk analysis, and identified technical expertise and stakeholder participation needed for the project. This is a three-year project, and the first year of the project is jointly funded by Metropolitan and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

Delta Emergency Preparedness

Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan

On April 24-25, 2019, DWR conducted a two-day full-scale field exercise for levee repair and recovery in the Delta region. The exercise mobilized DWR and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) emergency operations centers in Sacramento, and the DWR emergency warehousing and stockpile facility in Stockton. Workshops were held prior to the exercise to define common data sharing.

This month, DWR completed an After-Action Report for the exercise. The exercise focused on operational coordination, communication, and assessment in response to potential breaches at two locations in the Delta region. It improved understanding of contractual responsibilities of shore side operations, efficient mobilization of USACE emergency field support and common communication methods through geographic information systems. DWR and UASCE are evaluating whether joint emergency operations agreements and reports will be updated pursuant to findings of the exercise.