ISSUE
74
May 2012

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

THIS ISSUE

In the News P. 1

Delta Islands & Levees Feasibility Study P. 2

CALFED Levee Stability Program P. 3

Lower San Joaquin Feasibility Study P.4

Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel Project P. 5

Central Valley Integrated Flood Management Study P. 6

SF Bay to Stockton Navigation Improvement Project and Delta Long Term Management Strategy (Delta-LTMS) P.7

Delta Events P.8

In the News

GPS Robot Swarm Swims California Rivers

By Jesse Emspak
Discovery News - May 14, 2012

Swarms of robots equipped with a sensors and GPS units are swimming in California rivers measuring water flow, salinty levels and pollution.
At the University of California, Berkeley, a group of 100 robots was released into the Sacramento River near Walnut Grove, Calif. The project, called the Floating Sensor Network, will, the designers hope, change the way water quality and flows are monitored in the Sacramento-San Joaquin river system. About two thirds of California's fresh water is in that system, supplying some two-thirds of the state's population with drinking and irrigation. The initiative is led by associate professor Alexandre Bayen at the Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS).
The robots each have a sensor to test the salinity of the water and a GPS unit from a smartphone.
http://www.ouramazingplanet.com/2887-robot-swarm-swim-rivers.html

'Unacceptable': Stockton levees lacking, Army Corps says

By Alex Breitler
Stockton Record—May 08, 2012

STOCKTON - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Monday that levees protecting Stockton are "unacceptable," its second such finding in the past two years.
Inspectors walked 82 miles of the Bear Creek and Calaveras River levees in 2010 and found erosion, excess trees and brush, and hundreds of "encroachments" built on or near the levees. The encroachments range from decades-old diversion pipes in rural areas to boat docks, steps or patios in urban neighborhoods.
In total, 13 of the 14 levee areas studied were deemed "unacceptable" because of deficiencies likely to harm the levees' ability to perform during a major flood, the Corps said Monday.
The finding can have two consequences: a loss of federal assistance rebuilding a levee after a flood, and new high-risk flood zones forcing mandatory flood insurance upon residents.
http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=%2F20120508%2FA_NEWS%2F205080321%2F-1%2Frss02&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+RecordnetNewsHeadlines+%28Recordnet+News+Headlines%29&utm_content=Google+Reader

California's Deadlocked Delta: Can We Bring Back What We've Lost?

Audio Report by Lauren Sommer
QUEST Northern California—May 11, 2012

As detective stories go, this sunny, spring day in the Delta isn't a typical backdrop. In the distance, tractors move slowly through dry fields of row crops.
"Once he got lost, they were wandering all over," says Alison Whipple of the San Francisco Estuary Institute, a non-profit research group based in Richmond. Her colleague, Robin Grossinger, agrees. "They were all over this place." The two are trying to piece together the path of William Wright, a man who got hopelessly lost somewhere nearby.
I should probably mention: it happened 160 years ago. Whipple and Grossinger are historical ecologists. They use sources like old photos, hand-drawn maps and early land surveys to sleuth out what this landscape looked like before it was dramatically remade by Californians.
The Delta's landscape has been dramatically remade over the last 200 years. Today, it's a crucial part of the state's water system, supplying 25 million people and irrigating millions of acres of farm land. But with this re-engineering, the Delta's ecosystem has collapsed, harming the fishing industry and putting water supplies at risk. Little is known about what it once looked like.
http://science.kqed.org/quest/audio/californias-deadlocked-delta-can-we-bring-back-what-weve-lost/

Draft plan for Delta tunnel won't meet June deadline

By Matt Weiser
The Sacramento Bee—May 5, 2012

A draft plan for a massive Delta water diversion will not be completed by the end of June as expected, state officials announced Friday.
The news brought a round of finger-pointing by some of the government agencies involved, which seemed to boil down to one key issue: They can't agree what to build.
The massive project is designed to both improve water deliveries from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and restore its imperiled fish species. The Delta is a source of drinking water for 25 million Californians, a demand that has strained aquatic habitat.
http://www.sacbee.com/2012/05/05/4467475/draft-plan-for-delta-tunnel-wont.html#storylink=cpy

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, 2011; 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. This information was presented at the third multi-agency meeting, held in July 2011, in order to get feedback on preliminary conceptual measures and other work completed to date. **The team is currently working to identify preliminary conceptual alternatives and refining scopes for the 2006 PMP revision.**

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
- FY 12 appropriations at $971,000

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. Documentation for an In-Progress Review in May has been reviewed by the District and will be reviewed by an Agency Technical Review Team in May.

