

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

U.S. to study water pollution in Sacra-  
mento-San Joaquin Delta

By Matt Weiser

The Sacramento Bee- February 10, 2011

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today plans to announce a comprehensive review of water pollution in the Delta, a first step in containing a problem the agency admits is overdue for closer analysis.

The review will focus on a wide range of pollutants, from farm and household pesticides to urban wastewater and wetland disturbances.

The end result could include new pesticide limits and more aggressive review of land grading and dredging activities, which can cause erosion that harms habitat.

The review is being conducted under the authority of the Clean Water Act, a powerful federal law that dates back – in original form – to 1948.

"This is an incredibly critical ecosystem that is on the brink of collapse," said Jared Blumenfeld, EPA regional administrator. "This, for the first time, tries to look holistically and say, 'What should be done that isn't being done, and are there things EPA should do that we're not.'"

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/02/10/3391086/us-to-study-water-pollution-in.html>

Federal government agrees to take an-  
other look at whether longfin smelt are  
endangered

By Matt Weiser

The Sacramento Bee- February 2, 2011

Federal officials have agreed in a legal settlement to reconsider the endangered status of the longfin smelt, a small fish native to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Two environmental groups sued the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in November after the agency denied their petition to protect the longfin under the Endangered Species Act. At that time, the agency concluded the Delta population of longfin was not distinct from others on the Pacific Coast. In a settlement announced today, the service agreed to conduct another review that includes a review of the entire longfin population on the Pacific Coast. It must submit a listing decision by Sept. 30.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/02/02/3372087/federal-government-agrees-to-take.html#ixzz1E9Eb3qpg>

GOP plan could endanger delta fish resto-  
ration

By Kelly Zito

The San Francisco Chronicle- February 15, 2011

Separate efforts to restore San Joaquin River salmon runs and protect the delta smelt could be in jeopardy if congressional Republicans are successful in gutting funding for the programs.

A House spending plan scheduled for a vote later this week could upend two decades of work on the beleaguered San Joaquin River, which until recent years was dry in some sections. Also at risk are efforts to help the smelt, whose dwindling population ignited a vicious political battle between environmentalists and farmers when a federal order cut how much water can be pumped out of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

If the spending plan makes it through the House, the Senate has until March 4 to vote on it.

Republican lawmakers behind the plan say it is necessary to cut spending as California and the rest of the country dig out from underneath a mountain of debt.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/02/14/MNL01HN13L.DTL#ixzz1E9EK83xc>

## First Draft of the Delta Plan

Delta Stewardship Council

DSC Website- February 15, 2011

This draft of the Delta Plan is the first of four that will be developed and released over the next 3 months before the plan goes under an environmental review in June. It is designed to put the key issues on the table for the Council to discuss and receive input from stakeholders and the public. It is expected that three subsequent drafts will be released following the environmental review.

The issues will be discussed in public Delta Stewardship Council meetings. During these Council meetings, specific components of the Delta Plan will be discussed and debated in a workshop environment.

[http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/draft\\_delta\\_plans.html](http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/draft_delta_plans.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 to capture goals, constraints, and objectives that will lay the groundwork to identify data and information gaps. In October through December 2010, the team developed “assumptions” that need to be made in order to refine the scope, schedule, and budget of the study. These assumptions included topics such as: report format, study boundary, future without project scenarios (future scenarios without the Delta Study in place), number of iterations (study refinements), etc.

The second multi-agency meeting with other Federal, State, and local agencies was held on January 12<sup>th</sup> in order to solicit additional input. The meeting focused on the Project Delivery Team’s (PDT) progress to date and developments since the last meeting including the Delta Study’s sustainability concepts, Project Management Plan “assumptions”, and next steps. These and other planning components will guide ongoing revisions to the existing Project Management Plan (PMP), signed in 2006 with DWR, the non-Federal project sponsor. The next steps for the PDT will be to begin brainstorming measures which will be combined to create preliminary alternatives over the next few months.

#### 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—2011

# CALFED Levee Stability Program

## Sacramento District, USACE (SPK)

### Current Work

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 FCSA for the project. The PMP has been completed and has begun circulation for signatures.

The Corps team has completed draft Project Management Plans (PMPs) for three LSP projects, including **Bacon Island, Walnut Grove, and River Junction**. Final review and certification of PMPs and negotiation of Feasibility Cost Share Agreements (FCSAs) with non-Federal sponsors is ongoing. A draft PMP for the **Brannan-Andrus Levee Maintenance District** project is being developed for review. A Program Management Plan (PgMP) has been developed to capture program processes and procedures. The PgMP also includes templates for PMPs and 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 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. 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 Corps is currently reviewing the 35% product and will begin scheduling 65% complete meetings in the upcoming months. 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

An Interagency Working Group (IWG) teleconference was held on January 18. Items discussed include finalizing the Delta Dredging and Reuse Management Team operating procedures and revising the Delta LTMS schedule and workplan in the face of continued low funding through FY11. A combined Technical Work Group meeting will be scheduled for March; if feasible, this meeting will be scheduled after release of the draft Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel SEIS/R such that the project can be presented to the group. The TWG will also review results of the methyl mercury studies which took place in concert with operations and maintenance dredging last year and discuss the status of the Sampling and Analysis Plan for dredged material testing on the SF Bay to Stockton Project.

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:**
  - The Lower San Joaquin River geotechnical team is seeking opportunities to increase efficiency through collaboration with the State for geotechnical investigations products.
  - On February 1, 2011 the Lower San Joaquin River geotechnical team met with State directors for the Urban Levee Evaluation (ULE) and Non-Urban Levee Evaluation (NULE) programs. Additional coordination is scheduled to occur as program deliverables become available.
- **Hydrology:**
  - Hydrologic analysis of the Lower San Joaquin River tributaries is underway. The draft hydrology report is scheduled 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:**
  - Project Delivery Team Meeting February 17, 2011
  - Hydraulic Partnership Meeting February 17, 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) met with South Pacific Division and Headquarters on January 11 to discuss the status and pending release of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIS/R) and Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR). The PDT expects that the SEIS/R will be released on February 25th such that construction may begin before the end of FY11. USACE San Francisco has completed a demonstration project targeting potential best management practices for methylmercury as it pertains to dredged material placement. The report based on this project will be available soon.

### 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 February 2011
- Public Review period Feb 2011 - March 2011
- Public meeting(s) March 21, 2011

### 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.



## 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.deltaltms.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.

Sacramento District Commander:  
Colonel Bill Leady

Public Affairs:  
Sacramento District Public Affairs Chief:  
DeDe Cordell- [DeDe.Cordell@usace.army.mil](mailto:DeDe.Cordell@usace.army.mil)

Sacramento District Planning Editors:  
Brooke Schlenker- [Brooke.E.Schlenker@usace.army.mil](mailto:Brooke.E.Schlenker@usace.army.mil)  
Matilda Evoy-Mount- [Matilda.L.Evoy-Mount@usace.army.mil](mailto:Matilda.L.Evoy-Mount@usace.army.mil)

USACE South Pacific Division Public Affairs Chief:  
Torrie McAllister- [Victoria.L.McAllister@usace.army.mil](mailto:Victoria.L.McAllister@usace.army.mil)

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

## 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](mailto:DeltaNews@usace.army.mil)

## Upcoming Delta Events

### February

- 15: DWR/USACE/MWD Delta Emergency Operations Planning Meeting
- 15: [Delta Science Program Brown Bag: Hydrodynamic Processes in the Delta](#)
- 16: [California Water Commission Meeting](#)
- 21: Presidents Day
- 23: Delta Regional Initiatives Team Meeting
- 23: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study Project Delivery Team (PDT) Meeting
- 24 & 25: Delta Stewardship Council Meeting
- 28 - March 2: [California Water and Environmental Modeling Forum 17th Annual Conference](#)

### March

- 9: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study Project Delivery Team (PDT) Meeting
- 13: Daylight Savings Time Begins