



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 February 15, 2026 – March 15, 2026.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Decide on Sites Reservoir and Protect our Bay-Delta Interests

Delta Conveyance Project

On March 9, 2026, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a BiOp for the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) addressing the effects of constructing and maintaining the DCP facilities on federally listed species, their designated critical habitat, and federally-proposed species. This is an important permit that is needed to implement the project.

On February 26 and 27, 2026, the Delta Stewardship Council conducted an appeal hearing for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) certification of consistency for the DCP. The first day of the hearing included presentations from the ten appellants and DWR; the second day focused on Council questions, followed by public comments. The Council has 60 days following the hearing to determine whether DWR's certification of consistency is supported by substantial evidence. If the Council denies all appeals DWR may proceed; if the Council remands, DWR must address the Council's findings in a revised certification.

On February 18 and 25, 2026, DWR released two new informational fact sheets regarding the DCP related to public engagement and community impacts. The first, titled "Engagement with Intention", highlights the comprehensive public outreach and engagement program. The second, titled "Minimizing Community Impacts from Construction," directs the interested parties to the [Community Impact Guide](#) which offers a plain-language overview of anticipated construction issues and the commitments in place to address them. Both fact sheets can be found on the DWR website.

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

Metropolitan staff, with researchers from UC Davis, implemented the Pond Harvest Study. The study focuses on determining the efficacy of growing Delta Smelt in ponds. Preliminary results confirm that the culture of Delta Smelt in ponds can be an effective low-cost tool for meeting those permit obligations. The work will be used to meet permit obligations to produce Delta Smelt for release into the wild as an effort to prevent extinction.

Metropolitan staff participated in the Summer Fall Planning Group with DWR and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop a science plan to evaluate alternatives to implementing Fall X2. The group is using Structured Decision Making to identify key uncertainties that impair decisions.

Board Report Bay-Delta Management Report

On March 11, MWD staff, in collaboration with USFWS, U.S. Geological Survey, and Bureau of Reclamation, published [an article in the journal Ecosphere](#) on the uncertainties and trade-offs surrounding outflow action for the endangered Delta Smelt that would incur water cost for Metropolitan. The study found that no flow action can result in a positive population growth for Delta Smelt and that Metropolitan would likely favor a “no flow” action alternative given the water supply cost.

Metropolitan completed design of the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project. The plans and specifications for the construction package are expected to be advertised for bids the week of March 23, 2026.

The installation of diversion meters on Holland Tract and Bacon Island was completed in early March. This marks the completion of the installation of 88 diversion meters on intakes on Metropolitan’s Delta Island properties.