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In the News

**Eroding levee on San Joaquin River to
get repairs**

By Matt Weiser

The Sacramento Bee– January 7, 2011

Concerns are emerging among flood control officials that a colossal Sierra Nevada snowpack could cause flooding problems this spring on the San Joaquin River, and a peek at that threat has already emerged. Emergency repairs were expected to begin today on an eroding levee just south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta near Manteca – a result of heavy river flows from an unusually wet December.

The crumbling levee on the San Joaquin River, near the town of Vernalis, is not at imminent risk of failure. But the fix is intended to prepare the weak location for what could be much greater flows once the giant snowpack in the southern Sierra begins to melt.

"If we continue as wet as we have been, I think it's going to mean some fairly high water," said Ron Baldwin, director of San Joaquin County's Office of Emergency Services. "It really, at this point, depends on what the rest of winter brings."

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/01/07/3305918/eroding-levee-on-san-joaquin-river.html>

California urges tunnel system for delta

By Bettina Boxall

The Los Angeles Times– December 16, 2010

State officials Wednesday recommended construction of a \$13-billion tunnel system that would carry water under the troubled Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta to southbound aqueducts, a project that would replumb a perpetual bottleneck in California's vast water delivery network.

The proposal is far from final. It faces a new administration, lengthy environmental reviews and controversy over how much water should be exported from the Northern California estuary system that serves as a conduit for water shipments to Southern California and the San Joaquin Valley. The earliest completion date would be 2022.

The tunnel plan is a variation of an idea that has been around for decades. Voters in 1982 killed a proposal to route water around the delta in a canal. But talk of a bypass has resurfaced as endangered species protections in recent years have forced cutbacks in pumping from the south delta.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-water-tunnel-20101216,0,4140245.story>

Good news, bad news for fish in Delta

By Mike Taugher

Contra Costa Times– December 30, 2010

Delta fish continued to languish at depressed levels in 2010, according to the latest numbers from the state Department of Fish and Game.

A key annual survey performed each fall showed the Delta smelt population continues to hover at a level some biologists believe is near extinction, while year-old striped bass, a popular sport fish, dropped to a record low.

Not all the news for Delta fish is bad, though. Salmon returns this year have been the strongest in a couple of years, leading to optimism that anglers may get more than the paltry eight-day fishing season commercial fishermen got in off California in 2010 -- a season that followed two years of unprecedented closures.

http://www.contracostatimes.com/environment/ci_16976494?nclick_check=1

**\$1 million federal grant awarded to Dutch
Slough restoration**

By Matt Weiser

The Sacramento Bee– December 23, 2010

A project to restore a tidal marsh at Dutch Slough in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta has been awarded a \$1 million federal grant.

The governor and various state and federal agencies have identified Dutch Slough as critical to restoring the Delta. The type of tidal habitat to be restored in the slough is critical to numerous native fish species, but has been dramatically reduced by a century of levee construction and land development.

The 1,166-acre site, near Oakley in Contra Costa County, was once slated for housing development. But it was acquired in 2003 by the state Department of Water Resources, using a Coastal Conservancy grant, after its potential for restoration was recognized.

Dutch Slough is part of the Marsh Creek delta, which drains a large area on the east flank of Mount Diablo. The total restoration project, estimated to cost \$6.1 million, includes rerouting Marsh Creek from its present engineered culvert into a restored, meandering channel. An environmental impact report on the project was completed in March.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2010/12/23/3278367/1-million-federal-grant-awarded.html#ixzz1BPOxCsvg>

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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 on January 12th in order to solicit additional input. The meeting focused on the PDT’s progress to date and developments since the last meeting including 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 PMP, signed in 2006 with DWR, the non-Federal project sponsor.

Project Purpose

The Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study (Delta Study) is the Corps’ mechanism to participate in a cost-shared solution to address ecosystem restoration needs, flood risk management problems, and related water resources in the Delta and Suisun Marsh area. A Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (FCSA) was executed on May 26, 2006 with the DWR, the non-Federal sponsor. The Corps-DWR study team meets regularly to move the study forward and holds periodic Agency Coordination Meetings with associated Federal, State, and local agencies. The study will culminate in a feasibility report that will make recommendations on construction projects and/or additional studies for authorization by Congress.

