



Bay-Delta Committee

L. Ackerman, Chair
S. Faessel, Vice Chair
R. Apodaca
R. Atwater
S. Blois
G. Cordero
M. Hogan
C. Kurtz
R. Lefevre
T. McCoy
J. Morris
J. Murray Jr.
G. Peterson
B. Pressman
H. Repenning

Bay-Delta Committee

Meeting with Board of Directors *

September 28, 2021

10:30 a.m.

**Tuesday, September 28,
2021**

**08:30 am - IRP
10:30 am - Bay-Delta
11:30 am - Break
12:00 pm - Exec
12:30 pm - Sp BOD
01:00 pm - C&LR**

Live streaming is available for all board and committee meetings on our mwdh2o.com website ([Click to Access Board Meetings Page](#))

Public Comment Via Teleconference Only: Members of the public may present their comments to the Board on matters within their jurisdiction as listed on the agenda via teleconference only. To participate call (404) 400-0335 and use Code: 9601962.

* The Metropolitan Water District's meeting of this Committee is noticed as a joint committee meeting with the Board of Directors for the purpose of compliance with the Brown Act. Members of the Board who are not assigned to this Committee may participate as members of the Board, whether or not a quorum of the Board is present. In order to preserve the function of the committee as advisory to the Board, members of the Board who are not assigned to this Committee will not vote on matters before this Committee.

1. Opportunity for members of the public to address the committee on matters within the committee's jurisdiction (As required by Gov. Code Section 54954.3(a))

**** CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS -- ACTION ****

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Bay-Delta Committee held July 27, 2021 [**21-539**](#)

Attachments: [09282021 Bay-Delta 2A draft minutes](#)

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - ACTION

None

**** END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS ****

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Update on Salmon Initiatives

[21-529](#)

Attachments: [09282021 Bay-Delta 6a Presentation.pdf](#)

- b. Update on Delta Conveyance

[21-530](#)

Attachments: [09282021 Bay-Delta 6b Presentation.pdf](#)

7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

- a. Bay-Delta Management Report

[21-531](#)

Attachments: [09282021 Bay-Delta 7a Report](#)

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**10. ADJOURNMENT**

NOTE: This committee reviews items and makes a recommendation for final action to the full Board of Directors. Final action will be taken by the Board of Directors. Agendas for the meeting of the Board of Directors may be obtained from the Board Executive Secretary. This committee will not take any final action that is binding on the Board, even when a quorum of the Board is present.

Writings relating to open session agenda items distributed to Directors less than 72 hours prior to a regular meeting are available for public inspection at Metropolitan's Headquarters Building and on Metropolitan's Web site <http://www.mwdh2o.com>.

Requests for a disability related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to attend or participate in a meeting should be made to the Board Executive Secretary in advance of the meeting to ensure availability of the requested service or accommodation.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

BAY-DELTA COMMITTEE

July 27, 2021

Committee Chair Ackerman called the teleconference meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Members present: Chair Ackerman, Vice Chair Faessel, Directors Apodaca, Atwater, Blois, Cordero, Hogan, Kurtz, Morris, and Peterson.

Members absent: Directors Lefevre, McCoy, Murray, Jr., Pressman, and Repenning.

Other Board Members present: Chairwoman Gray, Directors Abdo, Butkiewicz, De Jesus, Fellow, Goldberg, Jung, Luna, Quinn, Ramos, Record, Smith, Tamaribuchi, and Williams.

Committee Staff present: Arakawa, Hagekheilil, Hawk, Horton, Upadhyay, Winn, and Zinke.

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION

None

CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS -- ACTION

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Bay-Delta Committee held on June 22, 2021

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

None

Director Blois made a motion, seconded by Director Peterson to approve the consent calendar consisting of item 2A:

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Apodaca, Atwater, Blois, Cordero, Faessel, Hogan, Kurtz, Morris, and Peterson,.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Lefevre, McCoy, Murray Jr., Pressman, and Repenning.

The motion passed by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, 5 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Presentation regarding Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District External Presenter: Prabhakar Somavarapu, District Engineer

Presented by: Deven, Assistant General Manager and Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Upadhyay introduced our guest speaker, and provided information about his background, experience in water and wastewater, and noted that he will be retiring soon.

Mr. Somavarapu provided an overview of the treatment plant, including the service area and milestones in wastewater treatment. He also described the Sacramento Regional's EchoWater Project that removes 99 percent of the ammonia from the treated wastewater through a biological nutrient removal process. Mr. Somavarapu noted challenges, milestone accomplishments, and noted that the project may be completed about six months ahead of schedule.

Committee Chair Ackerman thanked Mr. Somavarapu for his presentation and congratulated him on his upcoming retirement.

The following Directors provided comments or asked a question:

1. Peterson
2. Morris
3. Record
4. Chairwoman Gray

Mr. Somavarapu responded to the Director's question.

Adel Hagekhelel thanked and congratulated Mr. Somavarapu and wished him all the best.

Mr. Somavarapu congratulated Adel, invited the Board to tour the facilities, and commented on his hope for continued good relationship and collaboration between the two agencies in the future.

- b. Subject: Update on Delta Conveyance Planning
Presented by: Nina Hawk, Bay-Delta Initiatives Policy Manager
Ms. Hawk provided updates on the July 2021 Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority meeting, the June 2021 Stakeholder Engagement Committee meetings, and on the California Department of Water Resources' Delta Conveyance public information webinars.

7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

- a. Subject: Bay-Delta Manager's Report
Presented by: Steve Arakawa, Bay-Delta Initiatives Manager
Mr. Arakawa provided status on the Voluntary Agreement discussions regarding updating the State Water Resources Control Board's Water Quality Control Plan for the Bay-Delta system. He also reported on California's drought situation and actions that have been taken to deal with it.
The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:
1. Peterson
2. Hogan
Staff responded to the Directors' questions.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Next meeting will be held on September 28, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Linda Ackerman
Chair



Update on Salmon Initiatives

Bay-Delta Committee
Item 6a
September 28, 2021

Overview

- Salmonid status and life history
- Science investigation priorities
- Salmonid initiatives and collaboration
- Moving forward

Status of Central Valley Salmonids

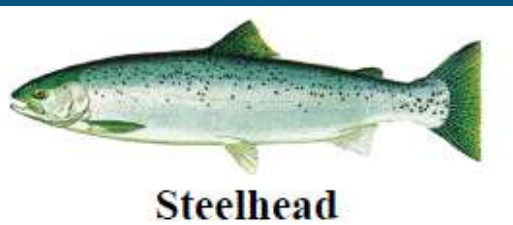
Endangered and
threatened=
export restrictions



Federal:	Endangered
State:	Endangered



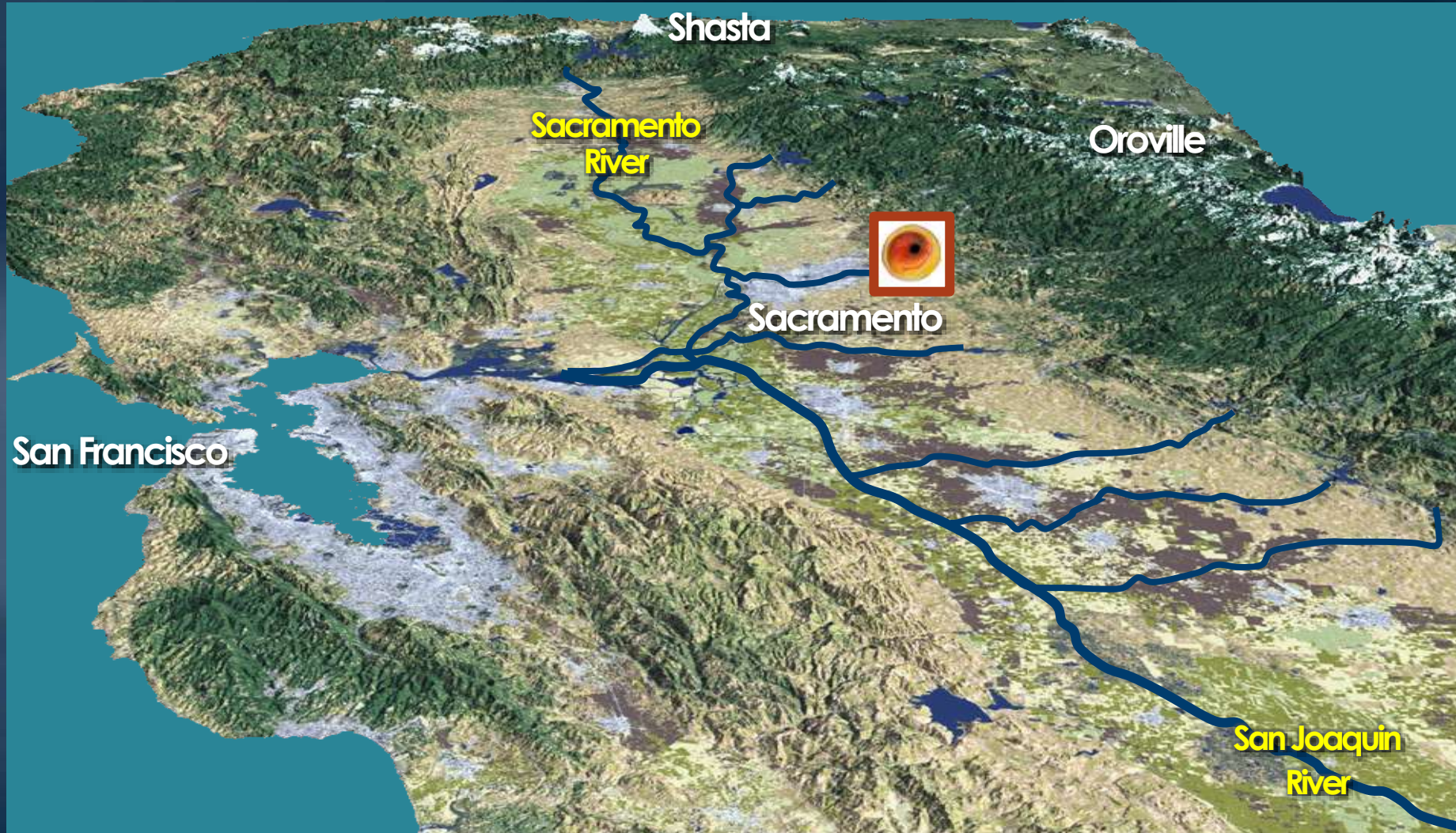
Federal:	Threatened
State:	Threatened



Federal:	Threatened
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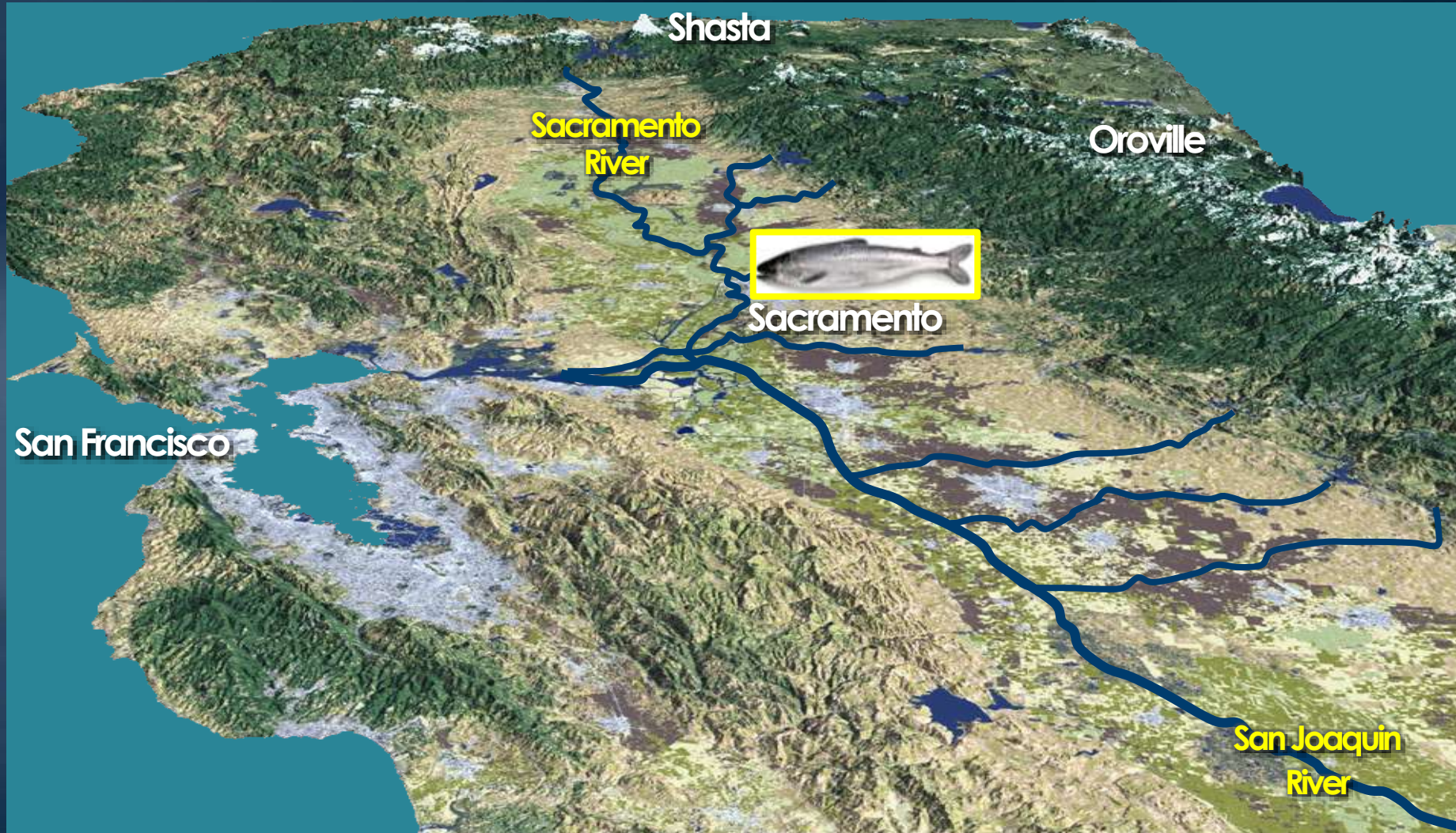
Status of Central Valley Salmonids

Sacramento/San Joaquin Bay-Delta Watershed



Status of Central Valley Salmonids

Sacramento/San Joaquin Bay-Delta Watershed



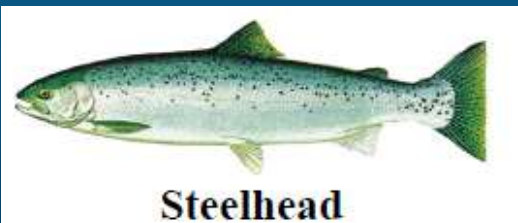
Status of Central Valley Salmonids

Sacramento/San Joaquin Bay-Delta Watershed



Rebuilding Salmonid Populations Requires Long-Term Approach

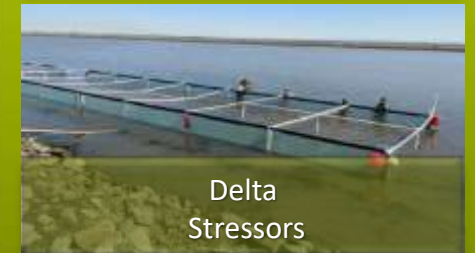
Endangered and
Threatened =
Export Restrictions



Multiple Habitats =
Multiple Threats



Rebuilding
Populations



Science Investigation Priorities

- What is the **effectiveness of management actions** implemented to improve habitat conditions and food availability for listed fish species?
- What are the **impacts of different stressors** on aquatic species in the Delta and their role in species decline?
- What are the **habitat needs** for the listed fish species?
- What **technologies** are needed to enhance our ability to monitor and study listed fish species?

Salmonid Initiatives (2017-Present)



Effectiveness of
Management Actions

- 6 studies
 - Entrainment
 - Species distribution



Habitat Needs for
Listed Species

- 11 studies
- 2 publications
 - Fish food
 - Habitat use



Delta
Stressors

- 9 studies
- 3 publications
 - Predation
 - Pathogens
 - Contaminants
 - Species recovery



Innovation and New
Technology

- Acoustic tagging
- eDNA
- Probabilistic modelling
- Advising graduate students

CSAMP Salmonid Recovery Initiative

- Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP)
 - Collaborative forum addressing protection listed fish in the Delta and operation of water projects
- Volunteered to focus on salmonid recovery
- Collaboration between water agencies and environmental groups

CSAMP Salmonid Recovery Initiative Planning Team



Natalie Stauffer-Olsen
Trout Unlimited



Rene Henery
Trout Unlimited



Gary Bobker
The Bay Institute



Frances Brewster
Valley Water



Alison Collins
Metropolitan Water District



Rafi Silberblatt
K&W



Lindsay Tryba
K&W



Michael Harstone
Compass



Brian Crawford
Compass



Bruce DiGennaro
Essex

CSAMP Salmonid Recovery Initiative Funding

- ~\$1.9 million
 - Delta Stewardship Council: ~\$1.5 million
 - State Water Contractors \$400,000
- 3-year timeline

