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A look at Corps activities and other news affecting the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta

## In the News

### Despite downpour, drought still with us

By Peter Fimrite  
San Francisco Chronicle- January 24, 2010

It might seem odd to talk about a drought after a weeklong series of thundering storms drenched the Bay Area and heaped snow on the Sierra, but California's water lords know the state's lingering thirst cannot be quenched by one showy display of wet weather.

The recent downpours have temporarily brought the state back from the dusty brink, but officials with the California Department of Water Resources claim much more rain and snow will have to fall if the Golden State is going to pull out of its drought.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/01/24/BA0S1BL55V.DTL#ixzz0eySYTVF5>

### Judge eases curbs on delta pumping

By Bettina Boxall  
LA Times- February 6, 2010

A federal judge has temporarily lifted pumping curbs designed to protect salmon migration in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, an action that allows the diversion of more winter storm flows to farms and cities in the south.

Friday's ruling is the latest in a tortuous legal fight over Endangered Species Act protections that limit pumping from the troubled delta east of San Francisco, a source of water for 23 million Californians and millions of acres of farmland.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-salmon6-2010feb06.0.336790.story>

### U.S. speeds up water deliveries to San Joaquin Valley farmers

By Bettina Boxall  
LA Times- January 27, 2010

Federal managers said Tuesday they are speeding up delivery of irrigation water to farmers on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley because recent storms have boosted the state's water supply.

"Essentially we're saying we're confident enough right now that we can provide this as an assured water supply . . . and it will give them a jump-start on this year's water season," said Deputy Interior Secretary David Hayes.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-water-drought27-2010jan27.0.3014772.story>

### In About-Face, Judge Upholds Calif. Water Limits

By Collin Sullivan  
New York Times- February 11, 2010

A topsy-turvy week in a federal courtroom in Fresno, Calif., has led to the imposition of water flow restrictions to aid endangered delta smelt in the San Joaquin-Sacramento Delta.

Judge Oliver Wanger of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California ruled against irrigators and farmers yesterday in their request for a restraining order to open water pumps on the south end of the delta to maximum capacity.

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2010/02/11/11greenwire-in-about-face-judge-upholds-calif-water-limits-40761.html>



## Delta Islands & Levees Feasibility Study

### Sacramento District, USACE (SPK)

#### Current Work

The Corps team members are meeting regularly with study partners from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to develop the study foundation. The team met on 09 December 2009 and approved the draft problem and opportunity statements. A meeting was held on 10 February 2010 to discuss planning constraints, goals and objectives. The goals for the next few meetings will be to finalize constraints, goals, and objectives that will lay the groundwork to identify data and information gaps.

The next steps in the planning process will include inviting other Federal, State, and local agencies for inter-agency meetings for their input. Public scoping meetings will follow in the coming months. Problem and Opportunity statements are being used to revise the 2006 PMP that was signed with DWR, the non-Federal project sponsor. The draft revised PMP is scheduled to be completed in early 2010.

#### Project Purpose

This feasibility study is the Corps' mechanism to participate in a cost-shared solution to a variety of water resources needs for which we have the authority. Results of DWR's Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS) studies will be used to help define problems, opportunities, and specific planning objectives. The feasibility study will address flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, water quality, water supply, and a variety of other issues. A feasibility cost-sharing agreement (FCSA) was executed May 26, 2006 with the DWR, our non-Federal sponsor.

#### Funding

- The total cost of the feasibility study is currently \$12,000,000; cost shared 50/50 with the DWR
- FY 08 appropriations at \$859,000
- FY 09 appropriations at \$478,000
  - Reprogrammed additional \$150,000
- FY 10 appropriations at \$394,000

#### Milestones

- √ Delta Site Visit—March 2009
- √ Funds Reprogrammed—June/July 2009
- √ Problems & Opportunities PDT Session—September 2009
- Multi-agency Kick-off Meeting—Early 2010
- Public Workshops—Spring 2010

# CALFED Levee Stability Program

## Sacramento District, USACE (SPK)

### Current Work

The Programmatic Management Plan (PgMP) is currently being revised based on comments and additional information from the Corps team. The Draft PgMP will include templates for Project Management Plans (PMPs) and Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreements (FCSAs) developed for projects in the LSP.

To date, the Kleinfelder-Geomatrix Joint Venture (K-G JV) contractors have submitted 28 trip reports and 28 preliminary draft Project Implementation Reports (PIRs) for LSP proposals that will provide information for future PMPs. The Corps team prepared 28 draft project fact sheets and is in the process of developing draft PMPs for five LSP projects. Each PMP will be accompanied by a feasibility cost sharing agreement (FCSA) to be executed with individual Reclamation Districts (RDs) or other potential non-Federal project sponsors.

The team is evaluating four new project proposals for the LSP, and if accepted, will initiate site visits and the development of trip reports, preliminary draft PIRs and PMPs for each.

### Bethel Island Project

The PMP and draft FCSA for Bethel Island were approved by the Board of Directors of the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District (BIMID) on 15 October 2009. The PMP has been signed by BIMID and the Corps. Once the FCSA is approved by the Corps, BIMID and the Corps will sign the FCSA and begin geotechnical borings on the levee and conduct hydraulic and hydrologic (H&H) modeling of alternatives to determine the feasibility of the crosscut channel.

Study team members met on 02 February 2010 to report on costs of design for mitigation requirements and ecosystem restoration areas, and draft success criteria for project alternatives. In addition, the PDT discussed Operations and Maintenance (O&M) issues to determine duration and costs, real estate criteria, and responsible parties for the crosscut channel and ecosystem restoration areas within the alternatives.

### Emergency Response Planning

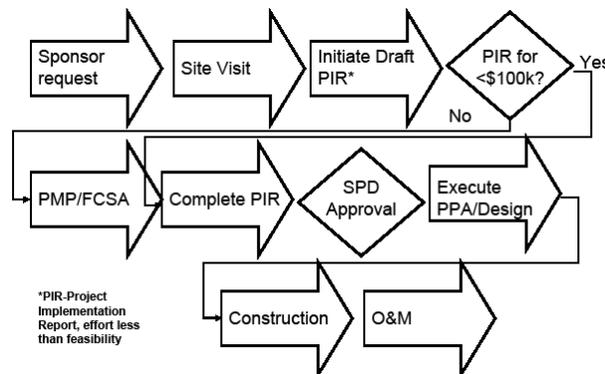
A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed between USACE and DWR, allowing the Corps-DWR to initiate GIS Flood Contingency Mapping for 5 Delta counties and the Delta region.

### Project Purpose

The CALFED Act (PL 108-361) directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to deliver a report that identified and prioritized potential levee stability projects in the Delta that could be carried out with the authorized \$90 million in Federal funds. An additional \$106 million was authorized to be appropriated by Section 3015 of WRDA 2007. To quickly identify critically needed projects with active non-Federal support, the USACE invited Delta stakeholders to submit project proposals with letters stating their willingness to participate as cost-sharing sponsors. In response, Delta area Reclamation Districts and flood management agencies submitted 68 project proposals totaling more than \$1 billion in estimated costs. USACE evaluated proposals and prioritized potential projects according to how well they met USACE environmental, economic, and other implementation criteria. The USACE short-term strategy is to move quickly to construction on high priority levee reconstruction projects identified in that report. The authorized \$196 million of Federal funds, plus the required non-Federal funds, would be an important first step to address Delta-wide levee system needs. The long-term strategy will be developed through the Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study process. The project delivery process includes: PMP/FCSA development; Project Implementation Report (PIR); SPD approval; Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) execution; design & construct; and operate & maintain.

