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

In the News

Calif. sport salmon fishermen ready their reels

By Jason Dearen
Associated Press- March 30, 2010

SAN FRANCISCO—Recreational salmon fishermen will again plunk their lines in the waters off the California coast this year after a two-year break because of a decline in the number of fish returning to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. However, the short sport season that begins Saturday is currently scheduled to last only through the month of April, a short respite for a struggling industry. "I'm thrilled to have this opportunity and hope there's more," said Marc Gorelnik, a recreational fisherman from El Cerrito, Calif. Gorelnik, like many sport salmon anglers, hopes the season is extended.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_14786160?nclick_check=1

California shortages not over, water resources agency says

By Bettina Boxall
Los Angeles Times- April 2, 2010

Despite a return to normal snowpack and precipitation this winter, state officials said water shortages will continue this summer and urged continued conservation efforts. The Department of Water Resources on Thursday slightly increased allocations in the state system that helps supply urban Southern California. Managers said they might be able to raise projected deliveries again next month but warned that they expect the final numbers to be no more than last year -- about 40% of full allocation, which prompted rationing in many Southland cities, including Los Angeles.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-water-droughi2-2010apr02.0.3831115.story>

Delta smelt move closer to being 'endangered'

CVBT- April 2, 2010 2:00pm

The Delta smelt, a minnow-like fish that lives only in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, but is often in courtrooms, could be listed as "endangered" under federal law, says the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. But the agency says it cannot elevate the status of the fish from its current "threatened" level. Based on accumulated scientific data, the delta smelt warrants uplisting from under the Endangered Species Act but that is precluded by the need to address higher priority species first, the FWS says Friday. The Service will develop a proposed rule to reclassify this species as priorities allow, it says.

<http://www.centralvalleybusinesstimes.com/stories/001/?ID=14805>

National Academies Deliver Mixed Message on Calif. Delta Dilemma

By Collin Sullivan
New York Times- March 19, 2010

A highly anticipated study of water diversions in California's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta has found federal efforts to protect endangered fish "scientifically justified" but added that problems facing delta smelt and chinook salmon are not entirely caused by thirsty farms south of the estuary. With release of the study today, the National Academy of Sciences stepped into a battle over a pair of federal biological opinions that limit water for farmers to protect the fish. But what many had hoped would clear up controversy over water restrictions has been greeted as another mixed analysis of the region's overlapping environmental stressors.

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2010/03/19/19greenwire-national-academies-deliver-mixed-message-on-ca-58726.html>



US Army Corps of Engineers®
Sacramento District

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. Draft problem and opportunity statements developed by the team are beginning to **focus the study on the authorized project purposes of Ecosystem Restoration and Flood Risk Management**. A meeting was held on 07 April 2010 to continue developing ecosystem restoration objectives. The goals for the next few meetings will be to **capture draft 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 to team meetings in order to gain their input. The Problem and Opportunity statements, goal, objective, and other planning components will be used to revise the 2006 PMP that was signed with DWR, the non-Federal project sponsor.

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 state planning efforts will be used to help define problems, opportunities, and specific planning objectives. The feasibility study will address ecosystem restoration and flood risk management, and may also investigate related issues such as water quality and water supply. 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
- Extend meeting invitation to other Federal, State, and Local agencies—June 2010
- Public Workshops—FY2011

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 includes templates for Project Management Plans (PMPs) and Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreements (FCSAs) developed for projects in the LSP.

To date, 30 preliminary draft Project Implementation Reports (PIRs) are under development for LSP proposals that will provide information for future PMPs. 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 met throughout March and early April to prepare PMPs. 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.

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 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 07 March 2010 to discuss proposed scheduling for H&H modeling and landside geotechnical borings, updating the geotechnical borings map for in-water work, and updating the PDT on mitigation costs and success criteria for project alternatives. In addition, the PDT discussed using existing Operations and Maintenance (O&M) manuals from Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) Section 205 projects that could be applied to the Bethel Island Project and other CALFED LSP projects.

