



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 January 15, 2026 – February 15, 2026.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Decide on Sites Reservoir and Protect Our Bay-Delta Interests

Delta Conveyance Project

On February 2, 2026, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) released a new [operations fact sheet](#) for the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) outlining proposed operational parameters. The fact sheet emphasizes that project operations would be governed by extensive regulatory and permitting requirements to protect fisheries, salinity, and water quality, with real-time coordination among relevant local agencies. Operations would prioritize diversion of available excess flows, and DWR shows that differences in Delta outflow with and without DCP diversions would be minimal. Additionally, DWR released a fact sheet titled [“Adapting to Climate Change: Catching and Moving Water from Big Storms.”](#) This document includes the theoretical additional diversions if the DCP were operational in water year 2026.

On February 9, DWR filed its written statement opposing the ten administrative appeals of its certification of consistency with the Delta Plan for the DCP.

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

Metropolitan staff in partnership with UC Davis and with collaboration with DWR, United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) conducted their second trial Delta Smelt Pond Harvest Study on Metropolitan’s Bouldin Island.

Staff received the Restoration Management Permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project. Additionally, staff received the Biological Opinion from USFWS. Staff expects completion of 100 percent bid drawings for this project by the end of February.

Sites Reservoir

At the January 16, 2026, Joint Reservoir Committee and Authority Board meeting, the Sites Authority Board approved the selection of Barnard Construction Company Inc. for the Reservoir Package Construction Manager at Risk contract. The initial award covers pre-construction services, allowing the contractor to provide collaborative input as the project advances from 30 percent design toward construction.

The Site’s Authority Board also approved submittal of an amendment to the existing Construction Incidental Take Permit to address the western burrowing owl, subject to review and input from the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority and Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District.

Date of Report: 3/10/2026

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On January 23, 2026, the U.S. Department of the Interior approved the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Sites Reservoir Project, confirming compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, including completion of the Environmental Impact Statement and compliance with the Endangered Species Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. With the ROD issued, the Site's Authority will proceed with final planning and advance next steps toward construction. USBR must meet all environmental requirements prior to executing a Partnership Agreement, an agreement needed for USBR participation in the project with the Sites Authority.