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## Delta Events

[P. 9](#)**A look at Corps activities and other  
news affecting the Sacramento-San  
Joaquin River Delta****In the News****Obscure water agency won't cave on  
Delta canal**

By Matt Weiser

The Sacramento Bee- March 14, 2011

An obscure water agency that owns no pipes and delivers no water may be able to stymie the state's grand plan for a canal to carry water around the Delta to Southern California.

The North Delta Water Agency is made up of Delta landowners, farmers mostly, who get their irrigation water directly from the Sacramento River or its tributaries.

Now the agency is asking those landowners to pay higher taxes. The reason: It may need to mount a legal defense against the canal plan.

The little-known agency occupies a unique niche in California's water hierarchy. It exists exclusively to monitor and defend a powerful legal contract it holds with the state Department of Water Resources.

Signed 30 years ago, the contract forbids the state from managing water in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in ways that harm the agency, whose landowners depend on fresh water to grow food on Delta islands. Too much water diverted from the Delta would cause saltwater to flow in from San Francisco Bay, hurting crop production.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/03/14/3472881/obscure-water-agency-wont-cave.html#ixzz1Gal7GTgg>

**Farms could get more water in smelt deal**

By John Ellis

The Fresno Bee- February 24, 2011

West-side farms could get more water this spring after a temporary deal was struck Thursday on Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta pumping restrictions that have been in place to protect the threatened delta smelt.

The deal, which runs through June 30, still allows pumping to be restricted if smelt are in danger of being sucked into the pumps, but the cutbacks wouldn't be as deep as before.

Tom Birmingham, general manager of the Westlands Water District, said the new pumping levels are "significantly better ... I think it is a positive development."

Environmentalists who also signed on to the agreement, however, said the new, less restrictive pumping levels are only an experiment and are not guaranteed, especially if the pumping harms the smelt.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2011/02/24/2285560/smelt-deal-could-yield-more-water.html#ixzz1GDhiUKby>

**Federal government forecasts larger abundance of Sacramento salmon**

By Dan Bacher

SF Indy Bay- March 7, 2011

The National Marine Fisheries Service forecasts an ocean abundance of 729, 893 Sacramento fall chinooks this year, based on modeling derived from a 2010 jack (two-year-old) salmon spawning escapement to Central Valley rivers in 2010. Due to the increased salmon abundance, recreational and commercial fishermen are likely to see more liberal salmon season seasons on the California and southern California coast this year.

The numbers were released during the DFG's annual informational salmon fishery meeting in Santa Rosa on March 1, an event during which officials from the National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Fish and Game and the Pacific Fishery Management Council spoke to and listened to a packed room of recreational fishermen and commercial fishermen.

<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2011/03/07/18674013.php>

**House GOP budget bill aims to slash environmental regulation**

By Bettina Boxall

The Los Angeles Times- March 7, 2011

The plan to cut \$60 billion from the federal budget targets environmental programs so widely it appears to be as much an ideological gambit as a budgetary one. 'The sheer scope of it is overwhelming,' a UCLA environmental law expert says.

The House spending bill passed last month wouldn't just chop \$60 billion from the federal budget — it seeks to cut a broad swath through environmental regulation.

From fish protections in California to water pollution limits in Florida and regulation of greenhouse gas emissions nationwide, environmental programs were targets of the Republican budget resolution, which appears to have been as much about setting a political agenda as about deficit reduction.

Democrats have promised to block the environmental and other cuts in the Senate, where they hold a slim majority, and President Obama has raised the threat of a veto, making it unlikely that many of the hits in the proposal will survive.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-environment-cuts-20110307,0,6685930.story>



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## 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 PDT has begun 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.

### 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. The draft geotech data report has been submitted by the sponsor and reviewed by Corps staff. Final geotech analysis report is anticipated in the upcoming weeks.

### 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

A Technical Work Group (TWG) meeting will be held on Monday, March 21, 2011; from 1 pm to 3:30 in the Galleria at West Sacramento City Hall (1110 West Capitol Ave, West Sacramento, CA 95691). The meeting will focus on the Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel deepening project. Updates on other projects and studies will also be provided.

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 feasibility study is collaborating with State of California's Urban Levee Evaluation (ULE) and Non-Urban Levee Evaluation (NULE) programs for the use of geotechnical data and analysis. Additional coordination is scheduled to occur as ULE/NULE program deliverables become available.
- **Hydrology:**
  - Hydrologic analysis of the Lower San Joaquin River tributaries is underway. The draft hydrology report has been delayed until May 2011 due to technical issues.
- **Hydraulic Modeling:**
  - CVFED modeling approach has been revised to incorporate one model for the Lower San Joaquin River tributaries and one model for the Lower San Joaquin main stem. Models are on schedule for final release in April 2011. Upon receipt, the models will be reviewed and calibrated for use within the Lower San Joaquin River feasibility study.
- **Upcoming Meetings:**
  - Project Delivery Team Meeting March 17, 2011
  - Hydraulic Partnership Meeting April 7, 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 draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIS/SEIR) was released on February 25, 2011. The project website is <http://www.sacramentoshipchannel.org> and contains information on obtaining a copy of the SEIS/SIER on DVD. A public hearing for the Draft SEIS/SEIR is scheduled from 5pm to 7pm on Monday, March 21, 2011. The hearing will occur in the Galleria at West Sacramento City Hall (1110 West Capitol Ave, West Sacramento, CA 95691).

USACE San Francisco has completed a demonstration project targeting potential best management practices for methylmercury as it pertains to dredged material placement. The draft report is in technical review will be available soon.

### Funding

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

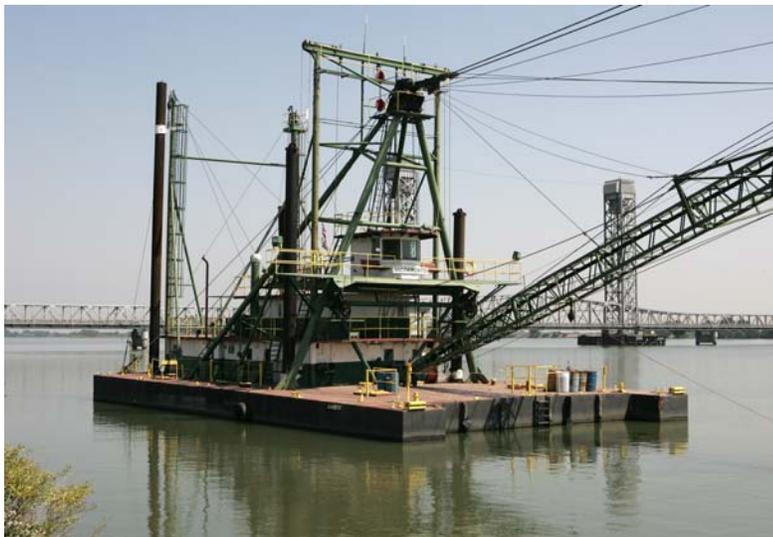
FY 10: Combined Federal and non-Federal share: \$2,000,000

### Milestones

- Draft SEIS/R February 2011
- Public Review period Feb 2011 - April 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 re-summing construction of navigational improvements to the SRDWSC.



# Central Valley Integrated Flood Management Study

## Sacramento District, USACE (SPK)

### Current Work

The CVIFMS team is currently coordinating with the CVFPP team in defining and scoping the CVIFMS Project Management Plan (PMP) and associated Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) amendment that will lay out an adaptable and "living" strategy for the development of the CVIFMS and related products in close coordination with the evolving CVFPP process and efforts.

The CVIFMS will be developed within an integrated water resource management context and will complement the CVFPP system-level planning strategy, with an emphasis on moving toward a Federal/State flood risk management (FRM) implementation process including possible immediate feasibility study implementation recommendations. The study will include two major efforts:

#### Programmatic Implementation Framework Document.

This document will be developed in a format and context that clearly and directly corresponds to the 2012 CVFPP Report. The document's primary purpose will be to provide a status update and a strategy that defines how the CVIFMS will be coordinating with the CVFPP in moving toward a Federal/State flood risk management (FRM) implementation process for the CVFPP, including possible immediate feasibility study implementation recommendations. The targeted audience is Congress and the California State Legislature.

#### Programmatic Feasibility Study.

This document will be a programmatic level study prepared within an integrated water resource management context. The study will incorporate CVFPP shared data and the content will be coordinated with the 2017 CVFPP Report. The study will provide an FRM evaluation of the Central Valley at a system level with a recommended process for Federal/State implementation and cost sharing. The strategy is for the focus of the study to be at the feasibility level, so that alternatives, inclusive of the CVFPP Preferred State Plan, can be evaluated and Federal recommendations can be implemented. It is anticipated that a joint National Environmental Policy Act/California Environmental Quality Act document will be developed in support of the study alternatives and recommendations.

### Project Purpose

In response to legislation signed by the Governor on 10 October 2007, the State of California, through the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board), initiated development of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP). This effort will culminate in a comprehensive analysis of flood management and related conditions in the Central Valley watershed as a system. The State is required to complete the first report of the CVFPP by 2012. This document is to be updated every 5 years thereafter. The State has requested Federal participation in preparing the CVFPP. This participation will be through the Central Valley Integrated Flood Management Study (CVIFMS). The CVIFMS is a continuation of the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins, California Comprehensive Study (Comp Study), which was authorized by Congress by section 209 of the Flood Control Act of 1962 (P.L. 87-874).



### Milestones

- Draft PMP and FCSA amendment, spring 2011
- Final PMP and FCSA amendment, early summer 2011
- Programmatic Implementation Framework Document, 2012
- Programmatic Feasibility Study, 2017

## 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>

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## Upcoming Delta Events

### March

- 29: DWR/USACE/MWD Delta Emergency Operations Planning Meeting
- 23: Delta Regional Initiatives Team Meeting
- 23: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study Project Delivery Team (PDT) Meeting
- 24 & 25: [Delta Stewardship Council Meeting](#)
- 24 & 25: [Water Education Foundation Executive Briefing](#)
- 25: BDPAC/DLHAC Meeting
- 29: DWR/USACE/MWD Delta Emergency Operations Planning Meeting
- 30: [CA Water Plan Update 2013 Public Advisory Committee Meeting](#)

### April

- 6: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study Project Delivery Team (PDT) Meeting
- 14 & 15: [Delta Stewardship Council Meeting](#)