

**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****Federal, State Agencies Release Environ-
mental Document on Suisun Marsh Habi-
tat Management, Preservation, and Resto-
ration Plan**

Multi-Agency

Bureau of Reclamation- October 29, 2010

The Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Game, have made available for public review an environmental document on the Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation and Restoration Plan. The agencies also have scheduled two public meetings to answer questions and are accepting written comments on the environmental document.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIS/EIR) assesses a comprehensive 30-year plan designed to address use of resources within about 60,000 acres of wetlands in the Suisun Marsh near Fairfield, California. The focus of the plan is a mutually agreed upon multi-stakeholder approach to the restoration of tidal wetlands and the enhancement of managed wetlands.

<http://www.usbr.gov/newsroom/newsrelease/detail.cfm?RecordID=34223>**Yolo halts habitat damage projects**

By Hudson Sangree

The Sacramento Bee- November 10, 2010

Yolo County supervisors sent a message Tuesday to outsiders who might want to flood land in the county to create habitat for species such as salmon and Delta smelt.

The message: Not so fast. With a unanimous vote, the five supervisors approved a nearly two-year moratorium on projects to mitigate habitat damage. The goal is to give the county time to develop an ordinance that establishes its authority over such projects. "We're not saying no. We're saying time out," said Supervisor Mike McGowan, of West Sacramento.

County officials have grown increasingly alarmed in recent years as powerful out-of-county interests bought up vast swaths of land with the intention of profiting from damage done elsewhere.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2010/11/10/3173215/yolo-halts-habitat-damage-projects.html#ixzz15StPfn9>**Salmon make comeback in Central Valley
rivers**

By Matt Weiser

The Sacramento Bee- November 13, 2010

Salmon are returning to Central Valley rivers and streams in impressive numbers this fall, restoring hope that years of shortages and fishing closures are over. It's a dramatic turnaround from last year, when the Central Valley fall chinook salmon run hit a historic low. Scientists blamed poor ocean conditions and a century of habitat degradation in freshwater spawning areas. It got so bad that federal officials closed commercial fishing in 2008 and 2009, taking California salmon off dinner menus for the first time ever. Now the fish are surging back. The numbers are not nearly as robust as in decades past. But ocean conditions have improved, and myriad small habitat projects are starting to bear fruit.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2010/11/13/3181995/salmon-make-a-comeback-in-central.html>**Inland leaders explore remedies for uncer-
tain water supplies**

By David Danelski

The Press-Enterprise- November 10, 2010

Twenty-eight years ago, Northern California voters killed a bond issue that would have paid for a canal to carry water from the big rivers in the north to fast-growing Southern California.

The Peripheral Canal, as it was called, is still being debated, and now officials are talking instead about building tunnels to carry the water more than 40 miles underground at a cost that could top \$14 billion. The tunnels would carry supplies under the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to the pumps that feed the California Aqueduct.

The Delta may be hundreds of miles from Inland water taps, but its aging levees, declining fish populations and water pumping limitations have Southern California water purveyors again looking for a big fix.

http://www.pe.com/localnews/stories/PE_News_Local_D_water07.472395f.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). 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 November 3rd to discuss assumptions, including the plan formulation process and future without project conditions. 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. A draft PMP for the **Brannan-Andrus Levee Maintenance District** project is being developed for review. The Corps team is moving forward with the McCormack-Williamson Tract project and is meeting with The Nature Conservancy/RD 2110 in order to finalize and sign the PMP and FCSA for the project.

A Program Management Plan (PgMP) has been developed to capture program processes and procedures. The PgMP also 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 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 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. Geotechnical investigations are underway to gain further information about the levee, scour areas, and other project features.

Emergency Response Planning

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed between USACE and DWR, allowing the Corps-DWR to initiate Phase 1 of GIS Flood Contingency Mapping and Emergency Response Planning for the Delta region. The team met with Delta counties in August to get input on concepts for the GIS products, response report, and related data. The second round of meetings is now taking place to present the 35% complete product, validate data collected thus far, and gather additional information from County and RD representatives. The final products for Phase 1 will include:

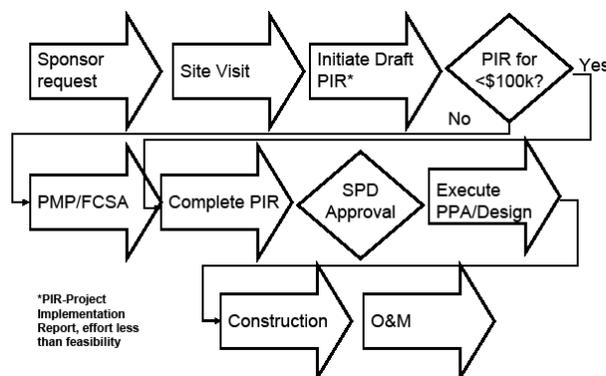
- Standardized GIS database of Emergency Management data,
- Flood Contingency Map Books and large scale wall maps of the Delta region, and
- An accompanying report documenting the existing framework, existing data, and any potential data gaps.

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>. Next meeting is December 7th at the DWR building in Sacramento from 930am -12:30 pm. *Please note the new time.

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:**
 - Draft version of the preliminary geotechnical report for the Stockton-Metropolitan area is under review by the non-federal sponsors.
- **Hydrology:**
 - Hydrologic analysis of the Lower San Joaquin River tributaries is underway. The draft hydrology report is schedule for March 2011.
- **Hydraulic Modeling:**
 - In December 2011 CVFED will release baseline HEC-RAS and FLO-2D models of the Lower San Joaquin River tributaries. The models will be reviewed and calibrated for use within the Lower San Joaquin River feasibility study.
- **Upcoming Meetings:**
 - Project Delivery Team Meeting November 18, 2010
 - Hydraulic Partnership Meeting December 2, 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 13: 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 this month. 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. This report is anticipated by the end of December. 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) – April 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 carry over 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. The technical studies support completion of the Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR) and the Draft SEIS/SEIR.

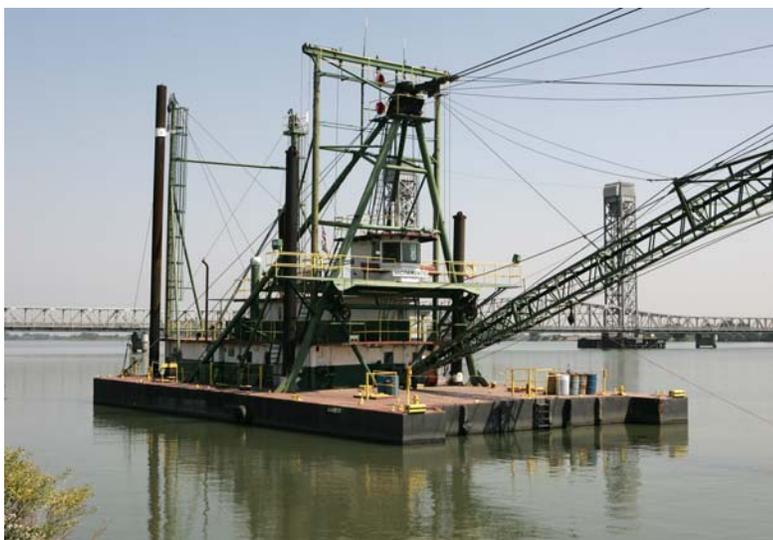
Funding

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

- Draft SEIS/SEIR December 2010
- Public Review period Dec 2010 - Feb 2011
- Public meeting(s) January 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

November

- 17: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting
- 18: DWR/USACE/MWD Delta Emergency Operations Planning Meeting
- 18 & 19: Delta Stewardship Council
- 25: Thanksgiving

December

- 1: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting
- 7: Delta Long Term Management Study Meeting