

SOUTH DELTA LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS

While the Temporary Barriers Program provides water level protection to many irrigation diversions in the south Delta, there are still some diversions which are left unprotected because they are located downstream of or out of the area influenced by the barriers. Irrigation and navigation in the south Delta is also impeded by shallow channel depths resulting from excessive sedimentation. Accordingly, the Programmatic Record of Decision issued for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program specifies that actions shall be taken to protect navigation and local diverters in the south Delta who are not adequately protected by the Temporary Barriers Program. This is an ongoing program and actions will be taken as needed.

In Year 2000, the Department of Water Resources implemented a large-scale dredging program in the south Delta. The project involved the suction-dredging of approximately 70,000 cubic yards from Del's Harbor Marina, the Mendota and Livermore yacht clubs, Little Hawaii, Hammer, and Middleton islands, the Tracy Oasis Marina and an agricultural diversion in Grant Line Canal. The dredging commenced on September 10 and was completed on December 15. Delta smelt critical habitat, especially shallow water habitat, was temporarily lost as a result of the dredging. DWR purchased about 18 acres of mitigation credits at Kimball Island Mitigation Bank so there would be no net loss of habitat. The total cost of the project was approximately \$2.9 million.

In addition, during Year 2000, DWR secured the Federal and State permits needed to modify the intakes to three agricultural diversions in Grantline Canal to improve their water supply reliability and is finalizing agreements to reimburse the construction costs of the new intakes. DWR also obtained permission to install portable pumps on a short-term emergency relief basis and is currently seeking to obtain permits to conduct additional limited channel dredging on an as-needed basis in other areas of the south Delta.