



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Delta Conveyance

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act for a public review that ended on December 16, 2022. DWR received more than 700 unique comment letters with over 6,000 individual comments. DWR is currently working to organize the comments and develop responses. The Final EIR is expected at the end of 2023. It will include responses to all substantive comments on the Draft EIR and edits to the Draft EIR, as appropriate, to respond to the comments.

DWR recently published a fact sheet addressing how modernizing infrastructure can help to capture more storm flow. The fact sheet can be found [here](#).

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), as part of its permitting review under the Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act, released a draft Environmental Impact Statement to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act for a public review that ended on March 16, 2023. USACE is working to organize the comments received.

Sites Reservoir

At the June 16 Joint Sites Reservoir Committee and Authority Board meeting, the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into a new Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation that includes activities necessary to move the Sites Reservoir Project forward into construction. These preconstruction activities include continued planning and engineering, including geotechnical investigations, design, environmental permitting, and the water rights process.

Funding the Sites Reservoir Project beyond the planning phase and into detailed design, construction and operation will require developing a Sites Reservoir Benefits and Obligations Contract (Contract). The Contract will also serve as the long-term commitment of the Sites Authority to provide the Participant with its capacity interest in the Sites Reservoir water storage system. Executing this Contract will be expected following the receipt of a water rights decision and securing critical permits. The Reservoir Committee and Authority Board authorized Sites Reservoir staff to proceed with negotiation of the Contract (Draft 1) with the Participants.

The Reservoir Committee and Authority Board also approved two contracts for geotechnical monitoring as-needed services with the Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun along with geotechnical monitoring as-needed services and an ethnographic study with the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Quarterly Bay-Delta Science Update

Metropolitan's Bay-Delta Science Program is directed at supporting strong science for protecting the Bay-Delta environment, driving effective management decisions, and supporting water supply reliability. For the period April 1 to June 30, 2023, staff provided science updates to Metropolitan Board committees and member agencies. Staff provided presentations to the One Water and Stewardship Committee on the State Water Resources Control

Date of Report: 7/11/2023

Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

Board Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement that includes evaluation of the effects of the proposed voluntary agreement actions on spawning habitat, rearing habitat, Bay-Delta habitat and estuarine fish abundances, and a Salmon Update reporting on the status of the salmon fishery this year. Staff gave a presentation to the Subcommittee on Bay-Delta in April on the Pilot Propagation Study for the Delta smelt and Native Species Preservation Project. Staff also gave a presentation to the West Basin Caucus on the Pilot Propagation Study. These presentations highlighted recent study findings that show that impoundments can be used to raise Delta smelt.