



## ● Bay-Delta Management Report

### Summary

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This report provides a summary of activities related to the Bay-Delta for January 2021

### Purpose

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Informational

### Detailed Report

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#### Long-Term Delta Actions

##### Delta Conveyance

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is continuing to develop an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Current work is focused on formulation of alternatives to be analyzed in the EIR, descriptions of the existing conditions, and development of methods to analyze potential impacts on environmental resources. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has started preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.

As the proposed Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) continues to move forward, public information and community engagement will remain a central and important focus. Looking ahead to release of a Draft EIR for public review in mid-2022, DWR has prepared a public outreach plan that identifies information and engagement opportunities and milestones. The objectives of the public outreach plan are to: complete public outreach for environmental planning purposes, regulatory permitting and project approval requirements, community benefits program development and project mitigation development. DWR will provide regular updates and informational resources in a variety of formats to help the public review and understand the project in an accessible, transparent manner. This will include continuation of the Delta Conveyance Deep Dive video series, which features interviews with experts on project-related topics such as geotechnology, climate change and State Water Project (SWP) operations.

DWR will continue to conduct formal Tribal consultation as prescribed under CEQA's AB 52 requirements and DWR's Tribal Engagement Policy as well as informal outreach and discussions through the Tribal Engagement Committee and other venues, as requested by Tribes. DWR will also assist USACE with Tribal outreach associated with the federal Section 106 process, as appropriate.

DWR is planning to host a series of webinars designed to provide the public with background information about technical and regulatory issues associated with the proposed DCP. Potential topics include: SWP basics and water quality management; climate change analytical methods and assumptions; Delta conveyance operations and modeling; fish management and protection; and other topics as needed.

DWR is initiating development of a Community Benefits Program for the proposed Delta Conveyance Project that will ultimately identify and implement commitments, if the Delta Conveyance Project is approved, to help protect and enhance the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place consistent with the Delta Stewardship Council's (DCP) Delta Plan. Development and eventual administration of this program is a collaborative process, with the next steps including soliciting input from community leaders and the public regarding potential concepts and approaches which will lead to development of a framework to be presented in the Draft EIR.

The Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC) will continue to be a forum for input on the proposed DCP's technical and engineering issues focused on reducing construction-related localized Delta impacts or improving the effectiveness of mitigation. These meetings will continue to be noticed and the public will be invited to attend.

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DWR outreach and engagement will continue with disadvantaged and environmental justice communities across all aspects of the project to further understand potential project-related impacts and benefits and encourage input during formal review periods. This includes engagement with community leaders and members through a variety of formats, such as workshops, to enhance and increase participation to address their specific needs and concerns.

### Joint Powers Authorities

The January regular meetings of the DCA Board of Directors and the DCA SEC were cancelled.

The January 21 regular meeting of the Delta Conveyance Finance Authority Board of Directors included the election of officers, appointments to the Executive Committee, and an AB 992 presentation regarding the changes to the Brown Act concerning open meetings, local agencies and social media.

### Sites Reservoir

The Sites Reservoir Project was allocated \$13.7 million in the 2021 federal spending bill, which was authorized through the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act and signed into law on December 27, 2020 by President Donald Trump. With the passage of this legislation, Congress has now appropriated roughly \$23.7 million in WIIN Act funding to the Bureau of Reclamation for Sites Reservoir.

Sites Authority staff continues to work on the revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS, which includes a revised project description for the Sites Reservoir Project. During the January 21 Sites Reservoir Committee (Reservoir Committee) meeting and the January 27 Sites Authority Board (Authority Board) meeting, staff brought forward three project alternatives to include in the revised Draft EIR, which range from 1.3 to 1.5 million-acre feet in reservoir size. The three alternatives include the use of project hydropower and refined diversion criteria including updated upstream flow locations and pulse flow projections for migrating juvenile salmon. One project alternative includes refinements to emergency release flow locations and operational water exchanges with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and another alternative includes a stored water release location at Colusa Basin Drain. Sites Authority staff recommendation was to release the draft project description for informational purposes to various stakeholders including regulatory agencies, non-government organization (NGO's), and interested members of the public. The Reservoir Committee and the Authority Board approved this action at their respective January meetings.

The Site's Reservoir Project key milestones for 2021 include release of a revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS in July, completion of a biological assessment, submittal of regulatory permit applications, development of terms for coordinating Sites operations with the state and federal water projects, development of financing alternatives, and ongoing engagement with NGO's, tribes, and non-English speaking communities.