Funding

- The total cost of the feasibility study is currently \$12,000,000; cost shared 50/50 with the DWR
- FY 08 appropriations at \$859,000
- FY 09 appropriations at \$478,000
 - Reprogrammed additional \$150,000
- FY 10 appropriations at \$394,000

Milestones

- √ Delta Site Visit—March 2009
- √ Funds Reprogrammed—June/July 2009
- √ Problems & Opportunities PDT Session—September 2009
- Second meeting with other Federal, State, and Local agencies—January 12, 2010
- Public Workshops—FY2011

CALFED Levee Stability Program

Sacramento District, USACE (SPK)

Current Work

The Corps team has completed draft PMPs for four LSP projects, including **McCormack-Williamson Tract, Bacon Island, Walnut Grove, and River Junction**. Final review and certification of PMPs and negotiation of FCSAs with non-Federal sponsors is ongoing. A draft PMP for the **Brannan-Andrus Levee Maintenance District** project is being developed for review. 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 PMP and FCSA for the project.

A Program Management Plan (PgMP) has been developed to capture program processes and procedures. The PgMP also includes templates for Project Management Plans (PMPs) and Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreements (FCSAs) developed for projects in the LSP.

To date, the Kleinfelder-Geomatrix Joint Venture (K-G JV) contractors have submitted 31 Preliminary Draft Project Implementation Reports (PDIRs) that will provide information for future PMPs.

Bethel Island Project

On July 13th, the FCSA for Bethel Island – Horseshoe Bend was signed by the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District (BIMID) and the Corps. Preliminary Hydraulic modeling has caused the PDT to revisit the scouring problem in Horseshoe Bend from an engineering perspective. Geotechnical investigations are underway to gain further information about the levee, scour areas, and other project features.

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. The second round of meetings were held in November to present the 35% complete product, validate data collected thus far, and gather additional information from County and RD representatives. The Corps is currently reviewing the 35% product and will begin scheduling 65% complete meetings in the upcoming months. 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.

Project Purpose

The CALFED Act (PL 108-361) directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to deliver a report that identified and prioritized potential levee stability projects in the Delta that could be carried out with the authorized \$90 million in Federal funds. An additional \$106 million was authorized to be appropriated by Section 3015 of WRDA 2007. To quickly identify critically needed projects with active non-Federal support, the USACE invited Delta stakeholders to submit project proposals with letters stating their willingness to participate as cost-sharing sponsors. In response, Delta area Reclamation Districts and flood management agencies submitted 68 project proposals totaling more than \$1 billion in estimated costs. USACE evaluated proposals and prioritized potential projects according to how well they met USACE environmental, economic, and other implementation criteria. The USACE short-term strategy is to move quickly to construction on high priority levee reconstruction projects identified in that report. The authorized \$196 million of Federal funds, plus the required non-Federal funds, would be an important first step to address Delta-wide levee system needs. The long-term strategy will be developed through the Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study process. The project delivery process includes: PMP/FCSA development; Project Implementation Report (PIR); SPD approval; Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) execution; design & construct; and operate & maintain.

Funding

Authorized appropriations of \$90M; additional WRDA 07 add of \$106M for a total of \$196M authorized to be appropriated.

- FY 08: Received \$4,920,000
- FY 09: Received \$4,784,000
- FY 10: Received \$4,814,000



Delta Long Term Management Strategy (Delta-LTMS) San Francisco District, USACE (SPN)

Current Work

An Interagency Working Group (IWG) teleconference is scheduled for January 18. Items scheduled for discussion include finalizing the Delta Dredging and Reuse Management Team operating procedures and revising the Delta LTMS schedule and workplan in the face of continued low funding through FY11. A combined Technical Work Group meeting will be scheduled for February; if feasible, this meeting will be scheduled after release of the draft Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel SEIS/R such that the project can be presented to the group. The TWG will also review results of the methyl mercury studies which took place in concert with operations and maintenance dredging last year and discuss the status of the Sampling and Analysis Plan for dredged material testing on the SF Bay to Stockton Project.

Additional updates, including past agendas and meeting minutes, can be found on the project website, <http://www.deltaltms.com>.

Project Purpose

The Delta Long-Term Management Strategy (LTMS) is a cooperative planning effort to coordinate, plan, and implement beneficial reuse of sediments in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Delta (Delta). Five agencies (USACE, USEPA, DWR, CBDA, and CVRWQCB) have begun to examine Delta dredging, reuse, and disposal needs. The Delta LTMS will explore ways to coordinate and manage dredging, planning, regulatory approval, and implementation to protect and enhance Delta functions, ecosystem, and water quality. The goals of the LTMS are to manage dredging activities to:

- Support and maintain Delta channel functions for navigation, flood control, water conveyance, and recreation
- Maintain and stabilize Delta levees that protect land-based activities, water conveyance, and terrestrial ecosystems
- Protect and enhance water quality for Delta water supply and ecosystem function

Funding

FY 05: \$ 133,558

FY 06: \$ 450,187

FY 07: \$ 591,692

FY 08: \$ 440,633

FY 09: \$ 273,403

FY 10: \$ 100,000

Total cost of the study: \$6,440,000

Delta LTMS was approved to receive reprogrammed funds of \$150,000.

Milestones

- Programmatic EIR/EIS for alternatives: FY 2011
- Adopt Sediment Management Plan: FY 2012

Lower San Joaquin Feasibility Study

Sacramento District, USACE (SPK)

Current Work

- **Geotechnical:**
 - Draft version of the preliminary geotechnical report for the Stockton-Metropolitan area is under review by the non-federal sponsors.
- **Hydrology:**
 - Hydrologic analysis of the Lower San Joaquin River tributaries is underway. The draft hydrology report is scheduled for March 2011.
- **Hydraulic Modeling:**
 - In Spring 2011 CVFED will release baseline HEC-RAS and FLO-2D models of the Lower San Joaquin River tributaries. The models will be reviewed and calibrated for use within the Lower San Joaquin River feasibility study.
- **Upcoming Meetings:**
 - Executive Committee Meeting
January 26, 2011
 - Project Delivery Team Meeting
January 20, 2011
 - Hydraulic Partnership Meeting
January 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

Milestones

FY 13: Feasibility Scoping Meeting

SF Bay to Stockton Navigation Improvement Project

San Francisco District, USACE (SPN)

Current Work

Work continues for studying existing conditions for the EIS/EIR. The beneficial reuse survey has identified preliminary levee rehabilitation, habitat enhancement, and stockpile sites for the placement of dredged material. Other technical studies that are currently underway include a utilities survey and the baseline conditions report (the baseline report will comprise the existing conditions section of the EIS/EIR). A draft habitat mapping report is complete and being reviewed. Another mapping effort to verify plant species will take place in spring 2011. The economics team has begun their analysis for projecting future commodities and uses at the Port of Stockton. This report is anticipated by mid spring. In addition, USACE will continue to work with participating agencies in the Delta LTMS to approve a Sediment Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) for the proposed project.

Project Purpose

The SF Bay to Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel Project is a congressionally authorized project being implemented by USACE and the Port of Stockton and the Contra Costa County Water Agency. A joint EIS/EIR will evaluate the action of navigational improvements to the John F. Baldwin and Stockton Deep Water Ship Channels. A General Reevaluation Report is being prepared to determine the feasibility of modifying the current dimensions of the West Richmond, Pinole Shoal, Suisun Bay, and Stockton Ship Channels, which are currently maintained to -35 feet MLLW and provide access to oil terminals, industry in Pittsburg, and the Port of Stockton



Milestones

- Feasibility Scoping Meeting (F3 Milestone) – April 2011
- Draft EIS/EIR – February 2012 (assumes adequate funding is available)

Funding

FY 08: Received \$403,000 Federal
 FY 09: Received \$1,340,000 Federal
 FY 10: \$1,093,000 in FY09 carry over funds

Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel Project

San Francisco District, USACE (SPN)

Current Work

The Project Delivery Team (PDT) met with South Pacific Division and Headquarters on January 11 to discuss the status and pending release of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIS/R) and Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR). The PDT expects that the SEIS/R will be released in February such that construction may begin before the end of FY11. USACE San Francisco has completed a demonstration project targeting potential best management practices for methylmercury as it pertains to dredged material placement. The report based on this project is expected by mid-February.

Funding

FY 09: Combined Federal and non-Federal share: \$1,276,000

FY 10: Combined Federal and non-Federal share: \$2,000,000

Milestones

- Draft SEIS/SEIR February 2011
- Public Review period Feb 2011 - March 2011
- Public meeting(s) February 2011

Project Purpose

The Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel Project (SRDWSC) is a congressionally authorized project being implemented by USACE and the Port of West Sacramento. Currently, USACE and the Port are conducting a Limited Reevaluation Study to recommend navigation improvements for Federal funding and preparing a joint SEIS/SEIR to evaluate the action of resuming construction of navigational improvements to the SRDWSC.



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.deltatms.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>

Subscription Info

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Upcoming Delta Events

January

- 19: [California Water Commission Meeting](#)
- 19: [Delta Conservancy Board Meeting](#)
- 24: [Delta Stewardship Council - Public Scoping Meeting](#)
- 26: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study Project Delivery Team (PDT) Meeting
- 27 & 28: [Delta Stewardship Council Meeting](#)

February

- 9: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study Project Delivery Team (PDT) Meeting
- 15: DWR/USACE/MWD Delta Emergency Operations Planning Meeting
- 28 - March 2: [California Water and Environmental Modeling Forum 17th Annual Conference](#)