



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Delta Conveyance

The California Department of Water Resources recently announced an expected late 2023 release date for the proposed project Final EIR. The Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will describe potential environmental impacts, identify mitigation measures that would help avoid or minimize impacts, and provide responses to all substantive comments received on the Draft EIR.

Sites Reservoir

At the joint Sites Project Authority Board and Sites Reservoir Committee Meeting on September 22, the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board adopted a Board Resolution to establish guidelines for the Sites Project's use of the Lower Colusa Basin Drain (CBD) and Knights Landing Ridge Cut (collectively called the Lower CBD System). These guidelines provide a framework for Sites Authority staff in communicating with multiple partner agencies and individuals along the Lower CBD System and help guide the drafting of land use, operations and maintenance, and other agreements required for the integration of the Lower CBD System and the Sites Project. The guidelines address existing operations in the Lower CBD System, collaboration with local partners, water rights and water accounting, and maintenance and capital improvements.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Science Update

In the month of September, science staff presented to multiple forums including the Northern California Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry and Collaborative Science Adaptive Management Program policy group on topics including contaminant modeling, water project management, and San Joaquin salmonid thru-Delta survival. Additionally, staff also submitted a \$1.6 million-dollar grant proposal to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to continue work on the Delta Smelt and Native Species Preservation Project on Bouldin Island.

Regulatory Update

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) released a Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Draft Staff Report and Substitute Environmental Document on September 28, 2023. This report will be open for public comment and evaluates the impacts of the different Bay-Delta Plan update alternatives, including the State Water Board's unimpaired flow based 2018 Framework staff proposal and the Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (also known as Voluntary Agreements). Staff is reviewing this document and plans to present an update to Metropolitan's Board in November 2023.