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SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION DELTA INITIATIVES
SACRAMENTO AND SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICTS
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Delta News

A look at Corps activities and other news affecting the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta

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In the News

A Blast from the Past:

Money pledged to end river floods

San Francisco Call– August 30, 1909

San Joaquin and Sacramento Association to Solve Problem in Delta Regions.

ANTIOCH. Aug. 29. — The opening wedge, which ultimately will prove to be a final solution of the control of the flood waters of the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers in the delta regions, was entered at the meeting of the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers' association held at Rio Vista yesterday. Arthur Seymour of Sacramento, a large owner on Grand island, was elected chairman and Frank Gardner of San Francisco secretary. The object of the meeting was stated by A. E. Anderson of San Francisco, followed by enthusiastic addresses by Colonel John P. Irish of Oakland, a large owner on the Franks tract; Evan Lobensels. Judge McLaughlin of Sacramento and many others. The owners, who had been buffeted for years by the storm king, were in a mood to "do things," and in a spirit of "let us get together and make the dirt fly."

http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cdnc/cgi-bin/cdnc?a=d&cl=search&d=SFC19090830.2.28.1&srpos=17&e=-------en-Logical-50--1---IN-Sacramento+river+Delta+san+joaquin----

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

How has climate change impacted California?

By Matt Weiser
The Sacramento Bee- November 21, 2011

The songbirds at the feeder outside your window are not the same as they used to be. The goldfinch, the grosbeak and even the ever-present sparrow are all a little bit bigger.

The reason is climate change, according to a new study, which found that 70 bird species, all common to Central California, have evolved a longer wingspan and greater body mass over the past 40 years.

Scientists think such adaptations, in annual increments of less than a tenth of a percent on average, help birds cope with food shortages and stronger storms already triggered by climate change.

http://www.sacbee.com/2011/11/21/4070024/how-has-climate-change-impacted.html#ixzz1eNpsF8wl

Delta wildlife refuge will now be open for daily drop-in visitors

By Alex Breitler
The Stockton Record– November 4, 2011

One of the most accessible wildlife refuges in the Delta area is about to become more, well, accessible.

You've probably driven past the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge many times while traveling Interstate 5 between Stockton and Sacramento. The refuge is just west of the freeway, along Hood Franklin Road.

Despite its easy location, Stone Lakes has never had nature trails or other facilities that are open to the public on a drop-in basis. That changes Saturday. Near refuge headquarters on the south side of Hood Franklin, officials have opened up a new nature area with an amphitheater, interpretive displays and a small network of trails to nearby wetlands.

The nature area will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week.

"That is what's neat about this," said refuge manager Bart McDermott. "You can come out at any time, on your own accord."

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=%2F20111104%2FA_NEWS%2F111040312%2F-1%2FRSS02&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+RecordnetNewsHeadlines+%28Recordnet+News+Headlines%29&utm_content=Google+Reader

Delta Plan lacks specifics but sets foundation for new water policy

By Mike Taugher
Contra Costa Times– November 4, 2011

A blueprint for the Delta's future and much of California's water supply falls short of the detailed road map sought two years ago by lawmakers because dozens of plans expected from other agencies are not done, the head of the agency in charge of the blueprint said Friday.

Lawmakers ordered up a Delta Plan as part of sweeping reforms passed in 2009 to reverse ecological decline in the estuary and to stabilize California's water supply. It is intended to strike a new balance between environmental protection and demands for Delta water.

http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci_19269392?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 13th 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.

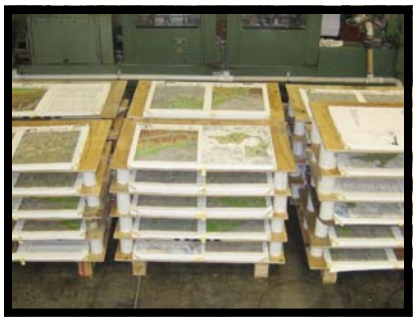
The Corps team has completed draft Project Management Plans (PMPs) for three additional LSP projects, including **Bacon Island, Walnut Grove, and River Junction**. Final review and certification of PMPs and negotiation of Feasibility Cost Share Agreements (FCSAs) with non-Federal sponsors is ongoing. 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 13th, the FCSA for Bethel Island – Horseshoe Bend was signed by the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District (BIMID) and the Corps. The PDT met on November 1st, and tentatively selected a cost effective plan for recommendation. 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 26th 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 currently 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

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

- Hydraulic Modeling:
  - State of California Central Valley Floodplain Evaluation and Delineation (CVFED) model schedule for use within the LSJRFS:
    - Revised schedule date for release of HEC-RAS calibrated models is now January 2012
    - Pending LIDAR post processing final FLO-2D models will be released by March 2012
- Preliminary Screening:
  - The project delivery team is conducting a preliminary screening of the Lower San Joaquin River study area to initiate prioritization of flood damage areas. The preliminary screening is scheduled for completion by March 30, 2012.
- Upcoming Meetings:
  - Management Briefing November 17, 2011
  - Management Meeting November 30, 2011
  - Project Delivery Team Meeting December 13, 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 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 reviewing and approving the CVIFMS Project Management Plan (PMP) and associated Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FSCA) 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 which is anticipated to be completed in mid-2012. 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.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/dsmo/sab/drmsp/

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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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

November

24: Thanksgiving!
30: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting

December

2: Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee Meeting
3: Delta Reflections 31st Annual Lighted Boat Parade
14: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting
15 & 16: Delta Stewardship Council

Happy Holidays!