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

In the News

Suit blames striped bass for Calif. salmon decline

By Matt Weiser

The Sacramento Bee- March 1, 2010

"Striped bass is a high-value recreational fishery. A lot of people like them," said Bill Jennings, executive director of the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, which intervened in the lawsuit on the state's behalf. "The lawsuit isn't so much against striped bass as it is an attempt to divert attention from the massacre at the pumps."

Scientists studying delta fish declines have been unable to find a single cause. Instead, they suspect multiple problems. One is the simple challenge of migration. Studies have hinted that young salmon migrating to the ocean die in much greater numbers if they spend too much time in the mazelike central delta. Often drawn there by water diversions, they face more threats from predators, pollution and the water pumps themselves.

http://www.fresnobee.com/2010/03/01/1842409_p2/lawsuit-blames-striped-bass-for.html

California agricultural-district lawmakers denounce water bond

By Wes Sander

Capital Press- February 27, 2010

SACRAMENTO -- Two lawmakers representing agricultural districts say the huge water bond passed by the legislature in October is unworkable.

Sen. Lois Wolk, D-Davis, represents a chunk of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the focus of a package of legislation focused on long-term management of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the hub of the state's water-delivery system. The bond, one piece of the package, is scheduled to go before voters in November. Wolk said voters will turn it down -- partly because of the state's dismal economy, and partly because the bill package as a whole is unworkable.

<http://www.capitalpress.com/california/ws-Water-Bond-022610>

Fishermen likely to see limited salmon season

By Peter Fimrite

SF Chronicle- March 12, 2010

Salmon fishermen can dust off their poles, sponge off their boats and get ready to hook some chinook for the first time in three years. There will be at least limited ocean salmon fishing this year, according to almost all of the options laid out Thursday by the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

The 14-member council meets at this time every year to mull plans for the fishing season, an emotionally fraught process that is highly anticipated by fishing industry workers all along the coasts of California, Oregon and Washington.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/03/12/MNU61CECO9.DTL#ixzz0iGNTixun>

Upstream Battle: Scarce water has local farmers squaring off

By John Holland

Modesto Bee- March 2, 2010

Northwest of Manteca, where salmon struggle to survive in the San Joaquin River, farmers face challenges of their own.

Last week, growers in the southern Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta told of how their irrigation supplies have been harmed by exports to other parts of California.

They also complained about a new push by state regulators to question their right to use the water flowing through the delta.

<http://www.modbee.com/2010/03/01/1069813/upstream-battle-scarce-water-has.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, which are generally categorized under the Corps mission areas of **Flood Risk Management** and **Ecosystem Restoration**. A meeting was held on 10 March 2010 to continue developing Ecosystem Restoration 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 an inter-agency meeting(s) 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 Corps team is in the process of developing draft **PMPs** for four LSP projects, including **McCormack-Williamson Tract, Bacon Island, Walnut Grove, and River Junction**. The Project Delivery Teams (PDTs) for each of these projects are meeting throughout March to complete draft PMPs by early April. 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 Programmatic Management Plan (PgMP) is currently being revised based on comments and additional information from the Corps team. The Draft PgMP includes 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 31 trip reports and 31 preliminary draft Project Implementation Reports (PIRs) for LSP proposals that will provide information for future PMPs.

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. **The FCSA and PMP are being reviewed by the South Pacific Division prior to forwarding to Corps Headquarters for final approval.** Once the FCSA is approved by the Corps, BIMID and the Corps will sign the FCSA and conduct hydraulic and hydrologic (H&H) modeling of alternatives to determine the feasibility of the crosscut channel and concurrently begin geotechnical borings on the levee.

Study team members met on 02 March 2010 to discuss proposed scheduling for H&H modeling and geotechnical borings, updating the geotechnical borings map for in-water work, and updating the PDT on mitigation costs and success criteria for project alternatives.

Emergency Response Planning

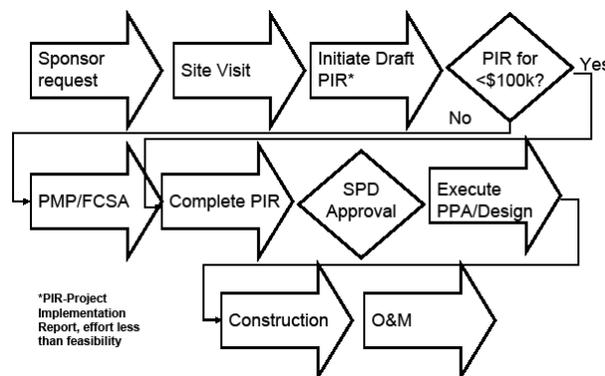
A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed between USACE and DWR, allowing the Corps-DWR to initiate GIS Flood Contingency Mapping and Phase 1 of an Emergency Response Plan for 5 Delta counties and the Delta region. The Corps/DWR team is investigating next steps toward Phase 2 of the response plan.

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 4th 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 25th 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

Delta LTMS is expected to receive funds reprogrammed from the San Francisco Bay LTMS to continue operating beyond April 30, 2010

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

- Interagency Working Group (IWG) March 25, 2010 – teleconference
- Technical Working Groups (TWG) April 15, 2010—Sacramento
- 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 will present a “reconnaissance level approach” to executive management at our upcoming Strategic Coordination Meeting. Expected results of the “reconnaissance level approach” to the study are the early identification of major problems and opportunities within the study area.
- Hydraulic Modeling Partnership continues with CVFED. Expecting key modeling data by July 2011.
- DWR is reviewing the current draft Federal Cost Share Agreement which will bring DWR on to the LSJR study as a new sponsor in partnership with the current sponsor SJAFCA. DWR is expected to sign the FCSA in fiscal year 2010.
- Upcoming Meetings:
 - Technical PDT Meeting 18 March 2010
 - Strategic Coordination Meeting 01 April 2010
 - Hydraulic Partnership Meeting 01 April 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.

USACE met with the Port of Stockton on February 10th to discuss revisions to the Design Agreement, increasing the cost to complete a General Reevaluation Report. The Port will vote on March 15th to approve the new agreement.

<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 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 MLLW and provide access to oil terminals, industry in Pittsburg, and the Port of Stockton

Milestones

- Feasibility Scoping Meeting (F3 Milestone) – June 2011
- Draft EIS/EIR – July 2012 (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. A site visit with resource agency representatives is tentatively scheduled for the end of March. USACE also met with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to discuss methyl-mercury 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 March. A draft beneficial reuse report, which will identify beneficial reuse opportunities in the Delta, is expected mid-March. In addition, habitat mapping is scheduled to capture spring vegetation in proposed dredged material placements sites and along levee banks. These technical studies will support completion of the Feasibility Report and Draft SEIS/SEIR.

Funding

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

FY 10: Combined Federal and non-Federal share: \$2,000,000

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

Upcoming Delta Events

March

24: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting

31: Delta Regional Initiatives Team Meeting

April

6: Bethel Island-Horseshoe Bend PDT Meeting

7: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting

15: Delta LTMS IWG Meeting