

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](#)Central Valley
Integrated Flood
Management Study[P. 8](#)

Delta Events

[P. 9](#)A look at Corps activities and other
news affecting the Sacramento-San
Joaquin River Delta

In the News

A Blast from the Past:**The Sacramento Islands**
Sacramento Daily Union—February 27, 1878

Notes on the Geology of the Islands. The Sacramento river islands are somewhat different from the San Joaquin islands. The upper stratum of the Sacramento islands is composed of river sediment and sand. This stratum is not, however, regular. In places there is a surface of raw tule, which is useless until burnt to a depth of ten inches. Sometimes it burns to a depth of three feet, and then it is useless. The next stratum is composed of black muck, from one to three feet in depth. Below this muck is a stratum of coarse black sand, from one to two feet in depth. Tile seepage comes through this black sand.

<http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cdnc/cgi-bin/cdnc?a=d&d=SDU18780227.2.16&cl=search&srpos=39&dliiv=none&e=-----en-Logical-50--1---Sacramento+river+Delta+san+joaquin-all--->

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

**Park and 50-foot scale replica capture
scope, heart of Delta**

By Liza Lester

The Sacramento Bee— July 2, 2011

At the heart of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, just a few miles from the confluence of the two rivers that give it its name, sits a miniature Delta, complete to scale and frozen in concrete.

The interactive artwork is part of an \$11.7 million project to build a research, education and recreation facility in the Delta. It's the fruition of nearly two decades of effort by the East Bay Regional Park District and a coalition of local stakeholders in Contra Costa County.

"This whole development we have here is part of a greater dream called the Delta Science Center," said Mike Moran, naturalist for Big Break Regional Shoreline, waving at the pier, amphitheater and 50-foot-long Delta map. A prefabricated visitor center to hold exhibits, class space and a field study lab is under construction and expected to open next year.

"One reason why this map is really important is the location where we're standing is really critical," said Nancy Kaiser, interpretive services manager for the park district.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/07/02/3742854/concrete-map-park-capture-scope.html#ixzz1RwCU4JIT>

How state's farmers weathered drought

By Kelly Zito

SF Chronicle— June 16, 2011

California's most recent drought cost consumers more than \$1.5 billion in lost hydropower and led to the cancellation of two commercial salmon fishing seasons, but its impacts on agriculture were more mixed than previously thought, according to a water policy report released today.

While water shortages drove down revenues in some farming districts nearly 20 percent, statewide the industry posted some of the highest sales totals on record. "A lot of districts suffered and faced drought restrictions, but in other counties they had record crop plantings," said Juliet Christian-Smith, researcher at Oakland's Pacific Institute. The 107-page study, titled "Impacts of the 2007-2009 California Drought: What Really Happened?" examined state and federal data on crops, employment, river flows, wildlife surveys, salinity levels and other indicators in an effort to gauge the economic fallout of three consecutive years with well-below-normal precipitation.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/06/16/MNK21JUH6J.DTL#ixzz1Rw5CbbYT>

California's Next Nightmare

By Alex Prud'Homme

New York Times Magazine—July 1, 2011

People tend to underestimate the power of floods: six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down; two feet of water can float most cars away. Floods kill an average of 127 Americans a year — more than tornadoes or hurricanes — and cause more than \$2 billion of property damage annually, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association.

This spring, the nation was riveted by images of blown levees and submerged towns in the Midwest along the Mississippi River. But an even more threatening situation looms in California, especially around the San Francisco Bay Delta. The delta is the link between two-thirds of the state's fresh-water supply — which originates in the Sierra Nevada and the rivers of the north — and two-thirds of the state's population, which resides in the south. Starting in the 1870s, farmers began building 1,100 miles of levees around the delta to control floodwaters and create farmland out of tule marshes.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Sacramento District

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/03/magazine/sacramento-levees-pose-risk-to-california-and-the-country.html?_r=1&ref=california

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 in January; the meeting focused on 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.

In order to better scope the technical investigations necessary to complete the study, the PDT has been brainstorming conceptual “measures” which could be combined to create preliminary conceptual alternatives to be evaluated in the study. The third multi-agency meeting was held on July 13th to present and get feedback on preliminary conceptual measures and other work completed to date.

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, 2011
- √ Third meeting with other Federal, State, and Local agencies—July 13, 2011
- 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 the Corps and will go into an FCSA package which will be sent to the Corps' South Pacific Division office for review and approval.

The Corps team has completed draft Project Management Plans (PMPs) for three additional 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 and geotechnical investigations are underway to gain further information about the levee, scour areas, and other project features. The final geotech analysis report has been submitted by the sponsor and is under review by Corps staff. Preliminary engineering designs and cost estimates are underway.

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. A 65% product review meeting was held on June 13th to present the 65% complete product, provide instruction for commenting on the mapbook online, 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.

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

- **Hydraulic Modeling:**
 - CVFED released preliminary FLO-2D models for the Lower San Joaquin region in July 2011. HEC—RAS models will be available by year end 2011. All models will be reviewed and calibrated upon receipt for use within the Lower San Joaquin River feasibility study (LSJRFS).
- **Geotechnical:**
 - Collaboration among LSJRFS and the State of California's Urban Levee Evaluation (ULE) program continues. In August 2011 LSJRFS will initiate geotechnical analysis for the Stockton Metropolitan area using the State's geotechnical data for the Lower San Joaquin region. Use of the State's geotechnical data within LSJRFS helps to ensure consistency of geotechnical information within the region, increases study efficiency and reduces potential study cost.
- **Economic Valuation:**
 - Preliminary economic valuation of potential damages for the Stockton Metropolitan area will be completed by the end of August. The project delivery team will continue preliminary economic valuation of the remaining project area throughout fiscal year 2012. Economic valuation is an early step in the cost benefit analysis process required for project justification.
- **Upcoming Meetings:**
 - Project Delivery Team Meeting July 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 |
| FY 2011 | \$519,000 |

Milestones

FY 14: 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 was held on Monday, March 21, 2011. The comment period closed 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 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.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 (BDGP): <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

Sacramento District Planning Editors:
Brooke Schlenker- Brooke.E.Schlenker@usace.army.mil
Matilda Evoy-Mount- Matilda.L.Evoy-Mount@usace.army.mil

USACE South Pacific Division Public Affairs Chief:
Torrie McAllister- 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

Upcoming Delta Events

July

- 21: Lower San Joaquin River Feasibility Study PDT Meeting
- 27: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting
- 27: Delta Regional Initiatives Team Meeting
- 28 & 29: [Delta Stewardship Council Meeting](#)
- 31: [Courtland Pear Fair](#)

August

- 5: BDPAC/DLHAC Meeting
- 10: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting