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In the News

A Blast from the Past:**Concerning the Rivers****Sacramento Daily Union—December 9, 1890**

Recommendations Concerning the Improvement of Navigation—Relief from Debris is Possible. The State River Commission, authorized by Act of the last Legislature, has completed its report to the Governor, which is comprised in a volume of nearly 150 printed pages, containing maps and charts. The members of the Commission are C. F. Reed, C. E. Grunsky and J. J. Crawford. The report embraces a detailed description of the Sacramento, San Joaquin and Feather rivers and their tributaries, with extracts from the reports of Colonel Mendell, of the Government Engineering Corps, State Engineer Hall and other officials. <http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cdnc/cgi-bin/cdnc?a=d&d=SDU18901209.2.9&cl=search&srpos=4&dliv=none&e=-----en-Logical-50--1---Sacramento+river+Delta+san+joaquin+corps-all---California+Digital+Newspaper+Collection,+Center+for+Bibliographic+Studies+and+Research,+University+of+California,+Riverside,+<http://cdnc.ucr.edu>>.

**Scientists use natural predator to control
invasive Delta water weed**

Bay City News Service
Mercury News- July 28, 2011

Scientists with the California Department of Food and Agriculture began releasing a small insect native to South America into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta earlier this month in an effort to control an invasive species of plant that has been choking waterways. The insect, known as the water hyacinth plant hopper, has a voracious appetite for water hyacinth, an aquatic weed that has been causing serious problems in the Delta. Water hyacinth, which itself is native to the Amazon region of South America, is a floating weed that can grow so densely that it forms thick rafts that cover the surface of the water, preventing boat access and clogging intake systems. The leaf hoppers destroy the plant by sucking plant juices from its leaves, eventually killing them. Before releasing the insect, state and federal scientists reviewed it extensively to make sure its introduction into the Delta would not cause unforeseen harm to the ecosystem, said Steve Lyle, director of public affairs for the California Department of Food and Agriculture. The creature has proven to feed only on water hyacinth, which makes it an ideal insect to use as a biological control agent, Lyle said.

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_18573605

Landowners, experts facing Delta standoff

By Mike Taugher
The Reporter- August 2, 2011

Karen Cunningham's cows were resting in the pasture below while muscled-up power boats raced back and forth 10 to 15 feet above them on the other side of the levee. Should the levee break, the pasture would fill like a giant bowl and destroy, at least temporarily, Cunningham's ranch on Bradford Island -- a remote spot accessible only by ferry on the edge of east Contra Costa County. It could also have an outsized effect on water supplies across California. But Cunningham isn't worried about a levee break, which she considers highly unlikely. It is the fix being worked up to protect water supplies that is the bigger threat, she says. "This whole system as it is will be destroyed," she predicted. The tension between landowners like Cunningham, who want to preserve the Delta as it is, and outside experts, who warn that the state faces a potential catastrophe in the Delta, is heading toward a standoff of sorts. It is a standoff that, while welcome to those who think things are headed in the wrong direction, is causing some experts to worry that whatever slow progress has been made in addressing the region's fragile levees could be further stalled or delayed.

http://www.thereporter.com/news/ci_18599574

Plan to restore Delta released to public

By Matt Weiser
The Sacramento Bee—August 3, 2011

Rules on river flows, fees on utilities and more water conservation on farms are among the policies proposed in a draft plan to restore the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The first full public draft of the "Delta Plan" was released today by the Delta Stewardship Council, a state agency established by 2009 water legislation. The plan arises from years of concern about the Delta amid rising water demand and habitat degradation. It must balance these competing interests as "co-equal goals," a phrase in the law that aims to put habitat on an equal footing with water consumption. To that end, the plan seeks to reduce reliance on Delta water supplies by making far-flung regions of the state more self-sufficient. Today, 25 million Californians from Napa to San Diego depend on Delta water.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/08/03/3814853/plan-to-restore-delta-released.html#ixzz1UqXh7a53>



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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 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
- FY 11 appropriations at \$239,000

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 FCSA package has been 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. 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
- FY 11 Received \$598,700



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: \$ 467,000
 FY 06: \$ 222,000
 FY 07: \$ 497,000
 FY 08: \$ 512,000 (includes reprogramming of \$50k)
 FY 09: \$ 230,300
 FY 10: \$ 249,000 (includes reprogramming of \$50k)
 FY11: \$ 0

Milestones

- Programmatic EIR/EIS for alternatives: FY 2014
- Adopt Sediment Management Plan: FY 2015



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) and Non-Urban Levee Evaluation (NULE) programs has revealed that the State's sub-surface investigation efforts, LIDAR, and portions of the deterministic analysis can be reused for LSJRFS geotechnical effort. In addition, the State's existing condition levee performance curves may be useful for the purpose of preliminary screening of the LSJRFS area. The Corps geotechnical team will continue deterministic analysis on the LSJRFS levee systems and complete final existing condition levee performance curves to establish baseline conditions for the feasibility report.
- **Economic Valuation:**
 - Inventory field work has been completed for the Stockton Metropolitan area. The inventory information will be used to conduct a preliminary economic valuation of potential damages. The project delivery team will continue to conduct inventory field work and complete a preliminary economic valuation on the remaining study 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 August 18, 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 SEIS/R. The beneficial use survey has identified preliminary levee rehabilitation, habitat enhancement and stockpile sites for the placement of dredged material. The utilities survey has been completed. A draft habitat mapping report is complete and is under review. Preliminary estimates of economic benefits have been prepared. USACE will continue to work with participating Delta LTMS agencies to approve a sediment sampling and analysis plan.

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 (date TBD, funding dependent)
- Publish DEIS/DEIR (date TBD, funding dependent)

Funding

FY 08: Received \$403,000 Federal
 FY 09: Received \$1,340,000 Federal
 FY 10: \$1,093,000 in FY09 carry over funds
 FY11: \$0 (\$380,850 Fed and non-Fed carryover from FY10)

Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel Project

San Francisco District, USACE (SPN)

Current Work

The draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Report (dSEIS/R) was published 25 February 2011, the public hearing was held on 21 March 2011, and the comment period closed 18 April 2011. The project website is www.sacramentoshipchannel.org.

Funding

FY 09: Combined Federal and non-Federal share: \$1,276,000
 FY 10: Combined Federal and non-Federal share: \$2,000,000
 FY11: \$3,427,531 Federal and non-Federal

Milestones

- Publish revised dSEIS/R March 2012
- Revised dSEIS/R comment period March/April 2012
- Publish Final SEIS/R July 2012
- Sign Record of Decision (ROD) September 2012
- Award first construction contract (mitigation) September 2012

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-suming 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 (BDCP): <http://baydeltaconservationplan.com>

Bay-Delta Office (BDO), DWR: <http://baydeltaoffice.water.ca.gov/>

California Delta Chambers & Visitors Bureau: <http://www.californiadelta.org/>

SacDelta.com, an interactive guide to the Delta: <http://www.sacdelta.com/>

SF Bay to Stockton Navigation: <http://www.sfbaytostockton.org>

Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel: <http://www.sacramentoshipchannel.org>

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

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

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DeltaNews@usace.army.mil

Upcoming Delta Events

August

- 18: Lower San Joaquin River Feasibility Study PDT Meeting
- 24: Delta Regional Initiatives Team Meeting
- 24: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting
- 25 & 26: [Delta Stewardship Council Meeting](#)

September

- 2: BDPAC/DLHAC Meeting
- 7: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting