



SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY

Delta Conservancy Public Outreach Meeting on Levee and Restoration Projects
November 14, 2012, 5-8 p.m.
Courtland Auditorium, 146 Primasing Avenue, Courtland

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ACRONYMS

BDCP	Bay Delta Conservation Plan
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CVFPP	Central Valley Flood Protection Plan
CVP	Central Valley Project
CVRWQCB	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
CWC	California Water Code
DC	Delta Conservancy
DFG	Department of Fish and Game
DFM	Division of Flood Management - DWR
DILFS	Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study
DLHAC	Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee
DPC	Delta Protection Commission
DRMS	Delta Risk Management Strategy
DSC	Delta Stewardship Council
DSP	Delta Science Program
DWR	Department of Water Resources
ERP	Ecosystem Restoration Program
FESSRO	FloodSAFE Environmental Stewardship and Statewide Resources Office
FWS	Fish and Wildlife Service
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
IEP	Interagency Ecological Program
ITP	Incidental Take Permit
LTMS	Long-Term Management Strategy
NCCPA	Natural Community Conservation Planning Act
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
RPA	Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives
SFCWA	State and Federal Contractors Water Agency
SMP	Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan
SRCD	Suisun Resource Conservation District
SPFC	State Plan of Flood Control
SWP	State Water Project
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers

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State and Federal Contractors Water Agency	Byron Buck	bbuck@sfcwa.org	916-476-5052
State Water Resources Control Board	Leslie F. Grober	lgrober@waterboards.ca.gov	916-341-5428
Suisun Resources Conservation District	Steven Chappell	schappell@suisunrcd.org	707-425-9302
The Nature Conservancy	Leo Winternitz	lwinternitz@tnc.org	916-248-8236
US Army Corps of Engineers	Chris Gray		916-557-5100

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN (BDCP)

Overview

The Delta is a critical link in California's water supply system and provides vital habitat for fish and wildlife. Today, the Delta is a highly altered environment that isn't sufficiently meeting water supply or ecological needs. The Delta is also home to more than 500,000 people, a thriving agricultural economy, and is rich in unique recreational resources.

Passed in 2009, the Delta Reform Act mandated that the state manage the Delta in support of the co-equal goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration. The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP or Plan) is a 50-year, ecosystem-based plan designed to restore fish and wildlife species in the Delta in a way that also provides for the protection of reliable water supplies while minimizing impacts to Delta communities and farms.

The BDCP seeks to maintain and increase the habitat values of approximately 145,000 acres of land over its 50-year term. The Plan calls for improved fish passage via the Yolo Bypass and increased food production through habitat creation and restoration. The Plan also includes measures to address other ecological stressors such as water quality and predation. Habitat restoration will be closely monitored and implemented over time using established adaptive management principles. The BDCP also proposes a water conveyance facility to divert water from the Sacramento River in the north Delta. The proposed facility would feature three intakes with a combined diversion capacity of up to 9,000 cfs, tunneling the water using gravity flow 35 miles under the Delta to the existing pumping plants in the south Delta. This smaller footprint, announced in July 2012, represents reduced impacts on Delta communities and the environment while providing more natural flow patterns in the south Delta, benefiting many species of native fish while also safeguarding water deliveries.

HABITAT RESTORATION GOALS UNDER BDCP:

New Floodplain	up to 10,000 acres
Tidal Habitat	up to 65,000 acres
Channel Margin	20 levee miles
Riparian Habitat	up to 5,000 acres
Grassland Habitat	up to 10,000 acres
Other Habitats	up to 5,000 acres
Managed Wetlands	6,500 acres
Cultivated Lands	>45,000 acres

The BDCP is being developed in compliance with the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the California Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act (NCCPA). When complete, the BDCP will provide the basis for the issuance of endangered species permits for the operation of the state and federal water projects. A final decision on the proposed BDCP and associated habitat restoration awaits the completion of regulatory and environmental review and public input consideration.

Activities in the Delta and Suisun Marsh

Since 2006, the BDCP has been developed with input from numerous agencies, stakeholder groups, and the general public. The project team is working closely with state, local and federal agencies responsible for flood, water supply and ecosystem management. A Draft BDCP and Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement are expected to be released for formal public review and comment in early 2013. Authorizations and approvals to implement the plan will be provided by state and federal agencies. The BDCP will inform the Delta Plan being developed by the Delta Stewardship Council.

Engagement Opportunities

For more information, or to submit comments, visit www.BayDeltaConservationPlan.com, or call 1-866-924-9955.

Contact Information

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

**MID-PACIFIC REGION, BAY-DELTA OFFICE
ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION ACTIVITIES**

Overview

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) - in collaboration with other federal, state and local governments, tribes, non-governmental organizations and stakeholders - is implementing a variety of ecosystem restoration activities in the Bay-Delta related to the ongoing operation of the Central Valley Project (CVP). These efforts include planning and environmental compliance for the Yolo Bypass area.

Activities in the Delta

Reclamation and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) jointly prepared the Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Implementation Plan (Implementation Plan) in response to the National Marine Fisheries Service Biological and Conference Opinion on the Long-Term Operation of the CVP and State Water Project, which included reasonable and prudent alternative (RPA) actions associated with the Yolo Bypass to avoid jeopardizing species and adverse modification of designated and proposed critical habitat. The Implementation Plan addresses the following two specific RPA actions associated with restoration of floodplain rearing habitat and fish passage:

- RPA Action I.6.1: Restoration of Floodplain Rearing Habitat, through the increase of seasonal inundation within the lower Sacramento River basin; and
- RPA Action I.7: Reduce Migratory Delays and Loss of Salmon, Steelhead, and Sturgeon, through the modification of Fremont Weir and other structures of the Yolo Bypass.

The Implementation Plan also describes performance measures for these actions, potential actions for further evaluation, and the process and timeline for implementation. In addition, Reclamation and DWR are initiating a detailed planning and environmental compliance process to further implementation of the above RPA actions. This multi-disciplinary effort will include preparation of an environmental impact statement/environmental impact report; technical studies consisting of planning, environmental, economics, and engineering reports to support selection of a preferred alternative; a biological assessment in accordance with the Endangered Species Act; and other documentation as necessary to support required permitting and environmental compliance processes. The project includes stakeholder involvement including meetings and on-going communication with the Yolo Bypass Fisheries Enhancement Planning Team and partnering agencies. A Notice of Intent/Notice of Preparation to initiate the scoping process is anticipated to be issued in January 2013 and the environmental compliance process is estimated to be completed in 2016.

Contact Information

Reclamation's Bay-Delta Office www.usbr.gov/mp/BayDeltaOffice/Documents
MP Region Public Affairs Office, 916-978-5100, www.usbr.gov/mp

DELTA CONSERVANCY

Overview

Delta Conservancy was created by the Delta Plan Act of 2009 to be primary state agency to implement ecosystem restoration in the Delta and support efforts that advance environmental protection and the economic well being of Delta residents.

Activities in the Delta and Suisun Marsh

Currently we do not have any restoration projects; however, working on obtaining funding for an Arundo control and riparian restoration program.

The Conservancy will convene a voluntary Delta Restoration Network to coordinate actions among governmental and non-governmental entities engaged in Delta restoration and habitat management. We will invite representatives from the Delta Community to engage in Delta Restoration Network (DRN).

The Delta Branding Project through a Delta-wide collaboration process will develop a Delta Brand, including branding collateral and a marketing plan to promote the Delta, a destination, and the significance of the Delta to Californians.

Coordination

Any restoration projects taken on by the Conservancy must be consistent with the Delta Plan. If the BDCP is approved, the Conservancy will be one of several agencies that will implement restoration projects called for in the BDCP, but will ensure that local interest are included in projects we lead. Conservancy staff regularly attends meetings with other state agencies involved in restoration in the Delta.

Engagement Opportunities

Public can provide input by directly contacting staff, attending our Board meetings, and communicating through our Board members (Senator Lois Wolk, 5 county supervisors, Yolo Basin Foundation, Suisun Resource Conservation District, Delta Protection Commission).

Contact Information

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Kristal Davis Fadtko, Staff Environmental Scientist, 916-375-4994, kmdavis@deltaconservancy.ca.gov

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

Overview

Mission - to adaptively protect, maintain, and where possible enhance and restore the overall quality of the Delta environment consistent with the Delta Protection Act, and the Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta. This includes, but is not limited to, agriculture, wildlife habitat, and recreational activities.

Goal - to ensure orderly, balanced conservation and development of Delta land resources and improved flood protection.

Activities in the Delta and Suisun Marsh

- Reviewing local government land use plans for consistency with the Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta
- Promoting compatibility between agriculture and habitat through Working Landscapes
- Implementing the Economic Sustainability Plan
- Planning and establishing the Great California Delta Trail
- Pursuing National Heritage Area designation for the Delta
- Convening the Abandoned Vessels Removal group
- Developing a Delta-wide Emergency Planning and Response program
- Exploring the feasibility of regional assessment districts for maintenance and improvement of Delta levees
- Public outreach through statewide and local forums and events
- Representing local interests on the Delta Stewardship Council

Programs include activities which support economic sustainability, habitat restoration, water quality improvement, subsidence retardation, and levee stabilization. Such activities are consistent with the Delta Stewardship Council's co-equal goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration while protecting and enhancing the values of the Delta as an evolving place.

Coordination

The Commission's membership is predominantly comprised of local representatives, with focus on ensuring that the Delta is part of the big picture. In order to coordinate with parallel efforts, regular communication is maintained with a variety of entities including the Delta Stewardship Council, Department of Water Resources, Department of Fish and Game, Natural Resources Conservation Service, State Parks, Delta Conservancy, Delta Counties and Cities, Reclamation Districts, recreation groups and chambers, local farm bureaus, historical organizations, and other stakeholder groups.

Engagement Opportunities

The Commission is the voice for Delta citizens, providing a forum to influence the recognition and enhancement of the unique ecological, cultural, recreational, and agricultural values of the Delta. Meetings are open to the public, and processes are driven by technical and stakeholder advisory committees with draft documents circulated for public review. Forums have been held on a variety of topics including levee standards, agritourism, the Delta Trail, the National Heritage Area, and Working Landscapes.

Contact Information

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THE DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

THE DELTA PLAN

Overview

The 2009 Delta Reform Act created the Delta Stewardship Council. The Council's job is to develop and implement a legally enforceable, long-term management plan for the Delta to achieve the coequal goals of protecting and enhancing the Delta ecosystem, and providing for a more reliable water supply for California in a manner that protects and enhances the Delta as an evolving place. The Council serves as coordinator and integrator across agencies to focus on the Delta and will provide a thoughtful approach to managing the Delta's resources—an approach based on common sense and the best available science.

Activities in the Delta and Suisun Marsh

The Delta Plan calls for restoring habitat in six high priority locations: the Yolo Bypass, Cache Slough Complex, Cosumnes River–Mokelumne River confluence, lower San Joaquin River floodplain, Suisun Marsh and Western Delta. Restoration must be carried out consistent with the Department of Fish and Game's *Conservation Strategy*. Actions that would significantly reduce opportunities to restore habitat in these high priority areas must be avoided or mitigated. Levee projects must, where feasible, incorporate measures, such as setback levees, to increase floodplain and riparian habitat.

Coordination

The Council is scheduled to review and approve the final Delta Plan in the spring of 2013. Once the Delta Plan is approved, a state or local agency that proposes to undertake a significant action in Delta that meets certain criteria (a "covered action") will have to certify that the action is consistent with the Delta Plan. Any person who claims that a proposed covered action is inconsistent with the Delta Plan may bring an appeal to the Council. The Council, in turn, must hold a hearing on the appeal and issue written findings, either denying the appeal or sending the matter back to the state or local agency for reconsideration. The Delta Reform Act also provides a separate process in which the Council may hear appeals with regard to a determination by the Department of Fish and Game that the Bay Delta Conservation Plan has met the requirements for inclusion in the Delta Plan.

Engagement Opportunities

We invite you to send us your comments on the Delta Plan or related subjects by selecting the "Submit Comments" tab on our website: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/get-involved>. You are also welcome to attend a Council meeting to provide your comments in person, or mail comment to the address below.

