



## ● Bay-Delta Management Report

### Summary

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

### Purpose

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Informational

### Detailed Report

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#### Long-Term Delta Actions

##### Joint Powers Authorities

On December 11, the newly formed Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC) of the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) held its second meeting in Rio Vista. The purpose of the SEC is to create a forum for Delta stakeholders to provide input and feedback on technical/engineering issues related to the DCA's current activities. At the December 11 meeting, the SEC received background information that provides a foundation for planned technical discussions in early 2020. The SEC received presentations on the California Environmental Quality Act process, and received presentations from DCA engineering staff on components of a conveyance system. The next SEC meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2020.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the DCA Board occurred on December 19. The DCA Board received updates on ongoing activities including engineering and field work focused on providing support to the California Department of Water Resources, the SEC meeting, and DCA program management and budget. The Delta Conveyance Finance Authority meeting also scheduled for December 19 was cancelled.

#### Near-Term Delta Actions

##### Science Activities

Staff co-authored, with other state and federal agency staff, a recently published Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) Newsletter scientific article titled "Invasive Aquatic Vegetation Impacts on Delta Operations, Monitoring, and Ecosystem and Human Health." The article is a review of the efforts by state agencies to monitor and control aquatic weeds in the Delta as well as the ecological impacts of the aquatic weeds on the Delta ecosystem. Invasive aquatic vegetation is becoming increasingly more common in the Delta, causing alterations to the environmental characteristics. Invasive aquatic vegetation is also impacting both ecosystem and human activities. Ecosystem impacts include flow disruption, reduced native habitat, and altered food web. Human impacts include impediments to recreational and commercial navigation, impairments to water diversions both small and large, potential habitat for human disease vectors, and costs to control its expansion.

Staff participated in several Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) Project Work Team meetings in December addressing winter run salmon, salmon genetics and climate change. The purpose of the IEP Project Work Teams is to collaborate on science activities, organize new studies, review study proposals, and prepare scientific reports.

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program, including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). At the December 17 CAMT meeting, the team received a presentation on the CAMT Fall Outflow Study, which is evaluating the environmental conditions associated with detection and occupancy of Delta smelt in the fall months, including fall outflow. Preliminary results of the study identified several environmental variables that had a strong relationship with Delta smelt occupancy, including salinity, temperature, turbidity, predators, and competitor species. The Fall Outflow Study investigators also noted critical data gaps for their analysis, especially the lack of food web data for some regions where Delta smelt are found. CAMT also discussed proposed activities for the CAMT 2020 work plan and discussed next steps in implementing the Delta Smelt Science Plan, completed earlier this year.

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## Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

Staff continued participation on the Delta smelt Structured Decision Making 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. Staff also continued participation on the CAMT Salmon Subcommittee, which is currently focused on providing input to the development of a Coordinated Salmon Science Plan (CSSP). The purpose of the CSSP is to integrate and prioritize salmon science activities in the Delta region to support decision-making related to conservation and management actions.