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Joaquin River Delta

## In the News

## San Joaquin River restoration flowing

By Mark Grossi

Modesto Bee— October 2, 2010

FRESNO -- Swept along by a drought-busting winter, the San Joaquin River restoration is getting good reviews at the end of its first year -- even from one vocal farm critic.

The stormy season helped officials reconnect the long-dry river with the Pacific Ocean and ease fears of farmers who lost irrigation water for the restoration. Some of the restoration water was sent back to farms. Plus, farmers bought a bounty of cheap river water from excess snowmelt.

But challenges await in the second year, which started Friday. Federal officials must deal with a farm family's lawsuit alleging damage from the revived river's seepage. And the global weather-changer La Niña may bring a dry winter.

<http://www.modbee.com/2010/10/02/1365074/san-joaquin-river-restoration.html#ixzz12GBdGILY>

## Proposal to Restore Delta Bogs Down

By Robert A. Guth

The Wall Street Journal— October 14, 2010

Fixing one of the Bay Area's crucial hydrological resources will take more time—again.

Government officials, environmental groups and water agencies say they don't expect to release a complete blueprint for improving California's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta this year, a missed deadline that could threaten an ambitious plan to revamp the region's fragile water-supply hub and ecosystem.

Participants in the group drafting the proposal, called the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, said in interviews that an environmental study and other plan components won't be completed by a key Nov. 18 meeting. That publication deadline was set after the group missed an August target.

As a result, a complete draft of the plan won't be available for a 90-day public review, required by state and federal law, until late spring or early summer, says Lester Snow, secretary of California's Natural Resources Agency.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703794104575546670468022904.html>

## Minnow left off endangered species list

By Mike Taugher

Contra Costa Times – October 5, 2010

Federal regulators on Tuesday denied a petition by environmentalists to put a large minnow back on the list of endangered species, essentially backing an unprecedented Bush-era decision to remove Sacramento splittail from the list. Environmentalists called the decision "inexplicable" and said they would seek to overturn it in court.

Sacramento splittail, which were the most abundant fish in lower Walnut Creek during a survey by state biologists in the late 1990s, can be found from San Pablo Bay, up through the Delta and in Central Valley rivers.

Although environmentalists say its population has been in decline, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concluded that it could not discern a trend because fish counts are unreliable and their numbers go up and down dramatically in response to the amount of rain and snow in any given year.

[http://www.contracostatimes.com/science/ci\\_16261275?IADID=Search-www.contracostatimes.com-www.contracostatimes.com&nclck\\_check=1](http://www.contracostatimes.com/science/ci_16261275?IADID=Search-www.contracostatimes.com-www.contracostatimes.com&nclck_check=1)

Sacramento Valley: A haven for birds –  
and birders

By Joanna Corman

Los Angeles Times— October 3, 2010

Reporting from Sacramento —

It was like a lottery-winning moment for birders. I looked up through the windshield, and there it was: brown and striped, gliding toward a tangle of reeds a few feet from our car — an American bittern.

Bitterns are common at Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, but they're elusive and rarely seen. Even an ornithologist friend has seen only two or three.

Gray Lodge is one of more than half a dozen wildlife refuges in the Sacramento Valley, a habitat-rich basin that comprises the northern end of the Central Valley from Redding south to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The sheer number of migratory birds makes the Sacramento Valley one of the best places to see them from September to March.



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Sacramento District

<http://www.latimes.com/travel/la-tr-birding-20101003.0.5025346.story>

## 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 2010 to capture goals, constraints, and objectives that will lay the groundwork to identify data and information gaps.

The Project Development Team (PDT) met on September 29<sup>th</sup> to finalize answers to comments from the last inter-agency coordination meeting and to discuss the relationship of the Delta Study with other in-Delta programs. These and other planning components will guide ongoing revisions to the existing PMP, signed in 2006 with DWR, the non-Federal project sponsor. The PDT will hold the second quarterly multi-agency meeting with other Federal, State, and local agencies in the upcoming months in order to solicit additional input.

### 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 has completed draft PMPs for four LSP projects, including **McCormack-Williamson Tract, Bacon Island, Walnut Grove, and River Junction**. Final review and certification of PMPs and negotiation of FCSAs with non-Federal sponsors is ongoing. The Corps team is preparing a draft PMP for the **Brannan-Andrus Levee Maintenance District** project for review. The team will begin preparing draft PMPs for the next group of projects in the program in November.

The Draft 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 30 Preliminary Draft Project Implementation Reports (PDPIRs) that will provide information for future PMPs.

### Bethel Island Project

On July 13<sup>th</sup>, the FCSA for Bethel Island – Horseshoe Bend was signed by the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District (BIMID) and the Corps. Preliminary Hydraulic modeling has caused the PDT to revisit the scouring problem in Horseshoe Bend from an engineering perspective. This will be the primary focus of the next PDT meeting. Geotechnical investigations are underway to gain further information about the levee, scour areas, and other project features. The approved FCSA and PMP will also serve as 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

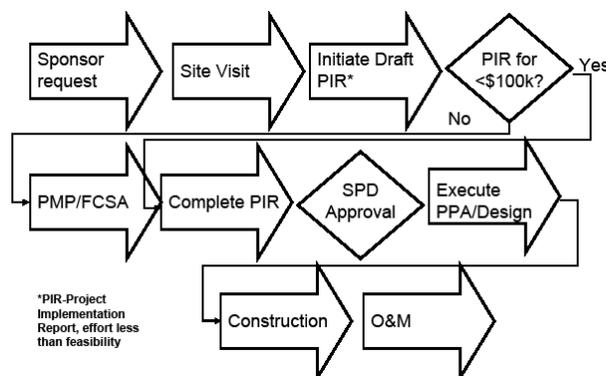
A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed between USACE and DWR, allowing the Corps-DWR to initiate GIS Flood Contingency Mapping and Phase 1 of an Emergency Response Plan for the Delta region. The team has met with Delta counties to get input on the GIS products, response plan, and related data and will meet with them again in November to validate and gather more information. 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 \$4,814,000



# Delta Long Term Management Strategy (Delta-LTMS)

## San Francisco District, USACE (SPN)

### Current Work

A Delta LTMS Technical Work Group meeting (TWG) was held on September 21 and was attended by representatives from USACE San Francisco and Sacramento Districts, USEPA, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control (CVRWQCB), Port of West Sacramento, Port of Stockton, Contra Costa County, Department of Water Resources (DWR), Bay Planning Coalition (BPC), Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) and other stakeholders.

The group discussed the various meetings attended 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/SEIR, sediment testing report, hydrodynamic modeling and placement sites/beneficial use report. The RWQCB gave an update that they had completed the draft New Work Dredging General Order and hoped to have it on the Board meeting in December.

USACE, dredgers, and RWQCB staff had met within the past few months to discuss methylmercury 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.

Additional updates, including past agendas and meeting minutes, can be found on the project website, <http://www.deltaltms.com>.

### 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

### 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.

### Milestones

- Programmatic EIR/EIS for alternatives: FY 2011
- Adopt Sediment Management Plan: FY 2012



## Lower San Joaquin Feasibility Study

Sacramento District, USACE (SPK)

### Current Work

- **Geotechnical:**
  - Recurring collaborative meetings with Corps, DWR and joint contractor URS, to determine available geotechnical data from the Urban Levee Evaluations and Non-Urban Evaluations program for use within the Lower San Joaquin River Feasibility Study
- **Hydrology:**
  - Reoperation study of New Hogan Dam to be completed early 2011
- **Hydraulic Modeling:**
  - Contracting efforts postponed to extend the Adaptive Hydraulic Model of the Bay-Delta.
  - Project Delivery Team is working to define the best technical approach to assess the impact of the sea-level rise for use in the planning and design of LSJR project features.
  - FLO-2D model draft release from CVFED for the Stockton Metropolitan area scheduled for November
- **Upcoming Meetings:**
  - Project Delivery Team Meeting October 28, 2010
  - Hydraulic Partnership Meeting November 18, 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. The beneficial reuse survey has identified preliminary levee rehabilitation, habitat enhancement, and stockpile sites for the placement of dredged material. Other technical studies that have been initiated are a utilities survey and the baseline conditions report (existing conditions section of the EIS/EIR). Habitat mapping commenced on August 14 and a draft report is due by middle of November. Another mapping effort to verify plant species will take place in spring 2011. The Economics team has begun 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 (SAP) for the proposed project.

### 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)

### Funding

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

# Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel Project

San Francisco District, USACE (SPN)

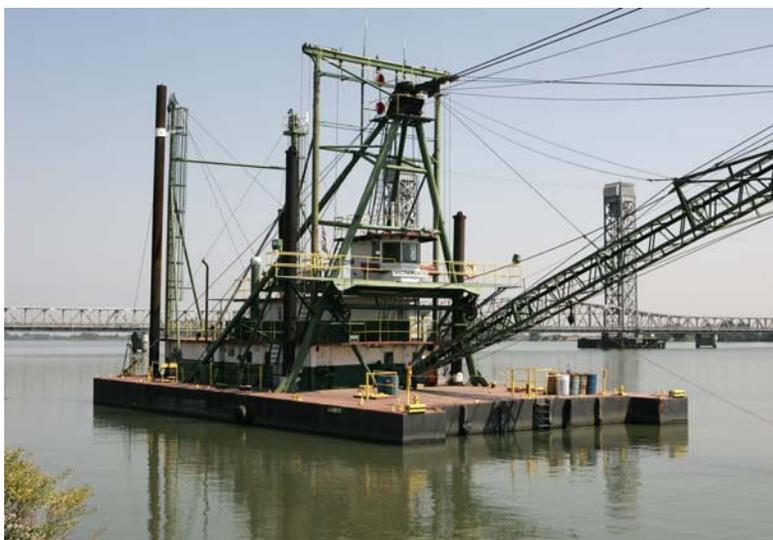
## Current Work

The Project Delivery Team (PDT) for the SRDWSC is moving forward towards completing the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIS/SEIR), including ongoing coordination with resource agencies to assess potential project impacts to habitat. Biologists from the USFWS and USACE collected field data for the Habitat Evaluation Procedure from dredged material placement sites. USACE San Francisco and Sacramento Districts are also working with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control on methylmercury as it pertains to dredge activities.

The habitat mapping report is completed. The report included additional potential beneficial reuse sites and levees that were examined in July and August. Geotech investigations of select placement sites also took place this month. These technical studies support completion of the Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR) and the Draft SEIS/SEIR.

## 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.



## Funding

FY 09: Combined Federal and non-Federal share:  
\$1,276,000  
FY 10: Combined Federal and non-Federal share:  
\$2,000,000

## Milestones

- Draft SEIS/SEIR November 2010
- Alternative Formulation Briefing (F4A) November 2010
- Public Review period Nov 2010 - Jan 2011
- Public meeting(s) Dec 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

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### Upcoming Delta Events

#### October

- 19: Bethel Island PDT Meeting
- 20: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting
- 27: Delta Regional Initiatives Team Meeting
- 28 & 29: Delta Stewardship Council Meeting

#### November

- 2: Election Day
- 3: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting
- 11: Veterans Day