



## ● Bay-Delta Management Report

### Summary

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This report provides a summary of activities related to the Bay-Delta for May 2023.

### 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) released a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act for a public review that ended on December 16, 2022. DWR received more than 700 unique comment letters with over 6,000 individual comments. DWR is currently working to organize the comments and begin developing responses. The Final EIR is expected at the end of 2023. It will include responses to all substantive comments on the Draft EIR and edits to the Draft EIR, as appropriate, to respond to the comments.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), as part of its permitting review under the Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act, released a draft Environmental Impact Statement to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act for a public review that ended on March 16, 2023. USACE is starting the initial organization of the comments received.

##### Sites Reservoir

At the May 19 Joint Sites Reservoir Committee and Authority Board meeting, the Authority Board and Reservoir Committee approved a new Investment Policy that describes the parameters for investing Authority funds.

The Authority Board and Reservoir Committee also discussed and approved preliminary final allocations of available storage, the proportionate shares of diverted water for storage partners, and the transition from yield-based to storage-based participation. The transition to storage-based participation is necessary for the contracting of benefits and obligations in the Sites Reservoir as cost allocation needs to be based on physical capacity attributes of the facilities and will be reflected in the future negotiated Benefits and Obligations Contracts. Based on the most current surveying data, the current assumption of the total storage space available in Sites Reservoir is 1,470,000 acre-feet. Of this total storage amount, the allocation of deadpool is 60,000 acre-feet. Given the methodology for allocating storage space in Sites Reservoir to local storage partners using the approach of one acre-foot participation to 6.234 acre-feet of storage space, Metropolitan's Amendment 3 participation level of 50,000 acre-feet of participation equates to 311,700 acre-feet of storage allocation which is 22.1 percent of storage.

#### Near-Term Delta Actions

##### Delta Island Activities

On May 24, Metropolitan was awarded a \$20.9 million state grant to restore habitat and sustainability to an entire island in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, an unprecedented effort that will support the area's delicate ecosystem and help protect the ability to deliver critical water supplies throughout California. The funding from the state's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy will allow Metropolitan to improve the nearly 5,500-acre Webb Tract from current agricultural practices to wetlands and rice farming. The project is a collaboration between Metropolitan, local interests, and the Delta Conservancy, and it will address challenges that many islands in the Delta face by slowing or reversing land subsidence, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting

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sustainable agriculture, and creating habitat to bolster the local ecosystem. The grant will fund design, environmental documentation, permitting and construction of wetlands and rice fields on Webb Tract over a three-year period, with planning slated for the fall and construction starting in spring 2025 after Board approval of the environmental documentation. The grant funding will also help Metropolitan quantify the greenhouse gas emission reductions realized from the project, which supports Metropolitan's [Climate Action Plan](#) goals. Staff will return to the Board later this year with an action to add this project to the Capital Investment Program and to review the final funding agreement between Metropolitan and the Delta Conservancy.