



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Bay-Delta Resources

- **Bay-Delta Management Report**

Summary

This report provides a summary of activities related to the Bay-Delta for June 2024.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Delta Conveyance Related Joint Powers Authorities

At the June 21 Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board of Directors meeting, the DCA Board adopted a final budget for Fiscal Year 2024/25. The \$43 million dollar budget includes \$1.85 million in unallocated reserves and planned work in the coming year will focus on (1) providing support to California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in permit application processes (2) continued development of the Delta Conveyance Project delivery plan, including analyses of construction innovations, and (3) continued execution of the geotechnical program to better understand underground conditions.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Regulatory and Science Update

Staff published “Sub-Lethal Responses of Delta Smelt to Contaminants Under Different Flow Conditions” in the San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science Journal. The study covered a three-year period and evaluated the effects of contaminants on Delta smelt. Results of the study suggest that there may be conflicting effects for wetter years creating low salinity habitat, while also being more toxic to Delta smelt.

Delta Islands

Staff continues to make progress on the Multi-Benefit Landscape Restoration Projects on Webb Tract. In June, the second conceptual design workshop was completed. Thirty percent of the design is expected to be reached in August. Invitations were sent for the first public meeting for the projects to be held at Big Break Regional Park on July 10, 2024. Additionally, staff released a Request for Proposals to convert and cultivate rice on approximately 1,350 acres of land on Webb Tract. Staff partnered with Environmental Planning, the Delta Stewardship Council, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for early consultation on the use of the Cutting the Green Tape Initiative’s Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects to streamline the California Environmental Quality Act process.

Staff hosted the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, DWR and UC Davis on Bouldin Island to explore the potential of utilizing pond culture on Bouldin Island in the raising of Delta smelt. Scientists at that culture facility are evaluating alternative culturing tools for expanding their production and meeting permit requirements for the long-term operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project.

Date of Report: 7/9/2024

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Two levee improvement projects reinitiated construction in June. Ninety-five percent of the cost of both levee improvement projects are funded by DWR's Delta Levees Special Flood Control Projects Program.