



● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of activities related to the Bay-Delta for May 2018.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

California WaterFix

After years of planning and analysis, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and participating public water agencies established a formal partnership to staff, design, and construct the California WaterFix project—the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Joint Powers Authority (DCA). Metropolitan along with Santa Clara Valley Water District, Alameda County Zone 7 Water Agency, and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District serve as the founding members of the DCA. At its inaugural meeting on May 17, the DCA signed an agreement with DWR delineating their joint partnership to construct the California WaterFix project. Under this agreement, Metropolitan and other participating water agencies will manage, design, and construct the project through the DCA with DWR providing oversight through a newly established Design Conveyance Office (DCO). Working together, the DCA and DCO will ensure that the California WaterFix is built on time and on budget through a collaborative, transparent process. Updates on the DCA activities can be found at the agency's website at www.dcdca.org.

The California WaterFix Petition proceedings before the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) are ongoing. The evidentiary portion of Part 2 of the hearings, which consider the effects of the proposed project on fish and wildlife, concluded on April 25, 2018. The SWRCB is expected to issue a notice soon concerning the rebuttal schedule for Part 2 and the deadline for the submittal and service of the parties' rebuttal evidence and testimony. Staff is continuing to review the information presented by hearing participants and is coordinating with other State Water Project contractor agencies to participate in the hearing.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Science Activities

Staff is participating on two multi-agency science teams focused on science synthesis for longfin smelt and the effects of fall outflow alteration in a wet year. The Longfin Smelt Management Analysis and Synthesis Team (LFS MAST) is synthesizing monitoring and science studies related to longfin smelt. Staff is participating in LFS MAST discussions and helping to develop the overall conceptual model and report describing the biology and ecology of longfin smelt in the San Francisco Estuary. The team is expected to complete a draft report by fall 2018. The Flow Alteration Management Analysis and Synthesis Team (FLOAT MAST) is evaluating how high flow conditions in 2017 affected the physical habitat and food web for Delta smelt. Specifically, the team is integrating and evaluating multiple data streams for water quality, productivity, and fish health data collected during the fall outflow studies in 2017, and comparing conditions to previous wet years. Staff is participating on the team and helping with data analysis and development of the overall conceptual model. The draft final report is expected by the end of 2018.

Metropolitan staff worked with researchers at Anchor QEA consulting firm to conduct a modeling study evaluating wind trends in the Bay-Delta estuary and effects on turbidity conditions. A scientific paper presenting the results from the study was recently published in the *Estuaries and Coasts* journal. The results of the study show that wind speeds have dropped in the estuary during the late fall and early winter over the past twenty years.

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Hydrodynamic modeling demonstrated that these reductions in wind speed would have reduced turbidity in the system significantly. Since the catch of Delta smelt and longfin smelt is positively related to turbidity, the reduced wind may explain at least a part of the reduction in fish caught in surveys. Metropolitan funded the study and Bay-Delta Initiatives staff person David Fullerton is a coauthor on the paper.

The second year of field studies for the Salmon Predation study at Bouldin Island was completed in May. This study was funded by a California Department of Fish and Wildlife grant, with matching funds from Metropolitan. The study examines how the number of predators and how the interaction between habitat features and predators impact juvenile salmon survival. A preliminary report of findings will be available in July 2018 and a complete report available in December 2018.

On May 18, staff participated in a Delta Science Program science workshop on development of a conceptual model for changing nutrient loads to the Bay-Delta Estuary as a result of the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District wastewater treatment plant upgrade. The Delta Science Program is funding several studies this year, called Operation Baseline, to pilot test monitoring and research strategies to develop a baseline of information before the plant upgrade occurs in 2021. The state and federal water contractors are funding complementary pieces to those studies. The focus of the workshop was to discuss a draft conceptual model for potential chemical and biological responses to reduced nutrient loading and identify opportunities to monitor those responses. The Delta Science Program is planning to hold a workshop later this year to present results from the Operation Baseline studies.

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). Staff worked with the CAMT Salmon Subcommittee to plan and participate in a CAMT Delta Salmonid Research Workshop on May 22. The workshop provided an opportunity for researchers and managers to discuss ongoing salmon research efforts and identify future research directions to fill science gaps and address key management questions. Staff also participated in the Delta Smelt Scoping Team (DSST) to review preliminary findings from the Delta smelt Entrainment Study (Entrainment Study) and Fall Outflow Study (Outflow Study). The Outflow Study is underway, and is evaluating environmental factors that are associated with survival of Delta smelt in the fall. The study is evaluating factors such as Delta outflow, salinity, turbidity, water temperature and amount of tidal marsh habitat. On May 23, staff participated in the CSAMP Policy Group meeting and coordinated with other water contractor representatives to provide input on Delta smelt and salmon science initiatives.

Staff also continued participating in Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) Project work teams (PWTs) to collaborate on current studies and provide input to workplans for future studies. Staff participated in an IEP Spring-Run project work team meeting that focused on the San Joaquin River Restoration efforts to reintroduce spring-run into the San Joaquin River. Staff learned about efforts to expand rearing and spawning habitat and toured many facilities that are being modified along the San Joaquin River to more efficiently allow salmon to pass both upstream and downstream, along with the monitoring programs in place to measure success of restoration efforts.

Delta Emergency Preparedness

Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan

DWR staff developed a schedule for completion of the Delta Flood Emergency Management Plan (DFEMP), and briefed DWR management. The DFEMP includes implementation authorities for emergency response, operational plans for various scale flood fight emergencies, analytical tools to assess and develop response plans, interagency support plans, stockpiling of emergency response materials, plans for integrated agency communications, environmental requirements, and key staff roles.

The DWR/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Delta Emergency Operations Integration Plan (Plan) has been finalized and submitted to the USACE. The Plan aligns and integrates personnel and resources to respond to large Delta flood emergencies, but it is also applicable statewide. It provides a common operating picture through shared information, communications, reference documents, and authorities under specific conditions.

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California WaterFix 2017 Program Budget and Commitments

With completion of the planning phase in 2017, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan Expenditures report that was a regular section in the monthly Bay-Delta Management Report was closed out in October 2017 and will no longer be included. In its place, the California WaterFix Program Budget and Commitments (Program Budget) was established and reports have been included in this monthly board report since November 2017. The commitments and expenditures following the completion of the planning phase in 2017 have been for post Environmental Impact Report work not classified as planning. Expenditures under the 2017 Program Budget were lower than planned, and most of the 2017 Program Budget was carried forward into the 2018 Program Budget. The funding is being provided by DWR and none of these state funds are State General Funds. There has been no change in the budget and commitments from March 2018 to April 2018 as shown in the 2018 Program Budget table below. This is due to no further commitments being made under this Program Budget as activity is being transferred to the CA WaterFix Design and Construction Authority. Staff will be developing a reporting format for the Design and Construction Authority budget and expenditures for ongoing reporting into the future.

California WaterFix Program Budget & Commitments, April 2018 (in millions)		
2018 Budget	Commitments	Remaining
\$ 133.69	\$ 9.12	\$ 124.57