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In the News

**Westlands Water District pulls out of delta
planning**

By Mark Grossi

The Modesto Bee— November 29, 2010

FRESNO — After investing millions of dollars, Westlands Water District is pulling out of an extensive planning effort to heal the troubled Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, saying high-ranking federal officials are derailing it. The draft of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan offers hope of restoring slumping water deliveries to west valley farmers, Westlands officials said last week, but the Department of Interior advocates more limits on deliveries.

"We're not going to spend another dime on this," said Jean Sagoupe, Westlands board president. "They changed the goals because they didn't like what the studies say."

Sagoupe wrote a letter last week to Interior Department Deputy Secretary Dennis Hayes, saying federal officials are sending the message that they will limit water exports even if the ecosystem would not be harmed.

<http://www.modbee.com/2010/11/28/1448983/westlands-water-district-pulls.html#ixzz1878UQyZw>

**Sacramento regional sanitation district
ups ante in sewage treatment fight**

By Matt Weiser

The Sacramento Bee— December 2, 2010

A letter hitting most residential mailboxes in the capital region this week offers startling information: It soon may cost three times more to flush your toilet. That is, if you agree with the numbers.

The letter was sent by the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District, which treats sewage flushed by 1.3 million people in the capital metro area and discharges it into the Sacramento River.

That effluent could be subject to strict new pollution limits under a new state permit to be discussed at a hearing Dec. 9 in Rancho Cordova.

The goal is to protect public health and aquatic habitat in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta from pollutants, including ammonia, giardia, chlorpyrifos and cyanide.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2010/12/02/3226902/sacramento-regional-sanitation.html>

**'Bubble curtain' planned for slough to
steer salmon to safety**

By Matt Weiser

The Sacramento Bee— December 7, 2010

Georgiana Slough in Walnut Grove looks like an inviting place for fish. It's quiet and shady and appears to have a lot of habitat.

In fact, it's a death trap for young salmon. Big, toothy bass wait in the shadows. And the slough, which splits off from the Sacramento River, is a dangerous detour toward pumps that export water south from the Delta and chew up the 6-inch fish.

State water officials hope to neutralize this problem with a novel tool: a curtain of underwater bubbles to steer salmon to safety.

The experimental "bubble fence" will operate at the mouth of the slough, where research shows that 65 percent of the salmon that enter don't survive.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2010/12/07/3238428/bubble-curtain-planned-for-slough.html>

Judge dismisses delta smelt protections

By Bettina Boxall

The Los Angeles Times— December 15, 2010

A federal judge Tuesday threw out much-disputed delta smelt protections that have cut water shipments to Southern California and the San Joaquin Valley, finding that federal biologists failed to justify aspects of the restrictions.

But the ruling in a long-running legal battle was not a clear-cut victory for water contractors, who lost some of their fundamental arguments against the pumping reductions.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Oliver Wanger means that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will for the second time have to rewrite the endangered species document that regulates operation of the huge state and federal pumps that send water south from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Whether the pumping limits will be relaxed in the meantime will not be decided until more court hearings are held early next year.

Both sides in the case saw reason for hope in Wanger's complex 225-page ruling

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-water-smelt-20101215,0,7264089.story>



**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 second multi-agency meeting with other Federal, State, and local agencies will be held on **January 12th** in order to solicit additional input. This and other planning components will guide ongoing revisions to the existing PMP, signed in 2006 with DWR, the non-Federal project sponsor.

Project Purpose

The Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study (Delta Study) is the Corps' mechanism to participate in a cost-shared solution to address ecosystem restoration needs, flood risk management problems, and related water resources in the Delta and Suisun Marsh area. A Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (FCSA) was executed on May 26, 2006 with the DWR, the non-Federal sponsor. The Corps-DWR study team meets regularly to move the study forward and holds periodic Agency Coordination Meetings with associated Federal, State, and local agencies. The study will culminate in a feasibility report that will make recommendations on construction projects and/or additional studies for authorization by Congress.

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
- Second meeting with other Federal, State, and Local agencies—January 12, 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 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 were held in November 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:

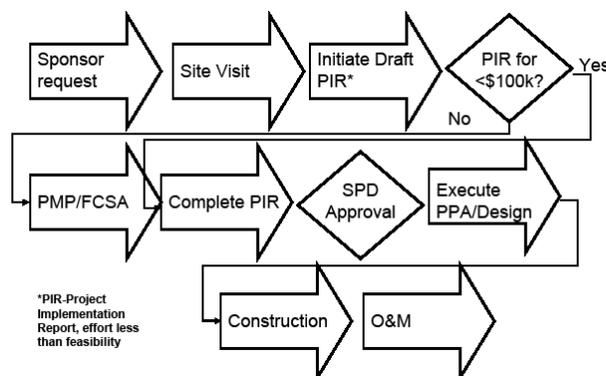
- Standardized GIS database of Emergency Management data,
- Flood Contingency Map Books and large scale wall maps of the Delta region, and
- An accompanying report documenting the existing framework, existing data, and any potential data gaps.

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>.

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 January 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:**
 - Executive Committee Meeting December 13, 2010
 - Project Delivery Team Meeting December 16, 2010
 - Hydraulic Partnership Meeting January 13, 2011

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 are currently underway include a utilities survey and the baseline conditions report (the baseline report will comprise the existing conditions section of the EIS/EIR). A draft habitat mapping report is complete and being reviewed. 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 mid spring. 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. USACE San Francisco has initiated a demonstration project targeting potential best management practices for methylmercury as it pertains to dredged material placement. Results are expected early next year.

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 re-summing 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 December 2010
- Public Review period Jan 2011 - Feb 2011
- Public meeting(s) February 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>

USACE Delta News is an unofficial public information communication tool authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1, para. 5 c. for the purpose of sharing information on Corps activities and other news affecting the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta with affected publics and Federal, state and local agencies interested in flood risk management and ecosystem restoration issues. Editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Corps of Engineers or the Department of the Army. It is a product of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, 1325 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, in conjunction with the South Pacific Division. This publication is available on the Sacramento District, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta webpage and will be emailed to those requesting it.

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Previous editions and further information can be found at: <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/projects/civil/Delta/News.html>

Subscription Info

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Upcoming Delta Events

December

18: Delta Loop Lighted Boat Parade

January

5: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study Project Delivery Team (PDT) Meeting

7: Delta Levees Habitat Advisory Committee Meeting

10: DWR/USACE/MWD Delta Emergency Operations Planning Meeting

12: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study– Agency Coordination Meeting

February

9: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study Project Delivery Team (PDT) Meeting

28 - March 2: California Water and Environmental Modeling Forum 17th Annual Conference.