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 and delivered to participating counties. 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
- FY 12: Received $0

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:
    - Pending LIDAR post processing final FLO-2D models will be released by May 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 May 30, 2012.
- Upcoming Meetings:
  - Decision Point #1: June 7, 2012

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
FY 2012	$300,000

Milestones

FY 14: Feasibility Scoping Meeting

Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel Project

San Francisco District, USACE (SPN)

Current Work

Current Work: The Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Report (dSEIS/R) was published February 2011. A Revised dSEIS/R is scheduled to be published July 2012. The project website is www.sacramentoshipchannel.org.

Funding

FY10: Federal $2,000,000, Non-Federal $746,666

FY11: Federal $2,794,196, Non-Federal $633,335

FY12: Federal $2,800,000, Non-Federal $171,349

Milestones

- Publish Revised dSEIS/R - September 2012
- Revised dSEIS/R comment period - September/November 2012
- Publish Final SEIS/R - May 2013
- Sign Record of Decision (ROD) - June 2013

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. USACE and the Port are conducting a Limited Reevaluation Study and corresponding SEIS/SEIR to resume deepening the channel from -30' to -35' (with selective widening) to realize significant transportation cost savings. Approximately 50% of the dredged material is targeted for beneficial reuse, providing a significant additional benefit to the CA Delta.

Central Valley Integrated Flood Management Study

Sacramento District, USACE (SPK)

Current Work

The CVIFMS team is currently coordinating with the CVFPP team in 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 2012. The team is also reviewing the public draft 2012 CVFPP.

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.

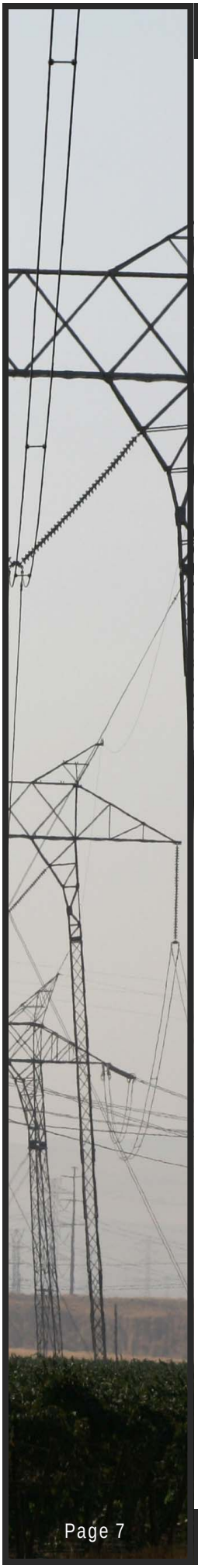
Project Purpose

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, early 2012
- Programmatic Implementation Framework Document, 2012
- Programmatic Feasibility Study, 2017



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 and a Sampling and Analysis Plan for the excavation. The utilities survey has been completed and the follow on Title search will be undertaken. Preliminary estimates of economic benefits have been prepared and will be updated with current information this year. Hydrologic models of the planed project are underway as well. USACE will continue to work with participating Delta LTMS agencies to approve a sediment sampling and analysis plan as well as other project considerations.

Funding

FY 08: Received $403,000 Federal
FY 09: Received $1,340,000 Federal
FY 10: $1,093,000 in FY09 carry over funds
FY 11: $0 ($380,850 Fed and non-Fed carry over from FY10)
FY 12: Received $800,000 Federal

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)
- Prepare Sampling and Analysis Plan— September, 2012
- Revise Project Economic Analysis— September, 2012

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.

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

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

Milestones

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

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/

Delta Stewardship Council: http://www.deltacouncil.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.

Sacramento District Commander:
Colonel Bill Leady

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

Public Affairs:
Sacramento District Public Affairs Chief:
DeDe Cordell- DeDe.Cordell@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

May

22: CABA Symposium—Estuarine Ecology of Juvenile Salmonids
24: Delta Stewardship Council Meeting
24: Delta Protection Commission Meeting
28: Memorial Day

June

6: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting
14 & 15: Delta Stewardship Council Meeting
15-17: Isleton Cajun Festival