



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Delta Conveyance

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) launched an environmental justice community survey to gather input to inform Delta Conveyance Project planning. The survey, entitled, “Your Delta, Your Voice”, seeks direct input from communities that may be disproportionately affected by the proposed project. Specifically, DWR is seeking direct feedback from the people who live, work, recreate, raise families, run businesses, grow crops, worship, or advocate for equity in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta).

Joint Powers Authorities

At their October 15 meeting, the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) board approved a revised Amendment #4 to the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement. This revised amendment corrected the increased amount of the maximum initial funding provided by DWR to the DCA from \$33.8 million to \$43.2 million.

The DCA staff presented a plan to reduce the existing fiscal year (FY) 2020/2021 budget by \$7 million in response to the change in DWR’s environmental planning schedule (2 years to 4 years), the economic downturn, and water agency budget challenges. The currently adopted FY 2020/21 budget of \$34 million will be reduced to \$27 million. The DCA will continue to provide necessary technical analysis, geotechnical work and continue to advance stakeholder outreach. The DCA will scale back, and in some cases, defer organizational management functions, engineering deliverables and field services. Additional savings will also be identified for future years, and staff will provide more information at the Bay Delta Committee meeting on October 27, 2020. The DCA board also provided information on the FY 2019/20 Financial Closeout Report.

The DCA held its 12th Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC) meeting in September. An overview and update of the Bethany Alternative was provided and is still in preliminary development. DWR discussed the launch of their environmental justice survey to collect information on environmental justice issues in the Delta. The November 5 SEC meeting is expected to focus on outstanding SEC questions that were deferred to future meetings, and to provide truck traffic and logistics information associated with the Bethany Alternative.

At their October 15 meeting, the Delta Conveyance Finance Authority (DCFA) board approved Amendment No.2 to the contract with Michael Bell Management Consulting for Executive Director services, to extend the term of the contract for an additional year to December 31, 2021, with no increase in compensation or total contract amount. The DCFA board also received and filed the audited financial statements and reports for FY 2019/20. There were no material weaknesses or recommendations reported by the external auditor.

Sites Reservoir

The Sites Project Authority and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation are jointly proposing additional geotechnical and geophysical investigations east of Funks Reservoir in Colusa County and south of the town of Dunnigan in Yolo County. The investigations will further inform the design of the proposed Sites Reservoir and its associated facilities (Project). The Sites Reservoir Committee (Committee) authorized the Executive Director to approve the

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Sites Reservoir 2020/21 Geotechnical Investigations and file a Notice of Exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act.

At their October 21 meeting, the Committee authorized the Executive Director to enter into a reimbursable agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for staff support to the Project and accepted the Project Financing Action Plan defining the approach, schedule, resources, budget, and next steps to meet 75 percent local cost share requirement for State Proposition 1 funding by January 1, 2022.

The Committee also authorized execution of the Project agreement and amendments with new participants including Irvine Ranch Water District and Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District, and authorized invoicing these agencies upon completion, approximately December 1, 2020. The Committee also confirmed the level of service standards being used for the engineering feasibility analysis, which establish criteria for operations related to diversion and conveyance into and out of the Sites Reservoir and ensures appropriate sizing of the project facilities.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Science Activities

Bay-Delta Initiatives staff member, Ms. Alison Collins, co-authored a publication on “Disease in Central Valley Salmon: Status and Lessons from Other Systems”. The paper summarizes the science presented at a March 2018 workshop, including the current state of knowledge of salmonid disease in the Central Valley, and current and emerging tools to better understand its impacts on salmon. Two additional papers were recently published in the *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science* journal reporting on scientific studies supported by Metropolitan and collaborators: (1) a study examining distribution and habitat use of longfin smelt larvae in the Bay-Delta estuary, “Forage Fish Larvae Distribution and Habitat Use During Contrasting Years of Low and High Freshwater Flow in the San Francisco Estuary”, and (2) a study examining the benefits of seasonally flooded agricultural fields for juvenile salmon, “Farm to Fish: Lessons from a Multi-Year Study on Agricultural Floodplain Habitat”.

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). The October 20 CAMT meeting included discussion of the Phase 2 report for the Delta Smelt Structured Decision-Making project. The report documents work undertaken during 2019 and 2020 and presents progress to develop and refine effects pathways, Delta smelt goals and objectives, candidate management actions and analytical methods to evaluate management actions and support estimation of consequences. Staff participate in the technical workgroup for this project and provided input to the project report. CAMT also discussed CSAMP priorities for 2021 and 2022, options for a CSAMP effort focused on salmon recovery, and the status of tidal wetlands restoration monitoring.

Staff continued to participate in forums to ensure good science and collaboration. In the last month staff participated in two Delta Science Program sponsored virtual workshops to provide input to science planning. Both of these efforts are supported by the Delta Stewardship Council as part of their Delta Science Program. A workshop held September 29, 2020 focused on identifying priority management questions to inform the development of the 2022-2026 Science Action Agenda, which is a guide for priority science actions to inform management needs. On October 5 and 6, staff participated in the Science Needs Assessment workshop to map out a forward-looking science strategy that considers science needs in a rapidly changing environment.

Delta Emergency Preparedness

Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan

Analysis conducted as a part of the 2018 Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan concluded that release of short-term flows from San Joaquín River reservoirs facilitate operations of the state’s emergency freshwater pathway by initially flushing saline water from pathway channels and improving salinity in the central Delta. DWR recently completed an analysis of capabilities to provide short-term flows from San Joaquín reservoirs prior to initiation of pathway operations. The analysis shows that adequate channel capacities exist to accommodate necessary flows downstream of several reservoirs. DWR analyses of reservoir storage indicates that adequate

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storage would be historically available in several reservoirs to provide short-term flows under critical emergencies in the Delta supporting pathway operations.

Metropolitan Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California WaterFix and 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 2020. This report includes the total internal costs related to the BDCP, the CWF-CER alternatives, and the subsequent Delta Conveyance Project efforts with the current state administration.

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

Total (July 2005 – September 2020)

BDCP/CWF-CER/DCP Internal MWD	Total Costs (15.25 yrs.)
Labor & Benefits ⁽¹⁾	\$ 34.46M
Professional Services	\$ 6.83M
Travel	\$ 1.79M
Other ⁽²⁾	\$ 0.18M
SUBTOTAL	\$ 43.26M
Administrative Overhead	\$ 12.58M
TOTAL	\$ 55.84M

⁽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 (October 2019 – September 2020)

	FY19-20 Q2	FY19-20 Q3	FY19-20 Q4	FY20-21 Q1
	Oct-Dec 2019	Jan-Mar 2020	Apr-Jun 2020	Jul-Sep 2020
Labor	0.597M	0.384M	0.398M	0.350M
Professional Services	0.051M	0.003M	0.026M	0.101M
Travel	0.057M	0.027M	0.005M	0.000M
Other	0.001M	0.000M	0.000M	0.000M
SUB-TOTAL	0.706M	0.414M	0.429M	0.451M
Admin. Overhead	0.206M	0.120M	0.126M	0.117M
TOTAL	0.912M	0.534M	0.555M	0.568M

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

Quarterly Summary (October 2019 – September 2020)

	FY19-20 Q2	FY19-20 Q3	FY19-20 Q4	FY20-21 Q1
	Oct-Dec 2019	Jan-Mar 2020	Apr-Jun 2020	Jul-Sep 2020
AMOUNTS PAID	–	–	0.003M	0.003M