CSAMP Salmonid Recovery Initiative



Salmonid Initiatives Working to Rebuild Populations



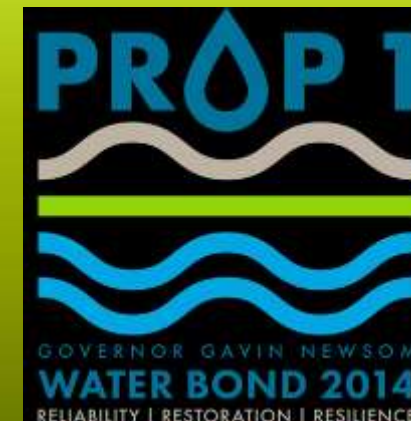
Scientific Expertise



Collaboration



Participation



Funding

Metropolitan's
Science
Program
Approach

Rebuilding Salmonid Populations Requires Long-Term Approach

- Listed species = export restrictions = water supply reliability issues
- Salmonid initiatives
 - Effectiveness of management actions
 - Delta stressors
 - Habitat needs for listed species
- Salmonid recovery provides ecological, social, and economic benefits





Update on Delta Conveyance

Bay-Delta Committee
Item 6b
September 28, 2021

Overview

Department of Water Resources (DWR) Planning Process Update

- Delta Conveyance Webinars (Summer 2021)
- Community Benefits Program Workshop (September 2021)

Joint Powers Authority Updates

- Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) (September 2021)
- Stakeholder Engagement Committee (September 2021)
- Delta Conveyance Finance Authority (August 2021)

DWR Planning Process Update

DWR's Delta Conveyance Webinars

- Four informational webinars to provide background information about how the Draft EIR is being prepared
- Include presentations from technical staff about approach, methodologies, and assumptions used to conduct impact analyses
 - *Operations of the State Water Project and Delta Conveyance* July 14
 - Fisheries August 3
 - Climate Change August 25
 - Environmental Justice September 16

Link for more information including presentations and recordings of webinars:

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project/Delta-Conveyance/DCP-Informational-Webinars>

DWR's Delta Conveyance Webinars

Fisheries (August 5)

- Fish and Aquatic Species Analysis
- Environmental Setting
 - Fish species evaluated
 - Migration patterns
 - Fish life cycles
- Methods being used for evaluating potential impacts
- Fish Screen Considerations
- Proposed Aquatic Resource Operations

Link for more information including presentations, recordings of webinars, and registration for upcoming webinars:

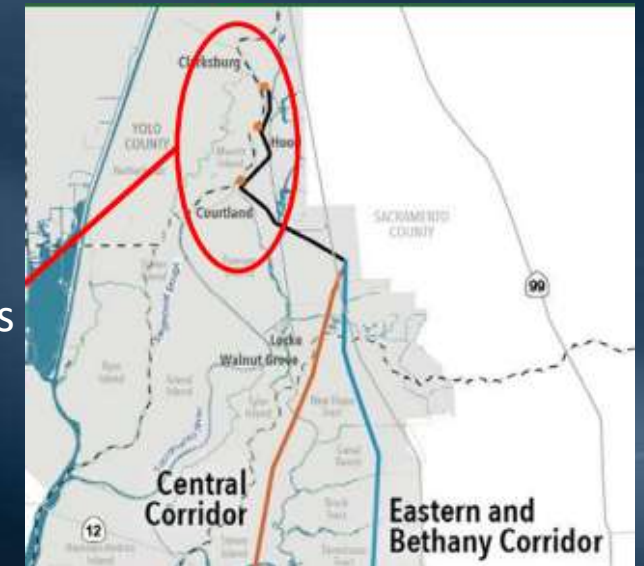
<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project/Delta-Conveyance/DCP-Informational-Webinars>



