

THIS ISSUE

In The News [P. 1](#)

Delta Islands & Levees Feasibility Study [P. 2](#)

CALFED Levee Stability Program [P. 3](#)

Delta Long Term Management Strategy (Delta-LTMS) [P. 4](#)

Lower San Joaquin Feasibility Study [P. 5](#)

SF Bay to Stockton Navigation Improvement Project [P. 6](#)

Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel Project [P. 7](#)

Delta Events [P. 8](#)



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

In the News

Report finds Delta among most vulnerable rivers

By Kelly Zito
SF Chronicle- June 2, 2010

The river system that makes up the backbone of the state's economy ranks as one of the most imperiled watersheds in the nation, putting at risk drinking water for millions of Californians as well as billions of dollars worth of crops and urban infrastructure, according to an annual report on the country's most important waterways.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, whose fingers extend from the slopes of Mount Shasta in the north to vast farm fields near Fresno in the south, is "extremely vulnerable to catastrophic failure" from over-pumping and declining ecosystems, according to American Rivers, a Washington, D.C., conservation group.

http://articles.sfgate.com/2010-06-02/news/21653541_1_american-rivers-upper-delaware-river-water-supply

This time, will we end the water war?

By Matt Jenkins
SF Chronicle- June 13, 2010

In the grand Western tradition of fistfights down at the water hole, no fight has quite rivaled the one over the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

In 1860, the delta - which is actually an estuary - was a marshy, half-million-acre expanse filled primarily with tules. It saw a constant ebb and flow between saltwater pushing in from San Francisco Bay and fresh water flowing in from the Sacramento, San Joaquin and Mokelumne rivers. An entire suite of fish, from iconic California species like salmon and steelhead to less sexy under-studies like the delta smelt, evolved to thrive in that dynamic system.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/06/12/INV31DRTR9.DTL#ixzz0qwdDMKe6>

Water managers weigh implications of order

By Kate Campbell
CFBF- June 9, 2010

With additional water flowing into San Luis Reservoir as the result of a court order, how—or if—that water will be allocated this year has not been decided. At the same time, reservoirs throughout the state are filling as an improved snowpack begins to melt. An estimated 200,000 to 300,000 acre-feet of additional water is being transferred to San Luis Reservoir, after court rulings by U.S. District Court Judge Oliver Wanger in Fresno. As a result of lawsuits filed by water agencies, the judge lifted pumping restrictions for salmon. Negotiations continue among the water districts, government agencies and environmental organizations to revamp pumping restrictions related to delta smelt.

<http://www.cfbf.com/agalert/AgAlertStory.cfm?ID=1554&ck=98986C005E5DEF2DA341B4E0627D4712>

San Joaquin Valley water allocation boosted again

By Michael Doyle
Fresno Bee- June 15, 2010

WASHINGTON - Interior Department officials on Monday again boosted their planned irrigation water deliveries to the San Joaquin Valley, giving farmers 45 percent of their standard allocation. The new allocation is up from a 40 percent delivery announced in May.

"This latest increase in allocation is a result of favorable weather conditions this spring and better-than-expected pumping conditions in the south Delta," Interior Secretary Ken Salazar explained Monday afternoon.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2010/06/15/1970471/san-joaquin-valley-water-allocation.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 focus the study on the authorized project purposes of Ecosystem Restoration and Flood Risk Management. Meetings were held throughout May 2010 and on 02 June 2010 to ensure ecosystem and flood risk management restoration objectives solve the study problem statements. The goals for the next few meetings will be to capture goals, constraints, and objectives that will lay the groundwork to identify data and information needs.

The next step in the planning process will include inviting other Federal, State, and local agencies to a Project Delivery Team (PDT) meeting in order to get additional input on draft problems, opportunities, goals, and constraints. The Problem and Opportunity statements, goals, objectives, 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—TENTATIVE DATE is July 26, 2010
- Public Workshops—FY2011

CALFED Levee Stability Program

Sacramento District, USACE (SPK)

Current Work

The Corps team is in the process of completing draft Project Management Plans (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 May and early June 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. The team is planning for the preparation of the next group of PMP's as this first group is nearing completion.

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 PMPs and FCSAs developed for projects in the LSP.

To date, the Kleinfelder-Geomatrix Joint Venture (K-G JV) contractors have submitted 29 preliminary draft Project Implementation Reports (PIRs) for LSP proposals that will provide information for future PMPs.

