



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

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). DWR has identified a range of reasonable alternatives to analyze in the EIR, and current efforts are focused on analyzing the alternatives' potential impacts on environmental resources. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as part of its permitting review under the Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act, has started preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.

DWR conducted interviews with stakeholders in February and early March 2021 on the concept of incorporating a Community Benefits Program as part of the Delta Conveyance Project to help protect and enhance the cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta. A summary report of the stakeholder interviews was completed and published, "Community Benefits Interview Report" which can be found on the DWR website (https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Delta-Conveyance/Public-Information/DCP_CBP_Interview-Summary_Final_April2021.pdf). DWR scheduled three public workshops: April 14, May 6, and May 25, and one tribal workshop on May 17, to have additional discussions and obtain feedback from a wider audience. Registration to participate in the workshops and additional information can be found on DWR's website (<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project/Delta-Conveyance/Community-Benefits-Program>). The April 14 public workshop focused on what community benefits meant to the participants. The May 6 public workshop will ask the participants to brainstorm project ideas they would like to be included in a Community Benefits Program, and the May 25 public workshop will focus on education, infrastructure, engagement, and opportunity for suggestions.

Joint Powers Authorities

During the April 15, 2021, Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board of Directors meeting, the board was introduced to Graham Bradner, the Interim Executive Director. The board also received a presentation on the draft budget for fiscal year 2021/22 for discussion. The approval of the final budget is scheduled for the June 2021 DCA Board meeting. The proposed DCA budget of \$21.5 million for the upcoming fiscal year is a significant reduction from the budget plan in the current year budget of \$27 million. Planned technical work in the upcoming year will largely be focused on studies to support preparation of the Draft CEQA documents, continued execution of the geotechnical program, and consideration of a range of concepts to be further evaluated during final design.

On April 28, the DCA Stakeholder Engagement Committee met and received updates on design changes, the DWR Community Benefits Program, the environmental justice survey previously conducted by DWR, and the DWR Communications Plan.

The Delta Conveyance Finance Authority (DCFA) appointed Katano Kasine as the DCFA Treasurer at their regularly scheduled April 15 meeting. They also adopted the 2021/22 budget of \$206,600 requiring no additional payments from members. An update was provided to the DCFA by Graham Bradner.

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Sites Reservoir

In their April meetings, the Sites Project Authority Board (Authority Board) and the Sites Reservoir Committee (Reservoir Committee) approved the Principles for the Storage, Delivery and Sale of Sites Reservoir Project Water (formally referred to as the Storage Policy). These storage principles will serve as the basic framework for the development of additional agreements, policies, and procedures for the Project.

The Authority Board and Reservoir Committee also approved the methodology for allocating storage space in Sites Reservoir to each local Storage Partner using an approach that allocates storage space based on level of participation in the project. An important component of the Storage Policy, and a foundational principle of the Sites Project, is that each storage partner has allocated storage space in Sites Reservoir.

The Authority Board and Reservoir Committee heard an update to the revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS and a status update regarding outreach efforts to the non-governmental organization community. They also heard an update on the Financing Action Plan and were asked to review and comment on the updated financing alternatives, an outline of the Water Storage and Supply Services Contract Guiding Principles and Preliminary Terms, and updated road map to secure a plan of finance and participation agreements to meet the Proposition 1 funding eligibility deadline in December 2021.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Regulatory Activities

Staff continued to participate in the collaborative groups called for in the 2019 Biological Opinions (BiOp) for the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project, and in the 2020 Incidental Take Permit (ITP) for Long-term Operation of the SWP, to address science needs and inform management and operation of the water projects. In April, staff provided input to the management questions that will guide monitoring and development of a spring-run Chinook salmon juvenile production estimate and participated in the Longfin Smelt Technical Team to provide input regarding development of a longfin smelt life cycle model and review of the draft Interagency Charter for the team. Staff also participated in the Delta Coordination Group to provide input on the guidance document for the Delta Smelt Summer-Fall Habitat Action, the North Delta Food Subsidies Operations and Monitoring Plan, and the aquatic vegetation monitoring plan for the Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates operation. These science planning and monitoring documents are being developed to guide collection of data that are needed to assess the outcomes of BiOp and ITP actions.