Contact Information

Eric Alvarez, Public Information Officer, Delta Stewardship Council
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DUCKS UNLIMITED

Overview

Our Mission: Ducks Unlimited conserves, restores and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.

Ducks Unlimited is a non profit 501(c)(3) organization committed to restoring "Wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever." Conservation priorities are set nationally, regionally, and locally in order to reflect wildlife, habitat, and human needs at each of those levels. Ducks Unlimited has been conserving and restoring wetlands in the San Francisco Bay, Delta and Suisun Marsh for over 20 years.

Activities in the Delta and Suisun Marsh

Ducks Unlimited employs biologists, engineers, and support staff to carry out the organization's mission. Our project team has extensive expertise in restoration design and implementation and has worked extensively in the Bay, Delta, Suisun and Central Valley areas of California. We have been the prime implementing entity for nearly all of the tidal wetland restoration projects to date in the San Francisco Bay region.

Ducks Unlimited is active in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as well as the Suisun Marsh. Our projects have ranged from protecting rare riparian areas of the Cosumnes River, improving wildlife values on active agricultural lands, documenting the waterbirds benefits of Delta rice cultivation, restoring emergent Delta island wetlands, enhancing estuarine habitats in the Suisun Marsh, large subsidence reversal projects and tidal restoration. In addition to on the ground restoration work, DU has been assisting in the planning phases for the future of the Delta. Ducks Unlimited has conducted waterfowl and shorebird impact analysis for Conservation Measure 2 as well as the overall BDCP effects analysis. To date, our conservation programs in the Delta and Suisun Marsh have assisted with the conservation of over 90,000 acres of wetlands, farmlands, and other habitats for wildlife.

Coordination

As a non-profit organization DU works with private land owners, local and other state and federal agencies to conduct wetland habitat restoration. Ducks Unlimited partners with local, state and federal agencies for funding and permitting of restoration projects.

Engagement Opportunities

Feel free to contact Ducks Unlimited on how you can get involved helping with restoration or if you have questions on what work DU is doing in the Delta and other areas.

Contact Information

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DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM (ERP)

Overview

ERP is a multi-agency effort aimed at improving and increasing aquatic and terrestrial habitats and ecological function in the Delta and its tributaries. Principal participants overseeing ERP are the Department of Fish and Game, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, collectively known as the ERP Implementing Agencies.

Activities in the Delta and Suisun Marsh

The program's primary role is to provide funding and management for projects throughout the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and watersheds. Current work in the Delta includes, but is not limited to, habitat restoration (including riparian, upland, floodplain, shallow water and marsh habitat), fish screens and fish passage, ecosystem water quality, non-native invasive species, historical ecology, and foodweb productivity.

Coordination

ERP coordinates with the Delta Stewardship Council and Delta Science Program in the development of the Delta Plan, particularly relating to ecosystem restoration, water quality, adaptive management, and performance measures. Portions of the ERP Conservation Strategy were incorporated into the draft Delta Plan, including a description of—and rationale for—habitat types targeted for restoration, suggested actions for management of non-native invasive species, and an elevation map to help guide habitat restoration priorities in the Delta. Additionally, ERP staff coordinated with the Delta Science Program to ensure that the ERP adaptive management framework, as revised for the ERP Conservation Strategy, aligns with the adaptive management framework in the Delta Plan.

ERP provides BDCP with technical assistance in the development of biological goals and objectives, selecting methods for scientific analysis, development of an adaptive management and monitoring program, peer review, habitat mapping, and other activities associated with developing a Natural Communities Conservation Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan.

ERP coordinates with other programs and activities within the Delta including: Delta Conservancy, Central Valley Project Improvement Act Anadromous Fish Restoration Program, Fish Restoration Program Agreement, FloodSAFE California Initiative, Delta Tributary Instream Flow, Fish Passage Improvement Program, Delta Vision Foundation, State Wildlife Action Plan, California Water Quality Monitoring Council, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

ERP continues to contribute to Delta ecosystem restoration and health, environmental education, and focused research to answer key questions. Currently, the program has approximately 80 ongoing projects, and is collaborating with other agencies to develop a common approach for adaptive management implementation.

