



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of activities related to the Bay-Delta for March and April 2020.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Delta Conveyance

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) initiated the California Environmental Quality Act scoping period for the proposed Delta Conveyance project, with the release of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) on January 15, 2020. DWR conducted eight public scoping meetings throughout the state from February 3 to March 2. In response to ongoing public health and safety concerns, DWR extended the scoping period for the Delta Conveyance Project by four weeks. The new deadline for public comment was April 17. Metropolitan submitted comments prior to the original deadline, and supported efforts by member agencies and others by providing supporting documents. DWR will compile comments into a Scoping Summary Report and use information received to formulate alternatives to the proposed project included in the NOP.

Joint Powers Authorities

The Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority's (DCA) regularly scheduled meetings on March 19 and April 16 were held online via conference line and video. In March, the DCA board heard a presentation on the eastern and central Delta conveyance alignments, which was presented at the March 11 Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC) meeting. The March 25 SEC meeting was canceled, and future meetings will be conducted via live streaming and teleconference, and will shift from bi-monthly to monthly meetings.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Delta Islands

On March 25, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) announced the selection of 40 multi-benefit ecosystem restoration and protection projects to receive funding under its Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 grant programs. Metropolitan was awarded a planning-level study grant for up to \$1,131,942 from Proposition 1 funding. The funded project is for the "*Analysis of opportunities for island-wide improvements that includes a mosaic of multiple land uses for subsidence reversal, sustainable agricultural practices, carbon sequestration, water quality, & habitat restoration.*" The objective of the project is to conduct science-based planning for alternate land uses on one of the Delta islands owned by Metropolitan in an effort to increase sustainability and resilience.

Regulatory Activities

Under the California Endangered Species Act, DWR is required to obtain an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) to minimize, avoid, and fully mitigate impacts to threatened or endangered species as a result of State Water Project (SWP) operations. On March 31, the CDFW issued an ITP to DWR for long-term operations of the SWP. The permit covers four species protected under the California Endangered Species Act: Delta smelt, longfin smelt, winter-run Chinook salmon, and spring-run Chinook salmon.

Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

Science Activities

Staff continued to participate in forums to contribute to science development and collaboration. In March and April, the State Water Contractors (SWC) Board approved contracts with scientific experts to participate in the review of Interagency Ecological Program monitoring surveys and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Delta Smelt Life Cycle Model, and to conduct science studies addressing longfin smelt coastal distribution and the effects of nutrient changes on phytoplankton in the Delta. On March 25, as part of the CDFW announcement of grant funding, the SWC was awarded a Proposition 1 grant for the Interior Delta Export Effects Study that will study the effects of water project operations on salmon in the Delta. Metropolitan is a collaborator on the study.

Staff attended a DWR workshop on the ECO-PTM ecological modeling tool with particle tracking that includes behavior mechanisms of salmonids. DWR hopes to use the tool to assess salmonid entrainment, water project operation modifications, and habitat restoration. Staff also attended the Estuarine Connectivity Symposium organized by the Delta Science Program, which included talks highlighting the importance of connectivity and how changes in one area of the estuary influence all other areas of the estuary.

Staff co-authored two recent science publications. The first publication reports on a study that found that threadfin shad, a pelagic fish in the Delta, exposed to *Microcystis* accumulated *Microcystis* toxins in its tissues. The second publication identifies critical needs, including regulatory changes and funding, for control of invasive aquatic weeds in the Delta.

- Acuña, S. C., Baxa, D., Lehman, P., Teh, F. C., Deng, D. F., & Teh, S. (2020). Determining the exposure pathway and impacts of *Microcystis* on Threadfin shad, *Dorosoma petenense*, in San Francisco Estuary. *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry*.
- Conrad, L., Chapple, D., Bush, E., Hard, E., Caudill, J., Madsen, J.D., Pratt, W., Acuña, S. C., Rasmussen, N., Gilbert, P., Calderaro, A., Khanna, S. (2020). Critical needs for control of invasive aquatic vegetation in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Delta Science Program, Sacramento, CA.

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). The March and April CAMT meetings included presentations and discussions of several topics including Delta smelt science studies and next steps in implementing the Delta Smelt Science Plan; a study of salmon survival in the Delta; an evaluation of CSAMP progress in addressing management questions; and an update on the Franks Tract restoration project. This month, staff also provided comments on the salmonid management, science, and monitoring activities that will be included for prioritization in the CAMT Coordinated Salmonid Science Plan (CSSP). The CSSP will coordinate and integrate Central Valley salmonid science activities to support management needs and decision making.

Delta Emergency Preparedness

Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan

DWR reported that their Stockton emergency stockpile site, which supports flood fight operations in the Delta, will be stocked at capacity next year with delivery of major sheet pile supplies currently posted for bids and contracted for delivery. Large warehouses at the site are at capacity with storage of flood fight materials such as sheeting, sandbags, and super socks. Additional roll-on containers have been delivered with stocks of flood fight materials for focused deployment to incident locations.

The DWR Delta Levees Program has approved engineering and design for levee improvements on portions of the Bacon Island east levees that have been identified for improvement as a component of the Emergency Freshwater Pathway. These are in addition to other levee improvements at the island, which will better prepare levees and facilitate emergency repairs in the event of a major earthquake.

Metropolitan Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California WaterFix & EcoRestore/Delta Conveyance Project (BDCP/CWF-CER/DCP) Expenditures

Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

The following is a summary of Metropolitan’s cumulative BDCP/CWF-CER/DCP expenditures updated for the quarter ending March 2020. 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 – March 2020)

BDCP/CWF-CER/DCP Internal MWD	Total Costs (14.75 yrs.)
Labor & Benefits ⁽¹⁾	\$ 33.72M
Professional Services	\$ 6.70M
Travel	\$ 1.78M
Other ⁽²⁾	\$ 0.18M
SUBTOTAL	\$ 42.38M
Administrative Overhead	\$ 12.34M
TOTAL	\$ 54.72M

⁽¹⁾ Labor costs include salary, leave and non-leave benefits

⁽²⁾ Other include charges for materials and supplies, trainings & seminars, conferences & meetings, reprographics, and other incidental expenses

Quarterly Summary (April 2019 – March 2020)

	FY18-19 Q4	FY19-20 Q1	FY19-20 Q2	FY19-20 Q3
	Apr-Jun 2019	Jul-Sep 2019	Oct-Dec 2019	Jan-Mar 2020
Labor	0.465M	0.457M	0.597M	0.384M
Professional Services	0.293M	0.015M	0.051M	0.003M
Travel	0.030M	0.031M	0.057M	0.027M
Other	0.000M	0.000M	0.001M	0.000M
SUB-TOTAL	0.788M	0.503M	0.706M	0.414M
Admin. Overhead	0.154M	0.153M	0.206M	0.120M
TOTAL	0.942M	0.656M	0.912M	0.534M

Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

The following is a summary of the Delta Conveyance Finance Authority costs for member's share of administrative expenses:

Quarterly Summary (April 2019 – March 2020)

	FY18-19 Q4 Apr-Jun 2019	FY19-20 Q1 Jul-Sep 2019	FY19-20 Q2 Oct-Dec 2019	FY19-20 Q3 Jan-Mar 2020
AMOUNTS PAID	0.010M	0.050M	–	–