



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of activities related to the Bay-Delta for November 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 in December 2019 with the release of the Notice of Preparation under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). DWR presented a proposed schedule for the Delta conveyance environmental review and permitting process to the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Stakeholder Engagement Committee in November. The proposed three-year schedule includes the CEQA process, federal and state endangered species permits, water rights process, Delta Plan consistency and other environmental permits.

Joint Powers Authorities

The DCA Stakeholder Engagement Committee held its first meeting on November 13. The purpose of the Stakeholder Engagement Committee is to provide a forum for Delta stakeholders to provide input and feedback on technical and engineering issues related to the DCA's current activities. This first meeting focused on: the purpose of the committee; the roles and responsibilities of the DCA, DWR, and the Public Water Agencies; and meeting procedures. The Stakeholder Engagement Committee is scheduled to meet approximately twice per month through May 2020. The next Stakeholder Engagement Committee meeting is December 11, 2019.

The DCA Board held a meeting on November 21, where they approved contracts for office telephone and software equipment, received updates on the Stakeholder Engagement Committee and Delta Conveyance planning, and reviewed the 2018-2019 DCA Audit.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Science Activities

The State Water Contractors organized and hosted a Longfin Smelt Science Symposium on November 7. Staff participated in planning the symposium and provided presentations. The symposium covered emerging and current research findings on the condition of longfin smelt, a state list species. Studies sponsored or conducted by Metropolitan staff were included, and there was an emphasis on management relevance. The symposium presentations included recent findings on longfin smelt distribution and habitat use, diet, longfin smelt culture method development, and genetic analyses. The presenters also participated in a final panel discussion of next steps in longfin smelt research. The symposium was well received and well attended by representatives of state and federal agencies and university and consulting researchers.

Staff participated in several state agency science coordination meetings in November. Staff attended the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) stakeholder meeting on November 13 and provided input on the development of an IEP Status and Trends report and the IEP Long Term Monitoring review. Staff also participated in the first Delta Science Program meeting on developing a Delta Science Tracker. The Delta Science Tracker is envisioned as a public resource that will improve collaboration and budget accountability. Staff participated in an IEP Predation Project Work Team meeting to develop a conceptual model for how

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predation interactions occur between predators and prey. This model will be used to help define and test appropriate hypotheses to better understand the effects of predation on juvenile salmonids and other prey species.

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program, including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). At the November 19 CAMT meeting, the discussion focused on Delta smelt and salmon collaborative science activities. Staff provided input to a draft Delta Smelt Conditions Report prepared by Delta Science Program staff. The purpose of the report is to support the need for reporting and communicating information from Delta smelt monitoring and studies that was identified in the Delta Smelt Science Plan completed earlier this year. CAMT also received updates on the Delta Smelt Structured Decision Making (SDM) project. Staff is participating in the Delta smelt SDM Technical Work Group, and this month provided input to the screening of Delta smelt impact pathways, which will inform Delta smelt objectives and performance measures. CAMT also received an update on another CAMT project to develop a Coordinated Salmon Science Plan (plan). The purpose of the plan is to integrate and prioritize salmon science activities in the Delta region to support decision-making related to conservation and management actions. Staff participated in interviews with the consultant to provide input on key scientific uncertainties and high priority science activities for salmon.

Delta Emergency Preparedness

Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan

The November update of the DWR/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Delta Emergency Operations Integration Plan (Plan) has been completed, reflecting personnel and resources integration and alignment from DWR and USACE during Delta flood fight emergencies. The Plan includes input from review of operational guidelines and after-action reports of field exercises, and it creates an effective multi-agency response to large scale emergencies by integrating organizational structures, responsibilities and communications. The emphasis of the Plan is field response operations, a key component of the broader preparedness, response and recovery actions of the October 2018 Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan. A flood operation center coordinates activities of federal, state, and local agencies during flood emergencies. The Plan will be updated annually as needed, and because of its comprehensive nature, is applicable statewide.