

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

California's drought may be over, but no one's rushing to lift restrictions

By Bettina Boxall
LA Times– June 20, 2010

Late spring storms smothered the Sierra in snow. The state's biggest reservoir is nearly full. Precipitation across much of California has been above average. By standard measures, California's three-year drought is over. "From a hydrologic standpoint, for most of California, it is gone," said state hydrologist Maury Roos, who has monitored the ups and downs of the state's water for 50 years. But Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger isn't lifting his drought declaration. Los Angeles isn't ending its watering restrictions and Southern California's major water wholesaler isn't reversing delivery cuts. Despite months of rain and snow and rising levels in the state's major reservoirs, water managers aren't ready to celebrate or make the drought's end official. <http://www.latimes.com/news/custom/scimedemail/la-me-water-drought-20100620,0,4400238.story>

Drills to test idea of Delta tunnel

By Alex Breidler
Stockton Record– July 12 2010

The Delta will be poked and prodded again starting next month, as the state drills hundreds of holes into river bottoms, banks and islands. The goal: to learn more about building a 43-mile tunnel to take much of California's water supply from the estuary. Meanwhile, 160 new letters were sent Thursday to Delta property owners, seeking permission to access their lands for drilling and other survey work. Many similar requests already have been denied, spurring an ongoing legal fight. http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100712/A_NEWS/7120316/-1/a_news05

What's next for the water bond?

By Dan Walters
Sacramento Bee– July 5, 2010

It appears certain that the \$11.1 billion water bond, the centerpiece of a historic water policy agreement championed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, will be removed from the November ballot. Concerned that the bond measure would be rejected by angry, recession-battered voters, Schwarzenegger and the Legislature's water policy leaders agreed last week that it should be postponed at least until the 2012 election – much as an earlier high-speed rail bond issue was postponed until it could win passage. It is, however, not quite that simple. The effect of postponement would be to take Schwarzenegger out of the equation since his stint as governor will end in six months. And the water deal's critics are already demanding that postponement should include a rewrite, which could mean prolonged wrangling or utter collapse. <http://www.sacbee.com/2010/07/05/2869302/dan-walters-whats-next-for-the.html>

State increases water allotments

By Kelly Zito
Fresno Bee– June 24, 2010

California raised the amount of water it will deliver to cities and farms this year after a string of abnormally late, heavy storms. The state Department of Water Resources said Wednesday that it expects to supply its customers with 50 percent of the water they have requested - up from a 45 percent estimate in late May and a rock-bottom 5 percent estimate early in the year. Last year, the agency delivered 40 percent of the requested water following three dry winters and legal restrictions on water pumping out of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta due to concerns over collapsing fish species in the estuary. http://articles.sfgate.com/2010-06-24/bay-area/21923453_1_state-water-project-department-of-water-resources-late-season-storms



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). Draft problem and opportunity statements focus the team on the authorized study purposes of **Ecosystem Restoration, Flood Risk Management**, and other related water resources purposes. Meetings were held in June to capture draft goals, constraints, and objectives that will lay the groundwork to identify data and information gaps.

The next step in the planning process will include **inviting other Federal, State, and local agencies to a Project Delivery Team (PDT) meeting on July 26th** in order to get additional input on draft problems, opportunities, objectives, goals, and constraints. These and other planning components will guide revisions to the existing PMP, signed in 2006 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—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 reviews of draft PMPs for four LSP projects, including **McCorrack-Williamson Tract, Bacon Island, Walnut Grove, and River Junction**. The Project Delivery Teams (PDTs) for each of these projects met throughout April and May 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 Corps team is preparing a draft PMP for the **Brannan-Andrus Levee Maintenance District** project for review in July. The team will begin preparing draft PMPs for the next group of projects in the program in late July.

The Program 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 29 Preliminary Draft Project Implementation Reports (PDIRs) that will provide information for future PMPs.

Bethel Island Project

On July 13th, the FCSA for Bethel Island-Horseshoe Bend was approved and signed by the BIMID and the Corps. With the FCSA and PMP signed, BIMID and the Corps will now begin hydraulic and hydrologic (H&H) modeling of alternatives to determine the feasibility of the crosscut channel. Due to the limited summer in-water work window, BIMID will begin in-water and landside geotechnical borings concurrently with the H&H modeling. Information from these efforts will be used by the PDT to determine the viability of the crosscut channel in future alternatives analyses.

The approved FCSA and PMP will be templates for future projects under CALFED LSP. With this approved template, the Corps will move forward with the FCSAs and PMPs for the next group of LSP projects.

Emergency Response Planning

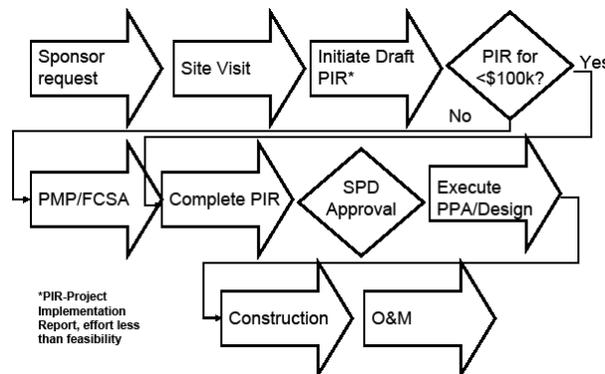
A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed between USACE and DWR, allowing the Corps-DWR to initiate GIS Flood Contingency Mapping and Phase 1 of an Emergency Response Plan for the Delta region. Over the next few months, the team will meet with Delta counties to get input on the GIS products, response 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:
 - The State of California is now an official non-federal sponsor of the Lower San Joaquin River Feasibility Study. The amendment to add the State of CA as a non-federal sponsors was executed via signing ceremony at the Central Valley Flood Protection Board Meeting on 25 June.
- Geotechnical:
 - LSJRFS awarded a contract to URS on 8 July to conduct preliminary geotechnical analysis of the Stockton metropolitan area.
- Hydrology:
 - The reoperation study of New Hogan Dam has been postponed to support the collection of baseline data for existing conditions within the Lower San Joaquin River system
 - Coincidence analysis for the Lower San Joaquin River and primary tributaries will begin late July.
- Hydraulic Modeling:
 - Contracting efforts continue 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 July 15, 2010
 - CVFED / CVHS Hydraulic Partnership Meeting August 5, 2010
 - Stakeholder Meeting: Lathrop, CA August 5, 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. USACE hosted a 3D hydrodynamics and salinity modeling presentation that was attended by resource and regulatory agencies in the Bay Delta. Comments and suggestions from agencies will be considered in the ongoing salinity model. The ongoing beneficial reuse survey has identified preliminary levee rehabilitation, habitat enhancement, and stockpile sites for the placement of dredged material. Other technical studies that will be initiated this fiscal year include a utilities survey, habitat mapping, and baseline conditions report (part of the EIS/EIR). The Economics team also plans to begin their analysis for projecting future commodities and uses at the Port of Stockton. In addition, USACE will continue to work with participating agencies in the Delta LTMS to approve a Sediment Sampling and Analysis Plan for the proposed project.

<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

July

20: Delta Long-Term Management Study TWG Meeting

21: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting

22 & 23: Delta Stewardship Council

August

3: Bethel Island Horseshoe Bend PDT Meeting

11: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting