



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of activities related to the Bay-Delta for April 2023.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Delta Conveyance Project Planning Activities

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is continuing efforts to organize and develop responses to the comments received on the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), as required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). DWR received more than 700 unique comment letters with over 6,000 individual comments. The Final EIR is expected at the end of 2023, which will include responses to all substantive comments on the Draft EIR, and, where appropriate, include edits to the Draft EIR responsive to comments received.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) comment period closed on March 16, 2023. The DCP draft EIS is required under National Environmental Protection Act. The USACE is also starting the initial organization of the comments received on the DCP draft EIS.

DWR's field activities under the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for Soil Investigations in the Delta are planned to resume in early May 2023. These activities include data collection, soil samples and surveys to better understand the region's geology to support the evaluation of potential activities, including the proposed DCP. DWR will update its public information website to provide information on the soil investigations to interested members of the public (<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project/Delta-Conveyance/Environmental-Planning>).

Delta Conveyance related Joint Powers Authorities

The Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board of Directors took no public action at its April 20 regularly scheduled board meeting. It did, however, request a moment of silence in memoriam for Piraborooban "Praba" Shanmugam, DWR's Delta Conveyance Office principal engineer who served with distinction until his recent passing. The DCA Board also received the Monthly Board Report information item and the Treasurer's Monthly Report for February and March 2023. The April 20 regularly scheduled Delta Conveyance Finance Authority (DCFA) meeting was cancelled.

Sites Reservoir

At the Sites Reservoir Authority Joint Authority Board and Reservoir Committee meeting on April 21, an update on the Final EIR/EIS schedule was presented. It is anticipated that certification of the Final EIR will be an action item for consideration at the July or August Authority Board Meeting. At that time, the Authority Board will also need to adopt CEQA findings and a Statement of Overriding Considerations and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. Following these actions, the Authority Board will consider to approve or deny the Sites Reservoir Project.

Sites Reservoir Authority staff also presented information on the Principles for the Storage, Delivery and Sale of Sites Reservoir Project Water (Storage Principles). The Storage Principles describe a framework for procedures related to Sites Reservoir Project water that includes system losses, available storage, and allocation. The

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available storage in Sites Reservoir is calculated to be 1.41 million acre-feet, which includes recent refinements and includes a 60 thousand acre-feet dead pool that is unavailable stored water.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Regulatory Activities

In April, staff presented an update on the Voluntary Agreements to Metropolitan's One Water and Stewardship Committee. The presentation included information on the schedule and the Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement in Support of Proposed Voluntary Agreements for the Sacramento River, Delta, and Tributaries Update to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan). The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) will continue its public and peer review process for the Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement through early 2024, and SWRCB consideration for adoption of a Bay-Delta Plan update and implementation plan is tentatively scheduled for the end of 2024.

Science Activities

Staff continued participating in collaborative science activities addressing native fish species in the Delta, their habitats, and the effects of stressors. In April, staff worked with university researchers to conduct field sampling work for an assessment of contaminant occurrence in the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel. Delta smelt use the ship channel as habitat, and the study will inform contaminant risk in the ship channel.

Staff is also continuing to work on Phase 3 of the Reorienting to Salmonid Recovery project. In this phase, participants will develop an agreed-upon suite of priority actions for salmonid recovery. In late March 2023, staff facilitated the first structured decision-making workshop for the Reorienting to Salmonid Recovery project. The workshop participants included state and federal resource agencies, public water agencies, non-governmental organizations, commercial and recreational fishing interests and tribes. At the workshop the participants discussed potential management options and recovery scenarios to benefit salmon and provided input on bookend scenarios to evaluate.

Ecosystem Restoration

Staff attended the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee Restoration Subcommittee meeting where the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) gave a presentation on the Cutting the Green Tape Initiative designed to increase the pace and scale of environmental restoration projects and discussed the potential implications for Delta projects. Staff also attended a Southern Yolo Bypass tour with representatives from Yolo County that included a visit to the Lookout Slough Project, which is a multi-benefit project to restore 3,400 acres of tidal wetland.

Delta Island Activities

Staff prepared and submitted a \$19.7 million grant application to the Delta Conservancy's Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration Grant Program. If awarded, the grant will fund development of a multi-benefit mosaic of wetlands, rice, and other habitat projects on Webb Tract that are designed to stop and/or reverse subsidence, generate carbon credits from carbon sequestration opportunities, and create habitat. Staff provided an oral presentation on the proposed project to the April 25 Metropolitan Subcommittee on Bay-Delta. Staff is also developing outreach materials and met with Contra Costa County representatives and CDFW representatives to discuss the project. Contra Costa County's Board of Supervisors will consider a resolution of support for the project at its May 2023 meeting.

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Metropolitan Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California WaterFix and EcoRestore/Delta Conveyance Project (BDCP/CWF-CER/DCP) Expenditures

The following is a summary of Metropolitan’s cumulative BDCP/CWF-CER/DCP expenditures updated for the quarter ending March 2023. This report includes the total internal costs related to the BDCP, the CWF-CER alternatives, and the subsequent DCP efforts with the state administration.

Staff will continue to provide this report on a quarterly basis in the Bay Delta Management Report.

Total (July 2005 – March 2023)

BDCP/CWF-CER/DCP Internal MWD	Total Costs (17.75 yrs.)
Labor & Benefits ⁽¹⁾	\$ 37.44M
Professional Services	\$ 7.13M
Travel	\$ 1.80M
Other ⁽²⁾	\$ 0.18M
SUBTOTAL	\$ 46.55M
Administrative Overhead	\$ 13.53M
TOTAL	\$ 60.08M

⁽¹⁾ Labor costs include salary, leave and non-leave benefits

⁽²⁾ Other includes charges for materials and supplies, trainings & seminars, conferences & meetings, reprographics, and other incidental expenses

Quarterly Summary (April 2022 – March 2023)

	FY21-22 Q4	FY22-23 Q1	FY22-23 Q2	FY22-23 Q3
	Apr-Jun 2022	Jul-Sep 2022	Oct-Dec 2022*	Jan-Mar 2023
Labor	0.272M	0.283M	0.273M	0.205M
Professional Services	0.001M	0.000M	0.001M	0.004M
Travel	0.000M	0.002M	0.000M	0.004M
Other	0.000M	0.000M	0.000M	0.000M
SUB-TOTAL	0.273M	0.285M	0.274M	0.213M
Admin. Overhead	0.091M	0.062M	0.064M	0.044M
TOTAL	0.364M	0.347M	0.338M	0.257M

The following is a summary of the Delta Conveyance Finance Authority costs for member’s share of administrative expenses:

Quarterly Summary (April 2022 – March 2023)

	FY21-22 Q4	FY22-23 Q1	FY22-23 Q2	FY22-23 Q3
	Apr-Jun 2022	Jul-Sep 2022	Oct-Dec 2022*	Jan-Mar 2023
TOTAL	0.002M	0.002M	0.002M	0.001M

* Includes slight adjustment due to transition from accrual to cash basis reporting