Fish and Aquatic Analysis



Intake Structure with Fish Screens



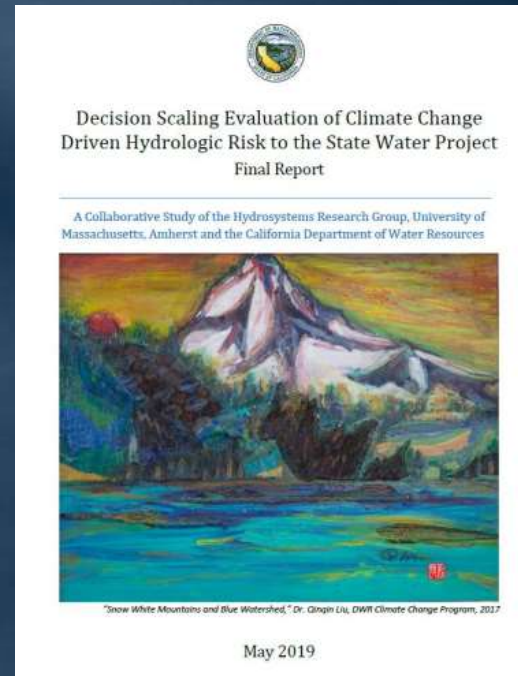
New Criteria for
North Delta Intakes

DWR's Delta Conveyance Webinars

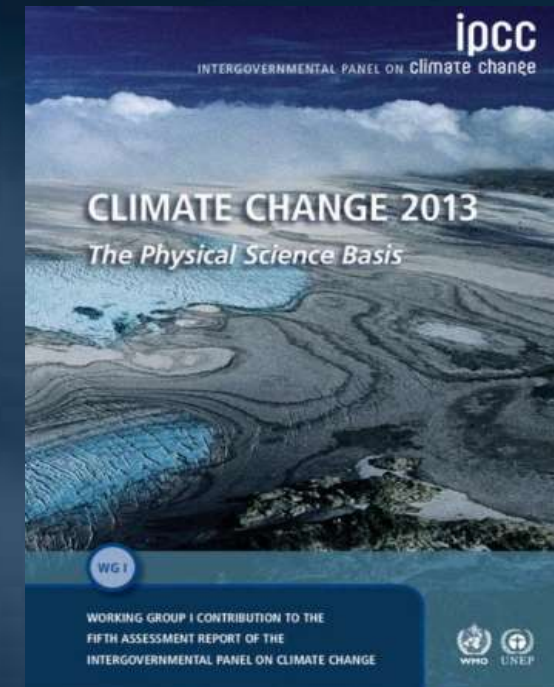
Climate Change (August 25)

- Climate Change Planning in California
- How Climate Change will be Addressed in the EIR and Q&A
- Purpose of Climate Change Analysis for the Delta Conveyance Project
- Evaluation of methods and assumptions

DWR Climate Action Plan Phase III: Vulnerability Assessment and Adaption Plan



Best Available Science: Global Climate Trends



Link for more information including presentations and recordings of webinars:

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project/Delta-Conveyance/DCP-Informational-Webinars>

DWR's Delta Conveyance Webinars

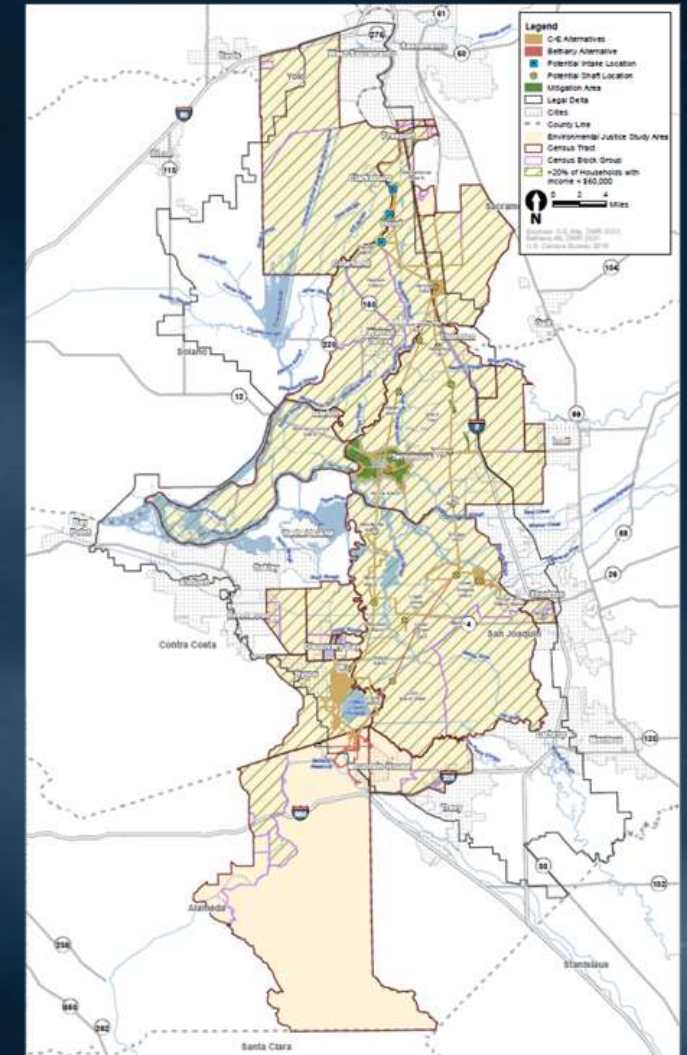
Environmental Justice

(September 16)