Emergency Response Planning

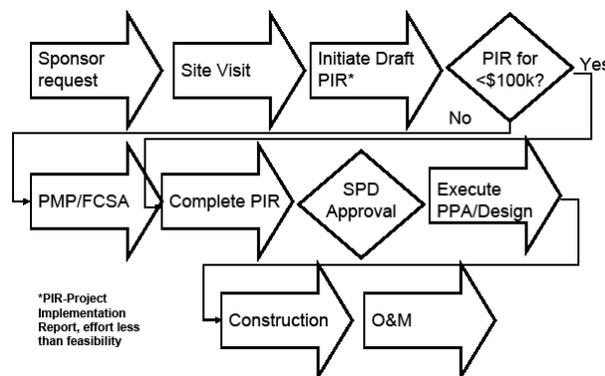
A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed between USACE and DWR, allowing the Corps-DWR to initiate GIS Flood Contingency Mapping and Phase 1 of an Emergency Response Plan for 5 Delta counties and the Delta region. The Corps/DWR team is investigating next steps toward Phase 2 of the response plan.

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, CAL-FED 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 Inter-agency 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. April 15th Technical Work Group meeting was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts, re-scheduling for May is in progress. 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 State of California has concurred with the current draft Feasibility Cost Share Agreement which will bring the State of California on to the LSJR feasibility study as a new sponsor in partnership with the current sponsor SJAFCA. State of California is expected to sign the FCSA in fiscal year 2010. San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District has expressed interest in joining the study as a third sponsor in the near future.
- The Project Delivery Team will present a "preliminary analysis approach" to executive Corps, SJAFCA, DWR and SJCFCWCD management at our upcoming Strategic Coordination Meeting on 15 April. Expected results of the preliminary analysis are the early identification of major problems and opportunities within the study area.
- Hydraulic Modeling:
 - The PDT is initiating contracting efforts to develop an Adaptive Hydraulic 2D- Model to assess the impact of the sea-level rise for use in the planning and design of LSJR project features. Contract award is anticipated by July 2010.
 - Hydraulic Modeling Partnership continues with CVFED. Expecting calibrated model by July 2010.
- Upcoming Meetings:
 - Strategic Coordination Meeting 15 April 2010
 - Management PDT Meeting 06 May 2010
 - Hydraulic Partnership Meeting 06 May 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

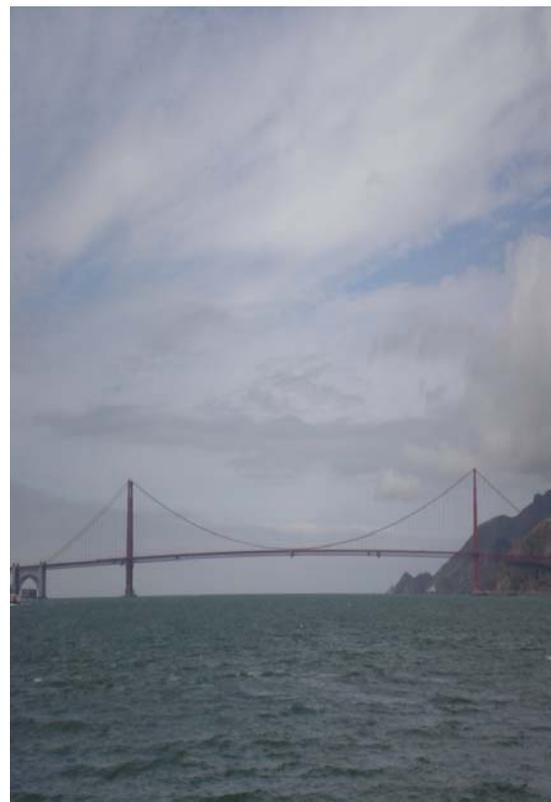
FY 08: Received \$403,000 Federal
 FY 09: Received \$1,340,000 Federal
 FY 10: \$917,163 in FY09 carryover funds

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

April

- 21: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting
- 22: USACE/DWR/MWD EOP Meeting
- 22 & 23: Delta Stewardship Council
- 28: Delta Regional Initiatives Team Meeting

May

- 4: Bethel Island-Horseshoe Bend PDT Meeting
- 5: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting