



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of activities related to the Bay-Delta for October 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 and preliminary engineering design preparatory work for Delta conveyance. DWR anticipates that the formal environmental review process will begin with the Notice of Preparation under the California Environmental Quality Act near the end of this year. DWR issued Requests for Qualifications for consultant assistance with various aspects of the planned environmental review for Delta Conveyance. That selection process is ongoing. DWR also continued the public process of negotiating proposed amendments to the State Water Project (SWP) water supply contracts for cost allocation of a potential Delta Conveyance facility.

Joint Powers Authorities

The Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) held a meeting on October 17. At the meeting, the DCA Board took action to appoint and formalize the DCA Delta Stakeholder Engagement Committee. The DCA Board made clarifying revisions to the original resolution establishing the Delta Stakeholder Engagement Committee, which expand the committee to include one additional public member and allow the appointment of alternate public members. The DCA Board appointed sixteen individuals as public members of the Committee representing recreation, sport fishing, agriculture, Delta counties, public safety, local water district, local business, environmental justice, non-governmental organization environmental groups, and tribal governments. The DCA Board also appointed two individuals as ex officio members of the Committee representing various Delta Reclamation Districts and East Bay Regional Park District. The initial meeting of the Committee is expected in November 2019. The DCA Board also authorized awarding contracts for communications services to support stakeholder engagement and other meetings.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Habitat Restoration

On October 15, staff attended the breach ceremony for the Tule Red Tidal Restoration project located in Solano County's Grizzly Bay region. The Tule Red project is a joint effort by the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA) and DWR to open more than 400 acres of wetlands to daily tides in the southern Suisun Marsh to benefit native fish species. The project is also part of California EcoRestore, which is an initiative to help coordinate and advance critical habitat restoration in the Bay-Delta. This restoration project involves breaching a natural berm to allow for full daily tidal exchange through the interior of the project site and creation of a network of channels to convey water across the marsh plain. The State Water Contractors (SWC) provided \$7.7 million in funding for the project through SFCWA. Once the project is completed, the site will be turned over to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, who will take responsibility for monitoring and managing the site with SWP funding. The SWC Science Program is also funding a study to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the restoration.

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Science Activities

In October, staff participated in the first-ever joint national conference of the Wildlife Society and the American Fisheries Society (AFS). The event included many fish and wildlife professionals, and provided an important opportunity for science-sharing and potential collaboration.

Staff provided the following presentations at the conference on Bay-Delta related scientific studies:

- “Go West (and South) Young Smelt: Mapping the Habitats Associated with Juvenile Longfin Smelt and Testing Our Predictions,” presented by Corey Phillis
- “Off Channel Food Production As a Tool to Support Chinook Salmon Rearing: Simulation Based on a Long-Term Data Set,” presented by Alison Collins

The conference also included many presentations on scientific studies supported by Metropolitan and the SWC, including studies addressing salmon predation, the effects of predator density and habitat on salmon survival, salmon use of different habitats, application of aquatic environmental DNA monitoring in the Delta, and Delta smelt genetics studies.

The SWC recently partnered with the AFS to produce a video which explores the importance of the science, practices, and policies strengthening America’s fisheries. The video demonstrates how science and collaboration can be used to improve policy decision-making at the state level and highlights the SWC’s work with state agencies, academic institutions and water scientists to determine the factors affecting the abundance of threatened Longfin smelt in the Sacramento Bay-Delta. The video was debuted at the conference.

<https://www.swc.org/swc-video-longfin-smelt-research>

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). In October, the CSAMP Policy Group took steps to move forward with the Delta Smelt Structured Decision Making (SDM) project by assembling the multi-agency technical work team and developing a goal statement to provide direction on draft decision objectives and performance measures. The SDM project will be a major effort for the CSAMP process over the next two years. CAMT continued their review of the Delta smelt entrainment studies results and discussed the management implications of the study results and potential next steps. CAMT also received an update on the Salmon Rearing Habitat Study. The purpose of the study is to evaluate and map habitat characteristics in the tidal portion of the Delta to identify potential rearing habitat for juvenile salmon.

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 September 2019. This report includes the total internal costs related to the BDCP, the CWF-CER alternatives and the subsequent DCP efforts with the new state administration.

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

Total (July 2005 – September 2019)

BDCP/CWF-CER/DCP Internal MWD	Total Costs (14.25 yrs.)
Labor & Benefits ⁽¹⁾	\$ 32.73M
Professional Services	\$ 6.65M
Travel	\$ 1.70M
Other ⁽²⁾	\$ 0.18M
SUBTOTAL	\$ 41.26M
<u>Administrative Overhead</u>	<u>\$ 12.01M</u>
TOTAL	\$ 53.27M

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⁽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 (October 2018 – September 2019)

	FY18-19 Q2	FY18-19 Q3	FY18-19 Q4	FY19-20 Q1
	Oct-Dec 2018	Jan-Mar 2019	Apr-Jun 2019	Jul-Sep 2019
Labor	0.482M	0.428M	0.465M	0.457M
Professional Services	0.091M	0.318M	0.293M	0.015M
Travel	0.044M	0.022M	0.030M	0.031M
Other	0.003M	0.001M	0.000M	0.000M
SUB-TOTAL	0.620M	0.769M	0.788M	0.503M
Admin. Overhead	0.162M	0.140M	0.154M	0.153M
TOTAL	0.782M	0.909M	0.942M	0.656M

The following Delta Conveyance Finance Authority costs for member’s share of administrative expenses will be included in this quarterly report moving forward:

Quarterly Summary (March 2019 – September 2019)

	FY18-19 Q3	FY18-19 Q4	FY19-20 Q1
	Jan-Mar 2019	Apr-Jun 2019	Jul-Sep 2019
AMOUNTS PAID	0.026M	0.010M	0.050M