- Presentation on Environmental Justice Overview
- Environmental Justice Survey Report and Lessons
- Incorporating Environmental Justices in the EIR



Environmental Justice Study Area



Link for more information including presentations and recordings of webinars:

Community Benefits Program Update

Second Tribal Workshop Community Benefits Program

September 27

Link for more information :

https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Delta-Conveyance/Tribal-Engagement/DCP_CBP_TribalWorkshop_2_Final.pdf

Delta Conveyance Project



Second Tribal Workshop Community Benefits Program

If you live, work or have a relationship with the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the Department of Water Resources wants to hear from you about developing a Community Benefits Program for the Delta Conveyance Project. Please join this virtual workshop to learn more about the status of the program and examples of other Community Benefits Programs, and to share your thoughts about potential funding ideas, implementation details and additional program components. Participation in developing a community benefits program does not in any way indicate your support for the Delta Conveyance Project itself.

This workshop is specifically for Tribal communities, including Tribal leadership, representatives, and members, as well as other non-Tribally affiliated Tribal persons.

What is a Community Benefits Program?

Proponents of large infrastructure projects typically develop a set of commitments—community benefits created in coordination with the local community—to address how the project affects the local community. These commitments are separate and apart from mitigation developed as a part of environmental review.



Tribal Workshop

Monday, September 27, 2021 • 2:00pm – 4:00pm

REGISTER HERE

Registration closes September 22nd



Joint Powers Authority Updates

Delta Conveyance

Design and Construction Authority

September 2021

- Discussion Items
 - DCA Monthly Report
 - Senior Leadership Spotlight
 - Stakeholder outreach efforts
 - Stakeholder Engagement Committee report
- Staff Reports
 - General Counsel
 - Treasurer
 - DWR Environmental Manager
- No Consent or Action items

Delta Conveyance

Design and Construction Authority

September 2021

Community Meetings

Topic: Twin Cities Launch Shaft Complex

RD 1002

The Nature Conservancy

Point Pleasant Community



Photo and Twin Cities Shaft Complex rendering courtesy of Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority

Stakeholder Engagement Committee

September 2021

- DCA Review and Updates
- DWR CEQA Status Update
- Air Quality Analysis Methods
- Ongoing Outreach Efforts
- Engineering Updates

Ongoing Outreach Efforts

- [Virtual Tours](#) in Spanish and Cantonese
- Library Materials Distribution
- Community Engineering Briefings



Delta Conveyance Finance Authority

August 2021

- Review and approval of the Investment Policy for Fiscal Year 2021/22
- DCA Update
- Treasurer's Report
- General Counsel's Report
- Executive Director's Report

Upcoming

- Next update anticipated in January 2022





● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

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

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Delta Conveyance

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is continuing to develop an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act.

DWR conducted the second of four technical webinars to inform the public and interested stakeholders about the current progress related to preparation of the Draft EIR. The second webinar was presented on August 3 and focused on fishery resources. The presentation included an overview and environmental setting, the fish species evaluated, migration patterns, fish life cycles, and methods being used for evaluating potential impacts. Upcoming webinars on climate change and environmental justice will continue to feature presentations from technical staff about the approaches, methodologies and assumptions to be used in conducting impact analyses in the Draft EIR. All webinars are recorded and will be made available on DWR's website ([Informational Webinars \(ca.gov\)](https://www.water.ca.gov/informational-webinars)). Information about impact findings and specific mitigation measures is not available at this time but will be included in future outreach efforts following publication of the public Draft EIR. More information regarding the webinars is available on DWR's website.

Joint Powers Authorities

There was no Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) meeting or affiliated DCA Stakeholder Engagement Committee meeting conducted in August.

The Delta Conveyance Finance Authority met on August 19 and approved the investment policy for fiscal year 2021/22.

