



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of activities related to the Bay-Delta for June 2022.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Delta Conveyance

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is continuing to develop a public Draft Environmental Impact Report under the California Environmental Quality Act for the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), as part of its permitting review under the Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act, is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. DWR and USACE are planning to release draft environmental documents for public review in mid-2022.

Field activities under the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for soil investigations in the Delta, including cone penetration tests, soil borings, and geophysical surveys, restarted in May 2022 after a wet season break.

Joint Powers Authorities

During the June 16 regularly scheduled Board of Directors Meeting, the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board of Directors approved a resolution to extend virtual board and committee meetings pursuant to AB 361. The DCA Board adopted the proposed \$31.16 million budget for fiscal year 2022/23 by minute order. The work activities for fiscal year 2022/23 will focus on providing support to the DWR environmental planning and permitting efforts for the DCP, including continued implementation of field investigation programs. The DCA Board also adopted a resolution to authorize the investment policy and the annual delegation to DCA Treasurer for the fiscal year 2022/23.

The regularly scheduled June 16 meeting of the Delta Conveyance Finance Authority was cancelled.

Sites Reservoir

In their joint June meetings, the Sites Project Authority Board and the Sites Reservoir Committee authorized the Executive Director to submit the Project's 2023-2026 application to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Short-Term Disturbance "Take" Permit for Geotechnical Activities.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Science Activities

Staff participated in several tours of the Delta with the General Manager and non-governmental organization (NGO) leaders to discuss and share science priorities and identify opportunities for collaboration. Staff provided briefings on Bay-Delta science activities, management of the Delta islands and proposed studies as part of the Delta Smelt and Native Species Preservation Project.

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). In June, CAMT received a briefing on the Delta smelt entrainment studies and continued discussions on the CAMT monitoring assessment effort.

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Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

Staff continued collaboration with the environmental organizations on the CSAMP Salmon Recovery Initiative. A series of workshops were held in June with interested parties to share stories on why each party cares or values salmon and translating these values into metrics that allow for evaluation of different salmon management actions. Over 70 individuals participated in the workshops; these interested parties represented NGOs, tribal governments, agriculture, water, fishing industries, and state and federal resource agencies. The next several months will be spent on the development and translation of these values into metrics. The project's purpose is to develop an effective and implementable strategy for recovering listed and non-listed salmonids in California's Central Valley while considering other social, ecological, and economic interests in the region. In June, the *San Francisco Estuary Magazine* published an article about the Reorienting to Salmon Recovery project that includes input from Metropolitan staff and other members of the project team (<https://archive.estuarynews.org/reorienting-to-salmon-recovery/>).

Habitat Restoration

Staff attended a Habitat Planning Workshop with representatives from DWR, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and others to discuss the status of proposed habitat restoration projects that can be constructed in the next three to five years. The purpose of the workshop was to identify projects that are ready for implementation and to identify barriers to implementation such as permitting, funding, equipment or staffing resources, so that the agencies can identify areas where they can help.