



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 November 15 – December 15, 2025.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Decide on Sites Reservoir and Protect our Bay-Delta Interests

Delta Conveyance Project

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) published the Delta Conveyance Project Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in the *Federal Register* on November 21, 2025. Publication of the Final EIS completed the federal review requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act and initiated a brief formal review period, which concluded on November 24, 2025. Completion of this process positions the Corps to issue a Record of Decision and make associated federal permit determinations, representing critical regulatory milestones that must be achieved prior to the commencement of project construction.

Bring Sites Reservoir Analyses and Options to the Board for Consideration

Since 2024, the Sites Authority has been implementing early land acquisitions at locations needed to prepare for and carry out critical path construction activities. To date, three acquisitions have been completed, and the associated parcels are now under Authority ownership. At the November 21, 2025, meeting, the Sites Reservoir Committee recommended, and the Authority Board approved, a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to execute all real property documents necessary to acquire an additional parcel and to take any additional actions necessary or appropriate to complete the close of escrow.

Advance Science and Multi-Benefit Solutions That Improve the Sustainability of the Delta and Inform Regulation

Staff hosted the third public meeting for the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration and Webb Tract Rice Conversion Projects. The meeting was attended by over 50 participants. Metropolitan received a Clean Water Act 401 permit from the State Water Resources Control Board. Additionally, staff received a draft Restoration Management Permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. A final permit is expected by mid-January 2026.

Metropolitan staff in partnership with UC Davis and with collaboration with the California Department of Water Resources, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted their first trial Delta Smelt Pond Harvest Study on Bouldin Island. Preliminary results suggest that survival and recapture was greater than 85 percent. Additional trials will be conducted later in the Winter.

Additionally, Metropolitan staff in partnership with UC Davis and the State Water Contractors have implemented the Fit for the Wild Study that will determine the effects of enriched habitat aquaculture on the growth and survival of hatchery Delta smelt. Results will be used to inform state and federal efforts to improve the production and survival of hatchery Delta smelt.

Date of Report: 1/13/2026