Sites Reservoir

In their August meetings, the Sites Project Authority Board (Authority Board) and the Sites Reservoir Committee (Reservoir Committee) accepted the Financial Auditor's Report, which found no significant or reportable findings. The anticipated August release of the Amended Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be behind schedule due to additional review of the Aquatic Biological Resources chapter by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW). These efforts are expected to be completed in the coming weeks.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Regulatory Activities

Staff continued to participate in the collaborative groups called for in the 2019 Biological Opinions (BiOp) for the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP), 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. In August, staff continued work with state and federal agencies to develop a Juvenile Production Estimate (JPE) for Spring-run Chinook salmon as a condition as required by the ITP. The group finalized the problem statement, which is: "What is the best way to estimate juvenile production of spring-run chinook that

Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

supports different management needs (primarily measuring and managing take of spring-run) and permit requirements?” Current efforts are focused on developing objectives and performance metrics by having focused discussions on priorities for the group (e.g. costs, minimizing impacts to water project operation, minimizing loss of fish when operating monitoring equipment) and specific metrics that can be used consistently to estimate and report the anticipated consequences of different monitoring alternatives to develop a JPE.

Staff also worked with state and federal agencies on development of a monitoring program for steelhead as a condition of the 2019 BiOp on Long-Term Operation of the CVP and SWP. The monitoring plan would encompass steelhead populations within the San Joaquin Basin and/or the San Joaquin River downstream of the confluence of the Stanislaus River, including steelhead and rainbow trout on non-project San Joaquin tributaries. The group is drafting an outline for the monitoring plan, discussing the spatial and temporal scope the plan will cover, and identifying required management actions that need to be monitored.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is currently conducting a Species Status Assessment (SSA) for the San Francisco Bay-Delta Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of the longfin smelt, which will help inform their decision-making process under the Endangered Species Act. To support the SSA, USFWS held a workshop on August 27 to focus on new emerging longfin smelt science, address areas of scientific uncertainty, and foster expert elicitation that will help the USFWS and the CDFW complete the SSA with the most current scientific data and information. Staff participated in the workshop and provided input on Metropolitan’s longfin smelt research that can be integrated into the SSA.

Science Activities

A recent publication in the *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science* journal, titled “Use of the SmeltCam as an Efficient Fish-Sampling Alternative within the San Francisco Estuary” reported on a study funded by Metropolitan and other partners to evaluate the efficiency of a new fish sampling device. The SmeltCam is an imaging apparatus developed as a potential sampling alternative to long-term trawling gear surveys within the San Francisco Estuary, to reduce handling stress on sensitive species like the Delta smelt. Researchers with the U.S. Geological Survey tested the efficiency of the SmeltCam by conducting trawls for Northern Anchovy as a surrogate for Delta smelt. They found that the SmeltCam had greater retention than traditional trawls and that turbidity did not affect the SmeltCam’s retention efficiency.

Staff co-authored a paper with UC Davis researchers titled “Toxic Meals for Seabirds and Seals: Monitoring Mercury in the San Francisco Bay” in the *Frontiers for Young Minds* journal <https://kids.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/frym.2021.611288>. The article targets elementary to high school level readers and explores the risks of mercury to aquatic life in the San Francisco Estuary as well as to humans. Staff from External Affairs also contributed graphics for the article.

Staff continued efforts to develop studies to assist in preserving Delta smelt and evaluating existing ponds on Metropolitan’s Delta Island properties to assess the suitability of the ponds for Delta smelt research. Development of studies on Metropolitan’s Delta Islands have received positive technical feedback from state and federal agencies involved in the Supplementation of Delta smelt. Board approval was directed to implement surveys to determine the suitability of conducting those studies on the Metropolitan Delta Islands. Staff also participated in a tour of Bouldin Island with Reclamation staff to discuss potential collaboration regarding Delta smelt supplementation, waterfowl, and salmon habitat.

Staff also continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). At the August 17 meeting, CAMT discussions included a progress update on the Delta smelt Structured Decision-Making project, which included discussion of the pre-feasibility analysis of potential Delta smelt management actions and identification of actions to carry forward to the next step to evaluate estimated effects of the actions. CAMT also received a progress report on the CDFW Fish Monitoring Survey Re-Design project. This project includes the evaluation of five long-term CDFW pelagic fish monitoring studies conducted in the Bay-Delta. The objective of the project is to improve utility and efficiency and reduce redundancy of the monitoring surveys. The Design Team conducting the evaluation integrated the datasets for the five monitoring studies and is in the process of analyzing catch

Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

efficiency, survey designs, and regional abundance calculations. The Design Team also developed three pilot study options to evaluate and modify sampling approaches for the 2021/22 Fall Midwater Trawl Survey. Staff is reviewing the Design Team progress report and coordinating with other water agencies to develop comments.