



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Delta Conveyance

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the public Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act for the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) on July 27, 2022. The Draft EIR describes project alternatives, potential environmental impacts, and identifies mitigation measures to help avoid or minimize potentially significant impacts. The public review and comment period for the Draft EIR was extended from October 27 to December 16, 2022.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as part of its permitting review under the Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act, is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, and is planning to release the draft EIS for public review later this year.

Joint Powers Authorities

During the regularly scheduled Board of Directors Meeting on October 20, 2022, the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board of Directors approved a resolution to adopt a policy to prevent discrimination, harassment, and retaliation for all employees, applicants, volunteers, and independent contractors working for and with the DCA. The DCA Board also approved to extend a resolution authorizing virtual Board and Committee meetings pursuant to AB 361.

The Delta Conveyance Finance Authority (DCFA) received the audited financial statements for fiscal year 2021/22 at the regularly scheduled DCFA meeting on October 20, 2022.

Sites Reservoir

At their October meetings, the Sites Project Authority Board and the Sites Reservoir Committee approved a resolution commending Senator Nielsen for his dedicated service as a State Legislator and his ongoing support for the Sites Reservoir Project.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Regulatory Activities

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 (ITP) for long-term operation of the SWP, to address science needs and inform management and operation of the water projects. As part of the ITP requirement to investigate alternatives for non-physical barriers at Sutter and Steamboat Sloughs on the Sacramento River, staff provided input to the resource and regulating agencies regarding the key factors that should be considered in the investigation of alternatives for non-physical barriers to keep fish out of the central Delta where they appear to suffer higher mortality.

Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

Delta Island Activities

Metropolitan is working with Reclamation Districts (RD) #756 – Bouldin Island, RD #2025 – Holland Tract, RD #2026 – Webb Tract, and RD #2028 – Bacon Island to complete installation of up to 88 magnetic flow meters on the most commonly used siphons to measure and report diversions consistent with SB 88 – Water Diversion Measurement Compliance. During 2022, twenty-five meters have been installed as part of Phase 4 of the metering installation program. In addition, telemetry, battery solar panel support and communication devices will be installed by November 2022. It is anticipated that the meter installation will be completed within budget and ahead of the Phase 4 completion date of December 2023. Staff is working with the RD engineering firm to evaluate installation of the remaining meters (Phase 5) on smaller and less used siphons on Metropolitan's Delta Islands.

On October 18, staff conducted a tour of Bouldin Island and Webb Tract for Delta Stewardship Council and Delta Science Program staff. The tour featured several activities including levee security, sustainable agriculture, research supporting listed species, and community engagement. Discussions at the tour highlighted opportunities for collaboration on science and the Delta Islands Adaptation Project addressing landscape-scale scenario planning.

Science Activities

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). In October, the CAMT and CSAMP Policy Group meetings focused on the Delta smelt Structured Decision Making Project, including the status of modeling different alternative Delta smelt management actions, the attributes of the Delta smelt population models used for the evaluations, and the next steps.

Senior Resource Specialist Dr. Shawn Acuña co-authored a scientific paper reporting on results from a study evaluating the bioavailability of pesticides in juvenile Chinook salmon habitat in the Sacramento River watershed. The study was funded by a Prop 1 grant with cost-share from Metropolitan. The paper is published in the journal *Environmental Pollution* and is titled “Dietary exposure to environmentally relevant pesticide mixtures impairs swimming performance and lipid homeostatic gene expression in Juvenile Chinook salmon at elevated water temperatures.” The published study found that Chinook salmon exposed to contaminants found in floodplain habitats exhibited dysregulated metabolic processes and reduced swimming behavior with elevated temperature. Results suggest that floodplain habitats being developed to support salmon may need to account for contaminant effects, especially at higher temperatures.

Dr. Acuña also co-authored a paper published in the *San Francisco Estuary & Watershed Science* journal titled “[Estuarine Recruitment of Longfin Smelt \(*Spirinchus thaleichthys*\) North of the San Francisco Estuary](https://escholarship.org/)” (escholarship.org). The study was funded by the State Water Contractors and Metropolitan, and it included conducting surveys during 2019 and 2020 in ocean tributaries north of the San Francisco Estuary in Northern California to look for longfin smelt larvae. Longfin smelt larvae were detected in four of 16 estuaries surveyed that were all large estuaries north of Cape Mendocino, and larvae were not detected in smaller estuaries closer to San Francisco Bay. The survey results confirm historic surveys detecting the presence of longfin smelt and confirming that the smaller estuaries are used actively but intermittently by longfin smelt.

In October, staff participated in the Science for Communities Workshop and the Advancing Interdisciplinary Science Training and Workshop organized by the Delta Stewardship Council and Delta Science Program. The objective of the workshops was to build relationships between collaborative science groups, Delta communities, and social science communities of practice to improve research, access to environmental data, community value, and decision making.

Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

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 September 2022. 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 2022)

BDCP/CWF-CER/DCP Internal MWD	Total Costs (17.25 yrs.)
Labor & Benefits ⁽¹⁾	\$ 36.96M
Professional Services	\$ 7.13M
Travel	\$ 1.79M
Other ⁽²⁾	\$ 0.18M
SUBTOTAL	\$ 46.06M
Administrative Overhead	\$ 13.43M
TOTAL	\$ 59.49M

⁽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 2021 – September 2022)

	FY21-22 Q2	FY21-22 Q3	FY21-22 Q4	FY22-23 Q1
	Oct-Dec 2021	Jan-Mar 2022	Apr-Jun 2022	Jul-Sep 2022
Labor	0.286M	0.244M	0.272M	0.283M
Professional Services	0.009M	0.045M	0.001M	0.000M
Travel	0.000M	0.000M	0.000M	0.002M
Other	0.000M	0.000M	0.000M	0.000M
SUB-TOTAL	0.295M	0.289M	0.273M	0.285M
Admin. Overhead	0.100M	0.086M	0.091M	0.062M
TOTAL	0.395M	0.375M	0.364M	0.347M

The following is a summary of the DCFA costs for member's share of administrative expenses:

Quarterly Summary (October 2021 – September 2022)

	FY21-22 Q2	FY21-22 Q3	FY21-22 Q4	FY22-23 Q1
	Oct-Dec 2021	Jan-Mar 2022	Apr-Jun 2022	Jul-Sep 2022
TOTAL	0.002M	0.003M	0.002M	0.002M