



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 September 2024.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Sites Reservoir

Staff presented information to the State Water Resource Control Board related to Sites Reservoir's water rights hearing. Staff presented the CalSim modeling framework used to evaluate the effects of the Sites Reservoir Project. Additionally, staff addressed questions about model results and the appropriate use of models during cross-examination.

On September 20, the Third District Court of Appeal released an opinion upholding the decision by the Superior Court of Yolo County in the *Friends of the River v. Sites Project Authority* case. The Yolo County Superior Court and now the Court of Appeal have found in the Sites Project Authority's favor in every claim asserted by the environmental organizations challenging the sufficiency of the Final Environmental Impact Report, concluding that the Authority fully complied with the California Environmental Quality Act in its review of the Sites Project.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Regulatory and Science Update

Staff presented twice at the 154th Annual American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting. Staff produced the final report for the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program Structured Decision Making. This report will be used to inform the management of Delta smelt. Summary findings support actions related to food and turbidity.

Delta Islands

Staff updated the One Water and Stewardship Committee about progress on the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration and Rice Development Projects. Staff provided an update to the OWS committee on an upcoming board action for rice farming on Webb Tract. The recruitment period for a limited-term, principal environmental specialist has closed.

Staff began participation in an ACWA California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Streamlining Working Group to address regulatory inefficiency in the CESA permitting process. Staff received \$500,000 in funding from California Department of Water Resources for design of a levee improvement project on Bouldin Island.