### Funding

- Authorized appropriations of \$90M; additional WRDA 07 add of \$106M for a total of \$196M authorized to be appropriated.
- FY 08: Received \$4,920,000
- FY 09: Received \$4,784,000
- FY 10: Received \$4,844,000



## Delta Long Term Management Strategy (Delta-LTMS) San Francisco District, USACE (SPN)

### Current Work

A Joint Technical Work Group meeting (TWG) was held on February 4<sup>th</sup> and was attended by agency representatives from USACE San Francisco and Sacramento Districts, USEPA, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control (CVRWQCB), NOAA Fisheries, Department of Water Resources, and other stakeholders. The group discussed the progress of the Sacramento and Stockton Deep Water Ship Channels, CALFED Levee Stability Program, Delta Islands Feasibility Study, and the Bethel Island Project. USACE San Francisco District also presented information on the status of 3-D hydrodynamics and salinity modeling for the Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel (which includes construction of the Stockton project and Alternative Conveyance project as model simulation runs). Interim results for with project conditions are expected at the end of February. Discussions continued on the emergency levee repair general order (GO) that is being prepared by the CVRWQCB. The group agreed that it was important to tailor the GO so that it is the most applicable to potential users. The Delta LTMS Interagency Work Group also convened on January 25<sup>th</sup> and decided to develop draft operating principles for the Delta Dredging and Reuse Management Team (DDRMT) in order to keep it moving forward. Additional updates, including past agendas and meeting minutes, can be found on the project website, <http://www.deltaltms.com>.

### Funding

FY 05:\$ 133,558  
 FY 06:\$ 450,187  
 FY 07:\$ 591,692  
 FY 08:\$ 440,633  
 FY 09:\$ 273,403  
 FY 10:\$ 100,000  
 Total cost of the study: \$6,440,000

### Project Purpose

The Delta Long-Term Management Strategy (LTMS) is a cooperative planning effort to coordinate, plan, and implement beneficial reuse of sediments in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Delta (Delta). Five agencies (USACE, USEPA, DWR, CBDA, and CVRWQCB) have begun to examine Delta dredging, reuse, and disposal needs. The Delta LTMS will explore ways to coordinate and manage dredging planning, regulatory approval, and implementation to protect and enhance Delta functions, ecosystem, and water quality. The goals of the LTMS are to manage dredging activities to:

- Support and maintain Delta channel functions for navigation, flood control, water conveyance, and Recreation
- Maintain and stabilize Delta levees that protect land-based activities, water conveyance, and terrestrial ecosystems
- Protect and enhance water quality for Delta water supply and ecosystem function

### Milestones

- Formulate Management Alternatives: July 2010
- Programmatic EIS/EIR for Alternatives: FY11
- Adopt Sediment Management Plan: FY12

## Lower San Joaquin Feasibility Study

Sacramento District, USACE (SPK)

### Current Work

- The Project Delivery Team (PDT) successfully executed the second project milestone, the Environmental Public Scoping Meeting. University of Pacific hosted the event, DWR and SJAFCA co facilitated.
- The Project Delivery Team is commencing partnership with the DWR for hydraulic modeling within the study area.
- The PDT continues to refine the project schedule via technical and strategic planning meetings.
- Upcoming Meetings:
  - Executive Committee Meeting 10 Feb 2010
  - Technical PDT Meetings 18 Feb 2010
  - Hydraulic Partnership Meeting 25 Feb 2010

### Funding

Prior to FY 2008	\$125,000
FY 2008	\$129,000
FY 2009	\$454,000
FY 2010	\$897,000

### Project Purpose

The purpose of this feasibility study is to determine if there is a Federal interest in providing flood risk management and ecosystem restoration improvements along the Lower (northern) San Joaquin River. The Lower San Joaquin River study area includes the San Joaquin River from the Mariposa Bypass downstream to, and including, the city of Stockton. The study area also includes the channels of the San Joaquin River in the southernmost reaches of the Delta: Paradise Cut and Old River as far north as Tracy Boulevard and Middle River as far north as Victoria Canal. The floodplains of the lower San Joaquin River and its tributaries are also included in the study area.

### Milestones

- FY 10: Public Scoping Meetings & Workshops
- FY 10: H&H Modeling
- FY 12: Feasibility Scoping Meeting



## SF Bay to Stockton Navigation Improvement Project

### San Francisco District, USACE (SPN)

#### **Current Work**

Work continues for studying baseline conditions for the EIS/EIR. Hydrodynamic, salinity and dissolved oxygen modeling continued.

