



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of activities related to the Bay-Delta for October 2021.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Delta Conveyance

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is continuing to develop the public draft Environmental Impact Report under the California Environmental Quality Act for the Delta Conveyance Project expected for release in 2022. DWR continues to coordinate with the United States Army Corp of Engineers as the Corp prepares the Draft Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act

Joint Powers Authorities

The Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) issued a Request for Qualifications for Geotechnical Exploration and Reporting Services on October 1. The successful geotechnical consultant(s) will assist the DCA with subsurface exploration, laboratory testing of soil and water samples, and preparation of Geotechnical Data Reports. The Statements of Qualifications are due on November 5, 2021.

Based on the revised meeting schedule, the DCA Board of Directors did not meet in October.

The Delta Conveyance Finance Authority regularly scheduled October meeting was cancelled.

Sites Reservoir

In their October meetings, the Sites Project Authority Board and the Sites Reservoir Committee authorized the Executive Director to submit the Final Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) 75 percent Non-Public Cost Share Commitment materials to comply with Proposition 1 conditions and continued eligibility of WSIP funds.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Regulatory Activities

As previously reported, on August 20, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) issued curtailments to approximately 4,500 water right holders in the Delta watershed to help protect drinking water supplies, prevent salinity intrusion and minimize impacts to fisheries and the environment. On October 19, the State Board issued a temporary suspension of curtailments in expectation of substantial precipitation over the following week, particularly in the Sacramento River watershed. The decision to temporarily suspend curtailments was made in consideration of the Water Unavailability Methodology for the Delta Watershed, a range of precipitation forecasts from the California Nevada River Forecast Center, anticipated low water demands in October, the need to refill reservoirs, and existing instream flow requirements. The State Board will continue to closely monitor forecasted precipitation and hydrologic conditions and may re-evaluate curtailment statuses as appropriate.

Staff continued to participate in the collaborative groups called for in the 2019 Biological Opinions for the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project, and in the 2020 Incidental Take Permit for Long-term Operation of the SWP, to address science needs and inform management and operation of the water projects. In October, staff continued collaboration with state and federal agencies to develop a Juvenile Production Estimate for Spring-run Chinook salmon. After the initial effort to evaluate monitoring alternatives, current efforts are focused on refining the decision problem and objectives. Staff also continued working with state and federal

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agencies to develop a monitoring program for steelhead populations within the San Joaquin Basin and/or the San Joaquin River downstream of the confluence with the Stanislaus River. The group is evaluating how long-term monitoring programs for steelhead have been developed in other places.

Science Activities

Staff, in collaboration with scientists from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, published a study in the journal *Nature Climate Change* addressing spring-run Chinook salmon. The authors found that a rare life-history strategy in the Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed spring-run Chinook salmon was responsible for the population's resilience to recent droughts. In drought years, late-migrating juvenile spring-run Chinook salmon were among the few individuals that survived to return as adults. During droughts most early-migrating juvenile salmon perish once they encounter the warmer spring water temperatures in the Sacramento River and Delta, but the fish that delay their migration until the fall by seeking cold water refuge in their natal streams survive at a much higher rate, despite being rare relative to the much more common early-migrating juveniles. The study also modeled current and forecasted stream temperatures and found cool-water habitat suitable for the late-migrating fish is mostly upstream of barrier dams and is projected to shrink fast in the coming decades with climate change. The findings underscore the importance of providing secure cool-water habitat for ESA-listed spring-run Chinook salmon so they can survive difficult conditions during droughts.

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). In October, CAMT initiated a process to discuss potential opportunities to improve Delta monitoring. CAMT held a two-day workshop to receive presentations from parties engaged in specific monitoring review and redesign efforts. The objective of the workshop was to establish a shared understanding of previous and ongoing reviews including the scope of the reviews, the management questions the reviewed monitoring programs are trying to address and the recommendations. The next step to be initiated in November 2021 will focus on assessing and documenting the objectives of the various CSAMP member entities with respect to monitoring. Staff continued collaboration with non-government environmental organizations on the CSAMP Salmon Recovery Initiative. The group is currently conducting their second set of workshops to develop metrics and targets to measure progress towards salmon recovery.

Staff also continued efforts to develop science collaborations. In October, staff presented Metropolitan's Contaminants Studies portfolio to the Science and Management Team at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to report on significant findings, such as observed aquatic toxicity throughout the habitat for Delta smelt. The results of these studies will inform development of management alternatives to address aquatic toxicity. Staff also gave a presentation to the Estuarine Ecology Project Work Team on our efforts to advance research on Floating Wetlands in collaboration with Drs. Steve Deverel (Hydrofocus) and Carson Jeffries (UC Davis). Metropolitan is currently conducting a pilot research project to assess whether floating wetlands can be re-established in the subsided Delta region to reduce the time that it takes to create a productive ecosystem in these areas. Feedback from the project work team will inform our future efforts on Floating Wetlands.

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Metropolitan's Bay Delta Conservation Plan California WaterFix & 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 September 2021. 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 – September 2021)

BDCP/CWF-CER/DCP Internal MWD	Total Costs (16.25 yrs.)
Labor & Benefits ⁽¹⁾	\$ 35.88M
Professional Services	\$ 7.07M
Travel	\$ 1.79M
Other ⁽²⁾	\$ 0.18M
SUBTOTAL	\$ 44.92M
Administrative Overhead	\$ 13.09M
TOTAL	\$ 58.01M

⁽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 (October 2020 – September 2021)

	FY20-21 Q2	FY20-21 Q3	FY20-21 Q4	FY21-22 Q1
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021
Labor	0.437M	0.327M	0.353M	0.301M
Professional Services	0.031M	0.200M	0.009M	0.003M
Travel	0.000M	0.000M	0.001M	0.000M
Other	0.000M	0.000M	0.000M	0.000M
SUB-TOTAL	0.468M	0.527M	0.363M	0.304M
Admin. Overhead	0.148M	0.121M	0.131M	0.104M
TOTAL	0.616M	0.648M	0.494M	0.408M

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

Quarterly Summary (October 2020 – September 2021)

	FY20-21 Q2	FY20-21 Q3	FY20-21 Q4	FY21-22 Q1
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021
TOTAL	0.003M	0.003M	0.002M	0.004M