Bay-Delta Resources

- **Bay-Delta Management Report**

Summary

This report provides a summary of activities related to the Bay-Delta for July 15, 2026 – August 15, 2026.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Decide on Sites Reservoir and Protect our Bay-Delta Interests

Delta Conveyance Project

On July 24, 2026, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) submitted a revised certification of consistency with the Delta Plan. The revised certification addresses the two issues the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) remanded to DWR this spring after hearing ten appeals of the original certification. The revised certification is currently in a 30-day appeal period which ends August 24, 2026. The Council then has 60 days to hold an appeal hearing, after which the Council must issue a written determination within 60 days. Based on this, the appeal process is expected to be completed in December 2026.

Advance Science and Multi-Benefit Solutions That Improve the Sustainability of the Delta and Inform Regulation

The Notice to Proceed for the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project was issued to Wood Brothers on August 11, 2026. An agricultural lease between Metropolitan and Martini Companies, LLC for Webb Tract was fully executed on July 24, 2026.

Staff met with the Wildlife Conservation Board to discuss submitting an approximately $9,000,000 grant application to bridge the funding gap for the approved Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project, and to fund design and construction of recirculation pumps. These recirculation pumps will reduce overall water diversion on the island by applying tailwater from the rice fields on the wetlands.

The submission deadline for leasing farmland on Bouldin Island was August 7. There were six qualified respondents. Interviews will be conducted with the highest-ranked candidates. Lease negotiations with the highest-ranked candidate are expected to commence the first week of September 2026.

Metropolitan staff have executed the access agreement with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the access and operation of the Bouldin Island Demonstration Project. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), USFWS, and Metropolitan, agreeing to support Delta smelt supplementation activities through advancing captive rearing strategies.

Metropolitan Staff, in coordination with USFWS and USBR, presented the developments of the Bouldin Island Demonstration Project (Project) to the Culture and Propagation Work Group (CPWG). The Project is the demonstration facility for the aquaculture of Delta smelt on Bouldin Island. The CPWG is the state and federal

coordination body that oversees the implementation of the aquaculture and propagation into the wild of the Delta smelt. The Project has begun assembly. Operations are currently planned for December 2026.

Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan)

On August 19, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) released the revised final draft of the Bay-Delta Plan for a 30-day public review period with comments due September 18, 2026. The SWRCB will consider adopting the updated Bay-Delta Plan at a public hearing on October 28-29, 2026. This Bay-Delta Plan is intended to include the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes program, where participating water users can meet the Bay-Delta Plan objectives through a combination of flow, habitat actions, science, and adaptive management rather than a requirement to release a portion of unimpaired flows.