Potential dredged material placement sites have been partially identified and additional capacity is being sought. The sponsor and USACE environmental team are participating in the Delta LTMS Alternatives Work Group (AWG) to identify potential placement and beneficial reuse sites.

<http://www.sfbaytostockton.org>

#### **Funding**

FY 08: Received \$403,000 Federal  
FY 09: Received \$1,340,000 Federal  
FY 10: \$917,163 in FY09 carryover funds

#### **Project Purpose**

The SF Bay to Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel Project is a congressionally authorized project being implemented by the USACE and the Port of Stockton and the Contra Costa County Water Agency. A joint (EIS/EIR) will evaluate the action of navigational improvements to the John F. Baldwin and Stockton Deep Water Ship Channels. A General Reevaluation Report is being prepared to determine the feasibility of modifying the current dimensions of the West Richmond, Pinole Shoal, Suisun Bay, and Stockton Ship Channels, which are currently maintained to 35 feet and provide access to oil terminals, industry in Pittsburg, and the Port of Stockton.

#### **Milestones**

- Draft EIS/EIR – 2011 (assumes adequate funding is available)



## Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel Project San Francisco District, USACE (SPN)

### **Current Work**

The Project Delivery Team for the SRDWSC is moving forward with work on the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/ Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIS/SEIR), including ongoing coordination with resource agencies on a Coordination Act Report to assess potential project impacts on habitat. Other coordination efforts include a meeting between USACE and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to discuss methylmercury and maintenance dredging in the channel.

Salinity modeling, beneficial reuse survey, and ship simulation studies are ongoing. Hydrodynamic and salinity modeling results for future with project conditions are expected at the end of February. A draft beneficial reuse report, which will identify beneficial reuse opportunities in the Delta, is also expected later in February. In addition, habitat mapping is scheduled to capture spring vegetation in proposed dredged material placements sites and along levee banks.

### **Funding**

FY 09: Combined Federal and non-Federal share: \$1,276,000

### **Project Purpose**

The Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel Project (SRDWSC) is a congressionally authorized project being implemented by USACE and the Port of West Sacramento. Currently, USACE and the Port are conducting a Limited Reevaluation Study to recommend navigation improvements for Federal funding and preparing a joint SEIS/SEIR to evaluate the action of resuming construction of navigational improvements to the SRDWSC.

### **Milestones**

- F4 Milestone (Alternative Review Conference) – May 2010
- Draft SEIS/SEIR – September 2010

## Delta Links

Delta Initiatives, Official Sacramento District, Corps of Engineers site:

<http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/projects/civil/Delta/News.html>

Delta LTMS: <http://www.deltatms.com/>

Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS): <http://www.drms.water.ca.gov/>

Delta Vision: <http://www.deltavision.ca.gov/>

CALFED Bay Delta Program: <http://calwater.ca.gov/>

Delta Protection Commission: <http://www.delta.ca.gov/>

DWR, Delta Initiatives: <http://www.water.ca.gov/deltainit/>

Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP): <http://baydeltaconservationplan.com>

Bay-Delta Office (BDO), DWR: <http://baydeltaoffice.water.ca.gov/>

California Delta Chambers & Visitors Bureau: <http://www.californiadelta.org/>

SacDelta.com, an interactive guide to the Delta: <http://www.sacdelta.com/>

SF Bay to Stockton Navigation: <http://www.sfbaytostockton.org>

Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel: <http://www.sacramentoshipchannel.org>

### Subscription Info

**Delta News is a monthly publication by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento and San Francisco Districts. To subscribe, please send an email with 'Subscribe' in the subject line to: [DeltaNews@usace.army.mil](mailto:DeltaNews@usace.army.mil)**

### Upcoming Delta Events

#### February

24: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study Project Delivery Team (PDT) Meeting

#### March

1: DWR/USACE/MWD Delta Emergency Operations Planning Meeting  
 2: Bethel Island—Horseshoe Bend PDT Meeting  
 10 & 24: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting