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In the News

A Blast from the Past:**The Vegetable Garden of the World**

San Francisco Call- December 31, 1911

It is learned from the Stockton Independent that steps are being taken to establish an experimental farm for the peat lands of the river delta, the Netherlands of California, whose wonderful potentialities are only now beginning to be understood. C. S. Scofield will have charge of the federal government work in this relation, and Prof. G. Y. Shaw of the University of California will supervise on behalf of the state. Among other projects for the development of this little known region an organization has been effected "to procure wagon, railroad and other transportation throughout the islands; mail delivery, telephone, telegraph and other conveniences and to co-operate in grading and marketing crops, purchasing supplies, introducing improved machinery, livestock, seeds and plants; to foster allied industries, such as canneries and factories and, in a word, to work for mutual benefit and protection."

<http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cdnc/cgi-bin/cdnc?>

[a=d&d=SFC19111231.2.66.22&cl=search&srpos=23&dliv=none&e=-----en-Logical-20--21----sacramento+san+joaquin+delta-all--](http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cdnc/cgi-bin/cdnc?a=d&d=SFC19111231.2.66.22&cl=search&srpos=23&dliv=none&e=-----en-Logical-20--21----sacramento+san+joaquin+delta-all--)

California Digital Newspaper Collection, Center for Bibliographic Studies and Research, University of California, Riverside, <<http://cdnc.ucr.edu>>.

**Expected salmon comeback renews fight
over water**

By Kelly Zito

San Francisco Chronicle- Friday, April 8, 2011

With the expected opening of California's commercial salmon fishery just weeks away, those who catch, study and defend the species are squaring off against those who say federal protections of the fish rob the state of critical jobs and fallow thousands of acres of fertile farmland.

On Thursday, a group of environmentalists, fishing groups and scientists said this year's salmon run - the first relatively healthy season in several years - is made possible by restrictions on the amount of water pumped through the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta between 2008 and 2010.

"For the first time in a long time we're going to have a salmon season and that's due in large part because we've put in place salmon protections that seem to be working," said Cynthia Koehler, California water legislative director with Environmental Defense Fund.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/04/07/BA971ISD3U.DTL#ixzz1JKkESrZv>

[BA971ISD3U.DTL#ixzz1JKkESrZv](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/04/07/BA971ISD3U.DTL#ixzz1JKkESrZv)

**Helping hands move fish stranded in Yolo
Bypass to Sacramento River**

By Matt Weiser

The Sacramento Bee- April 13, 2011

More than 100 sturgeon and other imperiled fish were rescued from a flood-control channel Tuesday after weeks of high water in the Sacramento River receded, leaving them stranded.

The problem occurred at the Fremont Weir, a nearly two-mile-long concrete structure, shaped like a curb, that diverts high flows in the Sacramento River into the Yolo Bypass.

The weir north of Woodland performs a brilliantly simple public-safety function: When the Sacramento River swells with winter runoff to an elevation of 33.5 feet, it spills over the weir into the Yolo Bypass, diverting floods away from the Sacramento metro area.

But the weir is also a dead end for fish drawn into the bypass at its southern end, more than 20 miles away near Rio Vista. The weir does not have a fish ladder, only a narrow slot that is too small for sturgeon and lacks adequate flow for most other fish.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/04/13/3548746/helping-hands-move-fish-stranded.html#ixzz1JXRevx3h>

State can't drill lands for canal, judge rules

By Alex Breidler

The Stockton Record- April 9, 2011

The state's request to drill more than 200 feet into private Delta lands in search of the best route for a peripheral canal or tunnel has been denied by a San Joaquin County Superior Court judge.

The decision arrives after more than two years of legal struggles between 100-plus landowners and the state Department of Water Resources, which first asked the landowners for access to their properties and then tried to force the matter in court.

"This is a very good day for Delta landowners," said Stockton attorney Thomas Keeling, who represented 93 of them. "The DWR's roughshod ride over the backs of the landowners has encountered a major speed bump."

<http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?>

[AID=/20110409/A_NEWS/104090332/-1/NEWSMAP](http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110409/A_NEWS/104090332/-1/NEWSMAP)



**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 12th 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 signed by RD 2110 and has begun circulation for signatures within the Corps.

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 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 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. The draft geotech analysis report has been submitted by the sponsor and reviewed by Corps staff. A 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 has reviewed 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.

For more information and product-to-date visit:

www.deltafloodemergencyplan.org

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 was held on Monday, March 21, 2011. The meeting focused on the Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel deepening 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 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:**
 - The draft hydrology report for New Hogan and Farmington reservoir synthetic outflows was recently completed by A-E firm David Ford Hydrology. The report is currently under quality control review by the Corps.
- **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. 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 April 21, 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/SEIR on DVD. A public hearing for the Draft SEIS/SEIR was held on Monday, March 21, 2011. The comment period closes on April 18, 2011.

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

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DeltaNews@usace.army.mil

Upcoming Delta Events

April

- 20: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting
- 22: BDPAC/DLHAC Meeting
- 25: [BDCP Public Meeting](#)
- 27: Delta Regional Initiatives Team Meeting
- 28 & 29: Delta Stewardship Council Meeting

May

- 1: [Lodi Street Faire](#)
- 3: DWR/USACE/MWD Delta Emergency Operations Planning Meeting
- 8: Mother's Day