Engagement Opportunities

Partners, including stakeholders and other State and federal agencies, are essential to accomplishing shared Delta ecosystem restoration visions and goals. ERP holds periodic workshops and posts various program actions for public review on the ERP web site: www.dfg.ca.gov/erp. Results of ERP funded research and restoration projects are also regularly presented at regional science conferences, workshops, and in peer reviewed journals.

Contact Information

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FISH RESTORATION PROGRAM AGREEMENT (FRPA)

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Overview

Fish Restoration Program Agreement is an interagency agreement between the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG). The agreement calls for both agencies to carry out aquatic habitat restoration required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinions for the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) operations as well as the DFG Longfin Smelt Incidental Take Permit. The FRPA Implementation Strategy explains how the goals of FRPA will be accomplished. The plan was completed in March 2012 and is available on the FRPA website: <http://www.water.ca.gov/environmentalservices/frpa.cfm>.

Activities in the Delta and Suisun Marsh

The goal of the FRPA program is to restore 8,000 acres of intertidal and associated subtidal habitat in the Delta and Suisun Marsh, including 800 acres of low salinity zone habitat, as required by the Biological Opinions and DFG's Incidental Take Permit.

Coordination

FRPA is working with USFWS, NMFS, US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), the Delta Conservancy, the Delta Stewardship Council, and others to ensure coordination and acceptance of FRPA's efforts. FRPA will coordinate with other local, state, and federal agencies as necessary in planning restoration actions. FRPA is coordinating with the BDCP, the Delta Plan and other planning efforts in the Delta and Suisun Marsh. Should the BDCP be implemented, FRPA restoration actions are likely to be considered "early implementation actions" for BDCP habitat restoration requirements. Implementation of FRPA habitat restoration activities must be consistent with the Delta Plan

Engagement Opportunities

Public involvement, including coordination with landowners and local agencies, will occur throughout FRPA's implementation. Specifically, public participation will be solicited during the planning and design phases of specific projects as well as in periodic planning update meetings. These involvement opportunities will allow stakeholders to exchange information, discuss concerns and provide input. Public involvement will also be sought during the development of the environmental documents necessary to implement any project in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as defined by State law.

Contact Information

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DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

FLOODSAFE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND STATEWIDE RESOURCES OFFICE (FESSRO)

Overview

The most widely recognized FESSRO Delta programs are those associated with the Delta Flood Protection Program, which is a cost share program that provides technical and financial assistance to local levee maintaining agencies (Reclamation Districts) for the maintenance and rehabilitation of nonproject and eligible project Delta levees. Water Code requires that the program result in net riparian, fisheries, and wildlife habitat improvement; therefore, effort is put into programmatic and large-scale habitat improvement projects. Authority: The Delta Levees Maintenance Subventions Program is authorized in California Water Code (CWC) Sections 12980 through 12995; Delta Special Flood Control Project is authorized in the CWC, Sections 12300 through 12314. FESSRO invests in Delta knowledge improvement, including updated geodetic controls, bathymetry, hydrology, and storm surge analysis.

Two examples of the large-scale habitat improvement projects are the North Delta Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Project (aka McCormack/Williamson) and the Dutch Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration Project (http://www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe/fessro/levees/north_delta/ and <http://www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe/fessro/environmental/dee/dutch.cfm>). These projects are referenced in BDCP as near-term actions or early implementation. In addition, large-scale subsidence reversal and carbon sequestration efforts in the West Delta on Sherman and Twitchell Is. (aka Carbon Farming) also contribute to waterfowl and wetland habitats, while developing protocols for the emerging carbon market.

The Conservation Strategy for the CVFPP activities in the Delta is associated with multi-benefit projects such as expansion of existing floodway bypasses, creation of a new South Delta bypass, and SPFC setback levees in the Delta. A recently closed solicitation for advance mitigation for the SPFC also resulted in a few proposals located in the Delta (final decisions on these proposals are pending) (<http://www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe/fessro/floodway/conservation/>)

Activities in the Delta and Suisun Marsh

FESSRO activities are throughout the legal Delta (and beyond).

Coordination

Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee (DLHAC) meets the first Friday of every month in the Resources Building at 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, Room 1142; Direct staff coordination with DSC, DPC, and DC; Direct staff coordination with BDCP and CVFPP.