## **Near-Term Delta Actions**

### Regulatory Activities

Staff continued to participate in the collaborative groups called for in the 2019 Biological Opinions (BiOp) for the SWP and Central Valley Project, and in the 2020 Incidental Take Permit (ITP) for Long-term Operation of the SWP. The role of the group is to address science needs and help to support the process to inform management and operation of the water projects. Staff is participating in the Delta Coordination Group and providing input to the Delta smelt summer and fall habitat actions. Staff is also working with State and federal agencies to plan a science workshop focused on monitoring steelhead populations in the San Joaquin Basin. The workshop is scheduled for February 17-19, 2021 and will address requirements in the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) 2019 BiOp.

### Science Activities

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). At the January 19 meeting, CAMT received an update from an expert workgroup developing recommendations for improved decision-support tools for evaluating Delta smelt management actions. Staff is participating on the expert workgroup and is coauthor on the workgroup white paper. The white paper will be used to guide the development of the models

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needed for management. CAMT also continued a facilitated discussion led by Compass Resource Management consultants on the development of a CSAMP organizational framework for Delta Smelt. The discussion focused on roles of CSAMP participants and incorporation of an adaptive management approach for Delta smelt science and management actions.

Staff is collaborating with a team of water contractor and NGO participants in CSAMP to address salmon recovery needs that consider the abundance, timing, and condition of salmon throughout their range, including the ocean, Delta, and upstream of the Delta. Staff is working with this team to develop a proposal to submit to the DSC Delta Science Program’s proposal solicitation for the Community and Economic Enhancement, to support CSAMP’s efforts to develop an agreed-upon suite of priorities for salmon recovery through an equitable and inclusive decision support framework. The proposal is due February 12, 2021.

Staff worked with UC Davis researchers to co-author a paper on the principles of Fish Health regarding Delta smelt. The white paper will be an Appendix used in support of the ongoing synthesis effort evaluating fall outflow studies and future reports for the Interagency Ecological Program.

Staff also continued to participate in the State Water Contractors (SWC) science program. In January, the SWC Board of Directors approved new science agreements to improve predictive performance of the Winter Run Salmon Entrainment Tool, to support the NMFS Winter Run Chinook Life Cycle Model development and to support a collaborative effort to define salmon recovery.

### **Metropolitan’s 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 December 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 – December 2020)**

<b>BDCP/CWF-CER/DCP Internal MWD</b>	<b>Total Costs (15.5 yrs.)</b>
Labor & Benefits <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 34.90M
Professional Services	\$ 6.86M
Travel	\$ 1.79M
Other <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 0.18M
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 43.73M</b>
Administrative Overhead	\$ 12.73M
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 56.46M</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Labor costs include salary, leave and non-leave benefits

<sup>(2)</sup> Other includes charges for materials and supplies, trainings & seminars, conferences & meetings, reprographics, and other incidental expenses

#### **Quarterly Summary (January 2020 – December 2020)**

	<b>FY19-20 Q3</b>	<b>FY19-20 Q4</b>	<b>FY20-21 Q1</b>	<b>FY20-21 Q2</b>
	<b>Jan-Mar 2020</b>	<b>Apr-Jun 2020</b>	<b>Jul-Sep 2020</b>	<b>Oct-Dec 2020</b>
Labor	0.384M	0.398M	0.350M	0.437M
Professional Services	0.003M	0.026M	0.101M	0.031M
Travel	0.027M	0.005M	0.000M	0.000M
Other	0.000M	0.000M	0.000M	0.000M

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<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>0.414M</b>	<b>0.429M</b>	<b>0.451M</b>	<b>0.468M</b>
Admin. Overhead	0.120M	0.126M	0.117M	0.148M
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.534M</b>	<b>0.555M</b>	<b>0.568M</b>	<b>0.616M</b>

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

**Quarterly Summary (January 2020 – December 2020)**

	<b>FY19-20 Q3 Jan-Mar 2020</b>	<b>FY19-20 Q4 Apr-Jun 2020</b>	<b>FY20-21 Q1 Jul-Sep 2020</b>	<b>FY20-21 Q2 Oct-Dec 2020</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	–	<b>0.003M</b>	<b>0.003M</b>	<b>0.003M</b>