

Board Report

Executive Offices

Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Delta Conveyance Project

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is moving forward with the next steps in securing various state and federal permits and authorizations, including those required by the State Water Resources Control Board and state Endangered Species Act. In October, DWR filed a certification of consistency with the Delta Plan for geotechnical work planned for 2024-2026. Four appeals were filed with the Delta Stewardship Council (Council), which held a hearing on the appeals on December 19. The Council is anticipated to issue a ruling related to DWR's pursuit of the geotechnical investigations in January 2025. DWR is concurrently preparing a certification of consistency for the DCP, which it anticipates filing by the end of 2025.

At the December 19, Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board of Directors meeting, the DCA Board received the results of the independent audit for the DCA's cash receipts and disbursements statements for the years ended June 30, 2024, and 2023, along with the financial statements.

The board approved an amendment to the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JEPA) with DWR, extending the repayment date for DWR's initial contribution from January 10, 2025, to June 30, 2027. This contribution, currently totaling \$43.2 million, provided temporary funding that will be repaid. The amendment also removes language stating that the JEPA would expire during the Planning Phase on June 30, 2025. With the updated definition of the Planning Phase, it will now conclude upon the completion of all design, permitting, and planning efforts required to begin construction and implementation of the DCP.

Sites Reservoir

At the Joint Reservoir Committee and Sites Authority Board meeting on December 20, both the Reservoir Committee and the Authority Board passed a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to sign all necessary documents to close escrow and complete the acquisition of 817.6 acres from Red Stick Colusa LLC, a willing seller.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Delta Islands

On December 12, 2024, staff participated in a conference panel discussion titled *Perspectives on Carbon Farming: Ecocultural values, Economics, and Making Carbon Farming Work on a Delta Island* at the California Resource Conservation Districts' Annual Conference.

Date of Report: 1/14/2025

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In December, Metropolitan issued a construction contract for installation of the remaining water diversion measurement meters under the approved 2023 State Water Board "Plan for Phased Measurement Implementation." Completion of this infrastructure improvement will bring Metropolitan into strict compliance of Senate Bill No. 88 (2016) that will provide direct water diversion measurements on Metropolitan's Delta Islands.

Date of Report: 1/14/2025 2