Engagement Opportunities

DWR's DFM is coordinating input through SPFC regional planning for the CVFPP; DLHAC meetings are open to the public. In addition, DWR will be finalizing *A Framework for Department of Water Resources Investments in Delta Integrated Flood Management* in 2013, which is being coordinated with the DSC and the California Water Commission, inclusive of public hearings approx. Feb. 2013.

Contact Information

FESSRO website: <http://www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe/fessro/>

FESSRO Chief: Gail Newton, Gail.Newton@water.ca.gov, 916.651.7052; Delta Levees Subventions and Special Projects: Dave Mraz, David.Mraz@water.ca.gov 916.651.7017 and Mike Mirmazaheri, Mike.Mirmazaheri@water.ca.gov 916.651.7016; Delta Levees Ecosystem Enhancement: Chuck Tyson, Charles.Tyson@water.ca.gov 916.651.7019; CVFPP's Conservation Strategy: Marc Hoshovsky Marc.Hoshovsky@water.ca.gov 916.654.7128

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

STATE PLAN OF FLOOD CONTROL FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Overview

Following the adoption of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) in June, 2012 by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB), the California Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) has initiated two major public safety planning efforts:

- (1) developing regional flood management plans, &
- (2) completing 2 basin-wide system improvement studies.

Together these efforts will support between \$14-17B of Central Valley focused flood management improvements over the next 30-years.

Though these improvements are focused on the publicly owned flood management facilities known as the State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC) facilities, that currently protection over 1 million people and over \$70 billion in assets. In the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, approximately 300-miles of over 1,000 miles of levees in the Delta are part of the SPFC facilities. Prior to starting any new construction activities, DWR and local flood management agencies will need to complete comprehensive plans that not only describe future projects but will address the governance and financing of these projects. Recognizing the high risk of flooding throughout the Central Valley, both the regional flood planning and basin-wide feasibility studies are progressing at an accelerated pace.

Coordination

As outlined in the CVFPP, the future state investments in SPFC facilities will need to use both scarce existing financial resources as well as leverage future beneficiaries. These means that the projects recommended by both the regional and system level planning activities (see above) will need to be prioritized based on risk reduction as well as opportunities to align with other public and private objectives. For example, while public safety focused studies of the South Delta bypass will continue, any final project will represent a blend of CVFPP and Bay-Delta Conservation Plan ideas.

Engagement Opportunities

1. Participation in the local supported, CVFPP Regional Flood Planning activities.
2. Subscription to the FloodSAFE email list serve, which will offer announcements for future public workshops related to the CVFPP System-wide improvement feasibility work.
3. Continued interaction with the DWR Regional Coordinators.

Contact Information

DWR, FloodSAFE Communications Lead: Maria Lorenzo-Lee @ Maria.Lorenzo-Lee@water.ca.gov

DWR, Water Policy Advisor: Michael Mierzwa @ Michael.Mierzwa@water.ca.gov

DWR, Regional Coordinator: Scott Woodland @ Scott.Woodland@water.ca.gov

STATE AND FEDERAL CONTRACTORS WATER AGENCY DELTA HABITAT RESTORATION EFFORTS

Overview

Objective is to implement habitat restoration projects to comply with existing legal obligations and to provide for early implementation of restoration proposed in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

Activities in the Delta and Suisun Marsh

1) Lower Yolo Restoration Project, located in the lower Yolo Bypass - a tidal and seasonal salmon habitat restoration project restoring tidal flux to about 1,100 acres of existing pasture land.

2) Tule Red Restoration Project – a tidal wetlands restoration project of about 350 acres taking existing degraded duck club and restoring tidal action, located at the eastern shoreline of Grizzly Bay in Suisun Marsh.

3) North Delta Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Project (McCormack Williamson restoration) – investigating a joint project agreement with DWR and The Nature Conservancy to implement the project with SWP/CVP funding to credit toward existing permit and BDCP obligations.

All of these projects are intended to provide additional wetland and seasonal salmon rearing habitat consistent with the Delta Plan and BDCP

Coordination

SFCWA has executed a memorandum of agreement for habitat implementation and meets monthly with DWR, DFG and the Delta Conservancy on project implementation. SFCWA led the development of a memorandum of agreement outlining the habitat credit approval process with the Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and State Department of fish and Game. SFCWA also consults with the Suisun Resource Conservation District for its Suisin Marsh projects and with local counties of jurisdiction.

Engagement Opportunities

In addition to engagement with the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan and the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and forums such as these, local interests will be consulted via local permit processes of the counties of jurisdiction.

Contact Information

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STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

Overview

The State Water Board administers programs to ensure the highest reasonable quality for waters of the State, while allocating those waters to achieve a balance of beneficial uses. State water quality law requires the adoption of Water Quality Control Plans that identify existing and potential beneficial uses of waters of the state and establish water quality objectives to protect these uses. They also contain an implementation, surveillance and monitoring plan. The plan that protects the beneficial uses of the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta) is currently under review by the State Water Board to determine if updates to the water quality objectives, including flow objectives and the program of implementation are needed. Numerous scientific documents have identified flow as a major factor affecting fisheries and other public trust uses of waters in the Delta. The current update, which began in 2009, is scheduled for completion in 2013.

Activities in the Delta and Suisun Marsh

The 2009 Delta Reform Act, which created the Delta Stewardship Council and required the development of the Delta Plan also required the State Water Board to develop flow criteria for the Delta ecosystem. The 2009 legislation also specified that no construction of Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) facilities is allowed until the State Water Board approves necessary changes in the point of diversion and that any change in the point of diversion shall include appropriate Delta flow criteria. Because the flow-setting process can take several years, it must be conducted in parallel, rather than sequentially, with the BDCP process to allow for timely consideration of any proposed changes in connection with implementation of BDCP. The Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan recommends that the State Water Board adopt and implement flow objectives for the Delta by June 2014.

Coordination

The State Water Board solicits agency participation, and State Water Board staff, including executive management, to participate in various interagency meetings.

Engagement Opportunities

The Bay-Delta plan is being developed in a public process. You can sign up to receive email notifications of workshops and meetings by submitting your name and email, and selecting "Bay Delta Notices" at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml

More information on the State Water Board's Bay Delta planning is available at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/

Contact Information

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State Water Resources Control Board, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

THE SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Overview

The Suisun Marsh is the largest contiguous brackish marsh on the West Coast of North America. It is located at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, between the western edge of the Delta and the San Francisco Bay. Since the mid-1970's, several agencies have been involved in the preservation and protection of its wetland and wildlife resources. The Suisun Marsh is 116,000 acres comprised of tidal and seasonal marshes, managed wetlands, lowland and upland grasslands, agricultural lands, bays, and sloughs.

The Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCD) represents the Suisun Marsh private landowners and stakeholders on a variety of issues at the Federal, State and local level. SRCD provides landowners technical assistance in permitting, water control, and wetland habitat management to ensure the wetlands and wildlife resources of the Marsh are sustained and enhanced.

Activities in the Suisun Marsh

The Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan (SMP) is a 30 year plan focused on achieving a locally acceptable multi-stakeholder approach to habitat conservation, by providing the stakeholder coordination and environmental compliance foundation for tidal marsh restoration and managed wetland enhancements in the Suisun Marsh. The SMP has been prepared by the Suisun Charter Group Principal Agencies (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Water Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Suisun Resource Conservation District) in coordination with other related resource planning efforts such as, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC). The SMP preferred alternative includes 5,000-7,000 acres of tidal restoration, based on willing sellers, and 44,000-46,000 acres of managed wetland enhancement, including a levee stability element. The majority of the 5,000 to 7,000 acres proposed for tidal marsh restoration under the SMP, would be contributing to the recovery of listed species, and could be implemented under BDCP or other habitat conservation planning efforts. The SMP Notice of Determination (in accordance with CEQA) was completed in December 2011. A Record of Decision (in accordance with NEPA) is anticipated by 2013.

Coordination

Tidal restoration project proponents may coordinate their planning efforts under the SMP via the Suisun Marsh Adaptive Management Advisory Team, which will facilitate collaboration among tidal restoration project proponents, the Principal Agencies including the DSC, and other interested parties.

Contact Information

For more information on the SMP, please contact Becky Victorine at rvictorine@usbr.gov or (916) 414-2429, Jim Starr at jstarr@dfg.ca.gov or (209) 948-7800 or Steven Chappell at schappell@suisunrcd.org or (707) 425-9302.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Overview

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a non-profit organization founded in 1954 with the mission to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.

Activities in the Delta and Suisun Marsh

In the eastern Delta, TNC owns Staten Island (9,200 acres) and practices wildlife friendly agriculture to provide for both food and wildlife habitat. TNC is committed to long term agricultural production on the property because of its importance to the local farm economy and to wildlife. As a consequence of promoting wildlife habitat through agriculture, Staten Island is a roosting site for about 15% of the Central Valley's Sandhill Crane population and hosts a number of migratory birds including ducks, geese and shorebirds.

In the eastern Delta TNC acquired the 1,600 acre McCormack Williamson Tract in 1999 with the purpose to restore the Tract to floodplain and wetland habitat. McCormack Williamson Tract was reclaimed in 1919 with levees lower than those in adjacent tracts and islands. A court decree made this condition permanent and as a consequence, the Tract has flooded seven times since the late 1930's, with devastating impacts to marinas, bridges and downstream islands. TNC is currently working with the Department of Water Resources, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency to implement flood control improvements in a manner that benefits aquatic and terrestrial habitats, species and ecological processes.

Coordination

TNC continues to participate in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan process and in the development of the Delta Plan through the Delta Stewardship Council to achieve conservation objectives associated with Delta flow, floodplain restoration, wetland restoration and wildlife friendly agriculture.

Engagement Opportunities

For more information on what we do or to visit properties we own, please contact Leo Winternitz.

Contact Information

Leo Winternitz, 916-248-8236, lwinternitz@tnc.org

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Overview

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE's) primary missions in the California Bay-Delta are flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, navigation, environmental protection and emergency preparedness and response. Accomplishing these missions can contribute benefits to water supply, conveyance, water quality, and recreation.

Activities in the Delta and Suisun Marsh

USACE has broad missions and authorities to work with non-federal partners and stakeholders to develop and implement balanced, sustainable solutions to Bay-Delta challenges. Currently, USACE and our non-federal project partners lead the studies listed below which consider problems and opportunities within the Delta. Each of these studies includes opportunities for public input:

- Central Valley Integrated Flood Management Study
- Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study
- CALFED Levee Stability Program (including emergency planning)
- Delta Long Term Management Strategy for Dredged Sediments
- Lower San Joaquin River Feasibility Study
- Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel Project
- San Francisco Bay to Stockton Navigation Improvement Project
- Sacramento River Bank Protection Project

Operations

USACE is responsible for maintaining navigation channels on the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers through its dredging program. USACE inspects the operation and maintenance of federally-authorized levees and non-federal levees enrolled in the Rehabilitation and Inspection Program to ensure the levees are being operated and maintained as necessary to minimize the flood risk. There are approximately 387 miles of federal levees and 29 miles of non-federal levees within the legal Delta that are a part of the Rehabilitation and Inspection Program.

Regulatory

USACE has regulatory jurisdiction, primarily under the following three authorities:

(1) Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States (33 USC 1201 et seq.) (Section 404); (2) Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act for working in, over, and under navigable waters (33 USC 403) (Section 10); and (3) Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 408) for the alteration of a Federal project (to include sea wall, jetty, dike, levee, wharf, pier, or other work) (Section 408). USACE has regulatory jurisdiction over some elements of the BDCP and may have jurisdiction over some elements proposed for implementation as part of the Delta Plan. Regulatory decisions include a Public Interest Determination and the public is afforded an opportunity to comment on proposed actions with substantial impacts through the NEPA process. USACE is a cooperating agency for NEPA on the BDCP.

Emergency Management

USACE Districts and Divisions support USACE's emergency response mission and maintain cadres of specially trained emergency managers and responders. Sacramento District and South Pacific Division participated in the state-led 2011 Golden Guardian exercise, which focused on a catastrophic event scenario in the Delta.

Contact Information

Sacramento District Public Affairs Office: Chris Gray -- 916-557-5100

San Francisco District Public Affairs Office: John Hardesty -- 415-503-6801