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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****A Blast from the Past:  
Reclaiming of Bouldin Island  
Pacific Rural Press-- July 15, 1905  
Mr. J.A. Yeatman, M.E.**

The annual spring flood waters of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers of California are well known. The soil of the lower Sacramento valley is light and unsuited when formed into embankment to resist the force of these streams during flood season. During the past twenty years there has hardly been a year that one or more of these delta islands have not been completely submerged. The flood waters of 1904 reached their highest level in the latter part of March, with the result that Bouldin island, Tyler island Statten island and Edwards island, containing 31,000 acres, were submerged, besides twice this acreage on the lower San Joaquin, which was not in such a high state of cultivation. The loss, measured in reconstructive cost and pumping on these three islands, amounted to about \$800,000, together with the loss of one year's crop and the unmeasured sum of restoring the land to its former state of cultivation.

<http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cdnc/cgi-bin/cdnc?a=d&cl=search&d=PRP19050715.2.8.1&srpos=177&e=-----en-Logical-50-151---IN-Sacramento+river+Delta+san+joaquin--->

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

**Delta smelt numbers rise in recent survey  
catch**

By Bettina Boxall  
Los Angeles Times-- October 13, 2011

The imperiled fish that has been at the center of California's water wars may be at its highest numbers in a decade, judging by the results of a recent survey. Every month in the fall, state biologists tow nets in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, sampling for the threatened delta smelt to estimate the native fish's population. The September catch this year, though still small by historic standards, was the biggest since 2001, when the numbers of smelt and other delta fish started to plunge to dangerously low levels, triggering cutbacks to water customers in the Central Valley and Southern California. Biologists attribute the uptick to a variety of factors, many tied to the surge of water that a wet winter and spring sent into the delta.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-water-smelt-20111013.0.7067478.story>

**Judge nixes key parts of Delta salmon  
plan**

By John Ellis  
The Fresno Bee- September 20, 2011

A federal judge in Fresno on Tuesday invalidated key parts of a plan to protect endangered winter- and spring-run chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead species that migrate through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. U.S. District Judge Oliver W. Wanger's 279-page decision has similarities to a ruling last December on the threatened delta smelt, although this new ruling involves slightly different facts and challenges brought by the water users who depend on delta water. Like the smelt decision, Tuesday's salmon and steelhead ruling likely will force the federal government to rewrite the plan -- known as a biological opinion -- for the second time in three years. Wanger's decision, however, was a mixed bag - even though supporters of increased delta pumping are already hailing it as a great victory - and is likely another skirmish in the long-running battle between environmentalists and urban and agricultural water users over the delta.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2011/09/20/2546262/judge-nixes-key-parts-of-delta.html#ixzz1an919Cm0>

**Despite controversy over regulations, re-  
cord water deliveries pumped from Delta**

By Mike Taugher  
Contra Costa Times-- September 30, 2011

Despite the teeth gnashing and political posturing that suggests protecting fish is drying up water supplies, Delta water sent to farms and cities hit an all-time high this year. Another record was set too: 9 million Sacramento splittail fish were collected at the giant Delta pumps near Tracy.

The records show that characterizing the long-running fight over Delta water as one in which regulations are wiping out those who rely on it is not necessarily true. New measures to protect fish indeed have affected water supplies, but most of the cuts to date have been due to drought.

Water agencies, despite the restrictions, took record amounts of water after the drought ended, according to the final numbers recorded as California's water year ended Friday.

[http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci\\_19014463?source=rss](http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci_19014463?source=rss)



**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 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 13<sup>th</sup> to present and get feedback on preliminary conceptual measures and other work completed to date. The team is currently working to identify preliminary conceptual alternatives.

#### 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—2012

# 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters 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 13<sup>th</sup>, 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. 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. A Final Phase 1 (95% complete) meeting was held on September 26<sup>th</sup> at the USACE Sacramento District offices to discuss deliverables and next steps. The final products for Phase 1 have been completed, delivered to the Corps electronically, and are awaiting printing. The final Phase 1 product includes:

- 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 final product visit:

[www.deltafloodemergencyplan.org](http://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 \$150k)  
 FY11: \$ 0  
 FY12: \$ 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

- **Hydrology:**
  - Central Valley Hydrology Study (CVHS) hydrology report for the Lower San Joaquin River under development by the State of California is now scheduled to be released by June 2012. The Lower San Joaquin River feasibility study (LSJRFS) will use the updated hydrology to determine future conditions for the Lower San Joaquin River region.
- **Hydraulic Modeling:**
  - CVFED model schedule for use within the LSJRFS:
    - HEC-RAS calibrated models for three stream groups will be released by the end of November
    - Pending LIDAR post processing final FLO-2D models will be released by March 2012
- **Geotechnical Analysis:**
  - In fiscal year 2012, the USACE geotechnical team will continue deterministic analysis on the LSJR levee systems by utilizing input from the State of California's Urban Levee Evaluation (ULE) and Non-Urban Levee Evaluation (NULE) programs. The USACE geotechnical team will complete final existing condition levee performance curves to establish baseline conditions for the feasibility report.
- **Preliminary Screening Analysis:**
  - The project delivery team is currently scoping the effort to conduct a preliminary screening of the Lower San Joaquin River study area to initiate prioritization of flood damage areas.
- **Upcoming Meetings:**
  - Project Delivery Team Meeting October 20, 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](http://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-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 reviewing and approving 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 team has begun work on the Programmatic Implementation Framework Document, also known as the Companion Document. The team has also reviewed the 70% draft 2012 CVFPP Report with the 90% draft expected in late September. The team has also been asked to provide comments on the administrative draft of the "Living With Risk" document produced by DWR. Comments are due September 23rd.

### Background

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, late 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>

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## Upcoming Delta Events

### October

- 19: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting
- 20: Lower San Joaquin Feasibility Study PDT Meeting
- 20 & 21: [Delta Independent Science Board– Delta Scientific Programs](#)
- 27 & 28: [Delta Stewardship Council Meeting](#)

### November

- 2: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting
- 4: Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee Meeting
- 11: Veteran's Day