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). The PMP has been signed by BIMID and the Corps. **The FCSA is 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 begin hydraulic and hydrologic (H&H) modeling of alternatives to determine the feasibility of the crosscut channel and concurrently begin geotechnical borings on the landside of the levee.

Study team members met on 04 May 2010 to discuss upcoming timelines for a process to get to "plans and specifications." The H&H modeling results will provide a decision point for the study team on the crosscut channel. If the crosscut channel is determined to be viable, then the next step in the study would be to conduct in-water geotechnical borings during the summer in-water work window from August 1 through September 30.

Emergency Response Planning

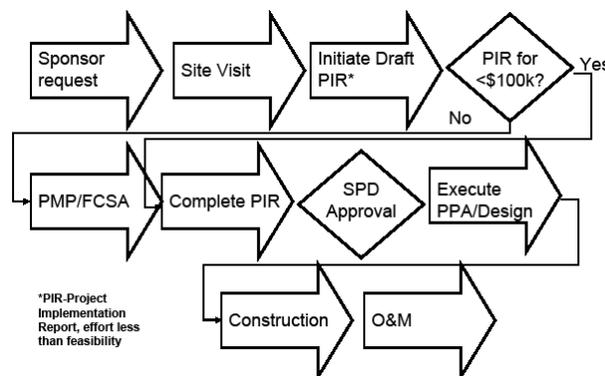
A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed between USACE and DWR, allowing the Corps-DWR to initiate GIS Flood Contingency Mapping and Phase 1 of an Emergency Response Plan for the Delta region. Over the next few months, the team will meet with Delta counties to get input on the GIS products, response plan, and related data. The Corps/DWR team is also 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 May 25th 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 various meetings attended: Dredging 101, Bay LTMS Science Symposium and lessons learned. Updates were given on the progress of the Sacramento and Stockton Deep Water Ship Channels, CALFED Levee Stability Program, Delta Islands Feasibility Study, and the Bethel Island Project. For Sacramento DWSC there were updates given on the status of the draft SEIS, sediment testing report, hydrodynamic modeling and placement sites/beneficial use report. AWR gave a presentation of the placement sites/beneficial use report, which included a large map of the study area with potential sites that could accept various levels and types of dredged sediment.

USACE, dredgers, and RWQCB staff had met within the past few months to discuss methyl Hg and have been conducting a monitoring study since last year. USACE has also drafted a list of practical field methods to reduce methylation. The use of credits and total Hg vs. methyl Hg are still issues to be determined.

There is a meeting scheduled in June for SPN to review the hydrodynamic modeling efforts with the various interested resource agencies. Permitting Group: Comments on the new draft GO are due June 30. 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 was approved to receive reprogrammed funds of \$150,000.

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

- 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:

- Feasibility Cost Share Agreement:
 - State of California is expected to sign as a co-sponsor in partnership with San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency and USACE in fiscal year 2010. San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District has expressed interest in joining the study as an additional non-federal sponsor in 2011.
- Hydrology:
 - The PDT is collaborating with Central Valley Hydrology Study to review opportunities in current schedule and engineering methodology for use of new State hydrology.
 - During Quarter 4 the PDT will study reoperation of New Hogan Dam.
- Hydraulic Modeling:
 - Hydraulic Modeling Partnership continues with CVFED. Expecting calibrated model by September 2010.
 - The PDT is initiating contracting efforts to extend the Adaptive Hydraulic Model of the Bay-Delta 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 August 2010.
- Upcoming Meetings:
 - Technical PDT Meeting June 16, 2010
 - Hydraulic Partnership Meeting July 8, 2010

Project Purpose

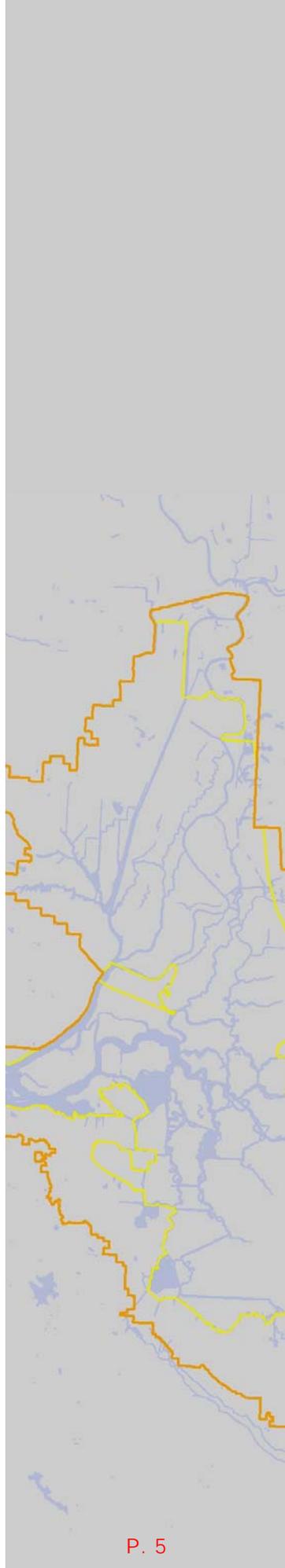
The purpose of this feasibility study is to determine if there is a Federal interest in providing flood risk management and ecosystem restoration improvements along the Lower (northern) San Joaquin River. The Lower San Joaquin River study area includes the San Joaquin River from the Mariposa Bypass downstream 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.

Funding

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

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 existing conditions for the EIS/EIR. Ongoing technical studies include salinity and dissolved oxygen modeling and beneficial reuse survey. The purpose of the survey is to identify additional dredged material placement and beneficial reuse opportunities in the Stockton project area. Future technical studies include a utilities survey, geotech investigations of placement sites, and habitat mapping to support the General Reevaluation Report and EIS/EIR. USACE continues to work with the Delta LTMS to identify potential dredged material placement sites and coordinate with participating agencies on the Sediment Sampling and Analysis Plan for this project.

The revised Design Agreement between USACE and the Port of Stockton was fully executed on April 26th.

<http://www.sfbaytostockton.org>

Funding

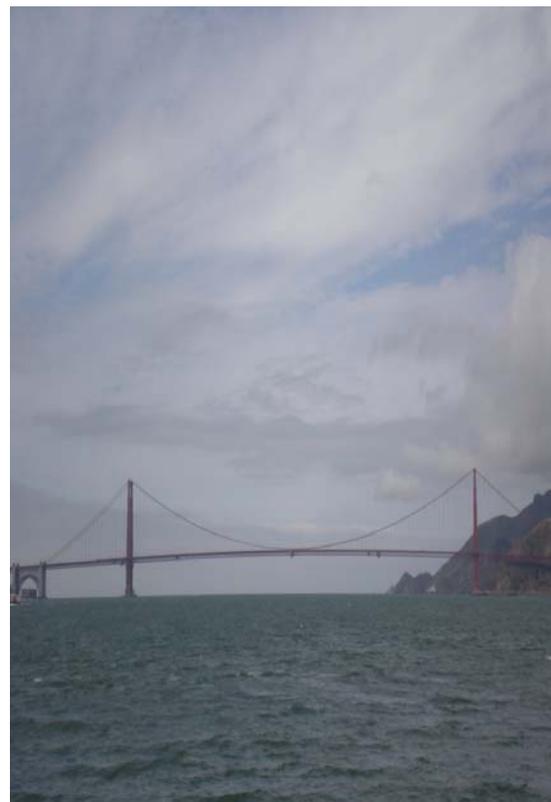
FY 08: Received \$403,000 Federal
 FY 09: Received \$1,340,000 Federal
 FY 10: \$1,093,000 in FY09 carryover funds

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) – March 2011
- Draft EIS/EIR – February 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 to assess potential project impacts to habitat. Representatives from the USFWS and NOAA Fisheries joined USACE on a site visit of the dredged material placement sites. USACE San Francisco and Sacramento Districts are also working with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control on methylmercury relation to dredge activities.

Preliminary results of salinity modeling and beneficial reuse survey will be presented at the next Delta LTMS meeting. Habitat mapping of potential beneficial reuse sites and levee is scheduled in late-spring to capture existing vegetation. Geotech investigations of select placement sites are also scheduled for this spring. These technical studies will support completion of the Limited Reevaluation Report and the 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

- Alternative Formulation Briefing (F4/F4A Planning Milestone) – August 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

June

- 16: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting
- 17: Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Meeting
- 24 & 25: Delta Stewardship Council
- 28: Bay Area Water Forum
- 30: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting

July

- 1: Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Meeting
- 6: Bethel Island-Horseshoe Bend PDT Meeting
- 14: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting
- 14-16: Water Education Foundation Delta Tour