Science Activities

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program, including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). At the April 20 meeting, CAMT received and discussed updates on the following science activities: (1) Delta smelt Autumn Occupancy Study, which is one of the early CAMT studies started in 2016; (2) an organizational framework for Delta smelt science, monitoring, and management activities; and 3) the development of improved computer-based Decision-Support Tools for Delta smelt that are needed for evaluation of management actions.

The 11th Biennial Bay-Delta Science Conference, a forum for sharing scientific information relevant to managing the connected San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta systems, was held virtually April 6-9. The conference theme was *Building Resilience through Diversity in Science*. Staff participated in the conference, and Metropolitan was a funding partner and collaborator for the following studies presented at the conference:

- Investigation of longfin smelt utilization of coastal estuaries north of the San Francisco Estuary in 2019 and 2020 to better understand longfin smelt habitat use and distribution. Longfin smelt larvae were detected in many of the tributaries sampled in 2020 and few detections in 2019. Longfin smelt larvae samples are being shared with other groups for population genetics and gut content analysis.

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- Evaluation of floating wetland habitats assembled on Bouldin Island for potential food web and greenhouse gas reduction benefits and potential subsidence reversal. The study found that the floating mats of tules that were put in place in 2019 have increased levels of zooplankton compared to the adjacent waterways and show modest greenhouse gas reductions. The investigators suggest using this technique to increase the productivity of nearshore habitat along levees and over submerged islands.
- Evaluation of potential pesticide exposure in juvenile salmon rearing habitats in the Cache Slough Complex and lower Sacramento River. The study found occurrence of a variety of pesticides in water and prey samples in both habitats. The data will be used to develop exposure studies for Chinook salmon and evaluate the potential impacts of rearing in either habitat.
- Evaluation of the effects of artificial illumination on predator density and salmonid predation risk. The study found that in the Delta, artificial light increased predator density and relative predation risk of juvenile salmonids. At the Sundial Bridge in the upper Sacramento River, this study found that predation was not observed under all light treatments. This study was part of a broader effort to determine the effects of predator-prey interactions between fish, based on contact points that are commonly found in the Delta.
- Evaluation of methods to quantify predation rates on juvenile salmon using molecular analysis. The investigators reported on laboratory experiments in-progress to evaluate use of molecular methods to predict how many juvenile salmonids each predator consumed. Samples are currently being processed and results are pending.
- Presentation of the findings from the *Coordinated Salmonid Science Planning Assessment for the Delta*, a report prepared for the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program. The presentation described the methods to identify prospective salmon activities and prioritize science, monitoring and management activities in the Delta region.

Metropolitan's 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 March 2021. This report includes the total internal costs related to the BDCP, the CWF-CER alternatives and the subsequent DCP efforts with the state administration.

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

Total (July 2005 – March 2021)

BDCP/CWF-CER/DCP Internal MWD	Total Costs (15.75 yrs.)
Labor & Benefits ⁽¹⁾	\$ 35.23M
Professional Services	\$ 7.06M
Travel	\$ 1.79M
Other ⁽²⁾	\$ 0.18M
SUBTOTAL	\$ 44.26M
<u>Administrative Overhead</u>	<u>\$ 12.85M</u>
TOTAL	\$ 57.11M

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

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

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Quarterly Summary (April 2020 – March 2021)

	FY19-20 Q4	FY20-21 Q1	FY20-21 Q2	FY20-21 Q3
	Apr-Jun 2020	Jul-Sep 2020	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021
Labor	0.398M	0.350M	0.437M	0.327M
Professional Services	0.026M	0.101M	0.031M	0.200M
Travel	0.005M	0.000M	0.000M	0.000M
Other	0.000M	0.000M	0.000M	0.000M
SUB-TOTAL	0.429M	0.451M	0.468M	0.527M
Admin. Overhead	0.126M	0.117M	0.148M	0.121M
TOTAL	0.555M	0.568M	0.616M	0.648M

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

Quarterly Summary (April 2020 – March 2021)

	FY19-20 Q4	FY20-21 Q1	FY20-21 Q2	FY20-21 Q3
	Apr-Jun 2020	Jul-Sep 2020	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021
TOTAL	0.003M	0.003M	0.003M	0.003M