

Agenda Item: 8-11

Meeting Dates: December 8 and 9, 2004

ANNUAL JOINT MEETING WITH BAY-DELTA PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DELTA IMPROVEMENTS PACKAGE UPDATE

Summary: Authority and agency staff will provide an update on activities described in the Delta Improvements Package and an update on project and program schedules.

Recommended Action: This is an informational item only. No action will be taken.

Background

The Delta Improvements Package outlines actions related to water project operations in the Delta that will result in increased water supply reliability, improved water quality, environmental protection and ecosystem restoration, protection of the Delta levee system, and analyses and evaluation to support improved real-time and long-term management.

Brief updates are provided below for the Delta Improvements Package summary of schedules, the South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP) and the Long-Term Central Valley Project and State Water Project Operations Criteria and Plan (OCAP).

Delta Improvements Package Summary of Schedules

The Delta Improvements Package summary of schedules for the proposed actions and commitments, including those related to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) SDIP, has been updated and is attached (Attachment 1).

South Delta Improvements Program

The first public workshop for SDIP is tentatively scheduled for December 7, 2004, from 1-3 p.m. in Sacramento at the California Bay-Delta Authority office. The workshop will: 1) describe the context for the SDIP within the CALFED Program; 2) describe the Conveyance Program, the CVP/SWP Intertie and CVP/SWP Project Integration actions, and the Environmental Water Account; 3) outline key events leading to the current status of the program; and 4) describe the significant issues to be resolved, including water levels, water circulation, fish passage, and exports in the south Delta.

CVP/SWP Operations Criteria and Plan

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, in collaboration with the DWR, initiated formal Endangered Species Act consultation on the OCAP Biological Assessment and also requested early consultation on operations of specific future facilities and actions in

March 2004. Reclamation published the Biological Assessment for OCAP in March 2004, and an updated version was published in June 2004. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service completed the Biological Opinion on Delta Smelt July 30, 2004, and NOAA Fisheries completed the Biological Opinion for Chinook salmon and steelhead October 22, 2004.

A public information meeting on the OCAP consultation took place on Thursday, October 7th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Bay-Delta Authority in Sacramento. Reclamation and DWR are planning another public information meeting set tentatively for December 6th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Bay-Delta Authority.

The Authority and agency staff will be available to answer questions related to any other projects and/or programs described in the Delta Improvements Package.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1 - Delta Improvements Package Revised Summary of Schedules

Contact

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SUMMARY OF SCHEDULES
Updated November 19, 2004

WATER SUPPLY ACTIONS AND SCHEDULES

SWP/CVP Integration Plan

Schedule:

- Complete SWP/CVP Operations Criteria and Plan Biological Opinion and early consultation on intermediate actions to improve CVP/SWP operation coordination by ~~Summer~~ fall 2004 (**Completed**)
- Completion of appropriate Response Plans required by D-1641 for use of Joint Point of Diversion by August 2004 (**Completed**)
- Complete NEPA/CEQA analyses and public review of interim SWP/CVP operation actions by early 2005
- Initiate formal consultation or request confirmation of preliminary Biological Opinion on interim SWP/CVP operation actions by early 2005
- Implement intermediate SWP/CVP operation actions during 2005

SWP/CVP Intertie

Schedule:

- Complete draft environmental documents (EA/IS) by the ~~Summer~~ November 2004 (**Completed**)
- Initiate construction of the 400 cfs intertie by ~~late 2004~~ fall 2005
- Operation of the 400 cfs conveyance capacity by ~~late 2005~~ in 2006
- Obtain federal construction authorization to increase intertie conveyance capacity to 900 cfs by November 2006

San Luis Reservoir Low Point Improvement Project

Schedule:

- Complete Appraisal Study by ~~September 2004~~ May 2005
- Complete Draft EIR/EIS by May ~~2005~~ 2006
- Obtain funding and authorization for construction in ~~June~~ October 2006

South Delta Improvements Project/Increase SWP Pumping to 8,500 cfs

Schedule:

- Final SDIP EIS/EIR and Record of Decision and Notice of Determination by ~~Mid-~~ October 2005
- Transitional implementation of 8500 cfs, dredging/diversion improvements, ~~2005~~ 2006-2007
- Complete Construction of permanent operable barriers by December 2007
- Fully operate under 8,500 cfs by January 1, 2008

WATER QUALITY ACTIONS AND SCHEDULES

South Delta Improvements Project/Permanent Operable Barriers

Schedule:

- See Schedule above for SDIP/Increase SWP pumping 8,500 cfs
- ~~The SDIP Final EIS/R and Record of Decision by mid-2005~~
- ~~Begin actions in 2005~~

San Joaquin River Salinity Management Plan

➤ **Coordinated Drainage Strategy**

Schedule: Ongoing

➤ **Salt Load Management and Reduction**

Schedule:

- The San Joaquin River Salinity Management Group to begin study of refuge salinity management by summer 2004

➤ **Recirculation**

Schedule:

- Ongoing
- Initiate studies for specific recirculation scenarios by fall 2004

➤ **Voluntary Water Transfers and Exchanges**

Schedule: Ongoing

➤ **Real-time Monitoring**

Schedule: Ongoing

➤ **Coordination of East Side Tributary Operations**

Schedule:

- Initial draft of potential actions for coordination by October 2004

➤ **Introduction of Potential High Quality Wastewater Treatment Plant Flows**

Schedule:

- Develop draft options by March 2005

➤ **Westside Groundwater Management**

Schedule: Ongoing

Vernalis Flow Objectives

Schedule: Ongoing

San Joaquin River Dissolved Oxygen

Schedule:

- Complete the RWQCB Phased TMDL and Basin Plan Amendment by ~~December 2004~~ January 2005
- Complete monitoring and modeling studies by June 2007
- Design, construct and operate a demonstration aeration system, fall 2005-2008
- Evaluate other control projects and mitigation strategies, April 2004-December 2008
- Complete Final TMDL/Basin Plan Amendment for long-term control by 2009

Old River and Rock Slough Water Quality Improvement Projects

Schedule:

- Complete construction of Veale and Byron tracts drainage improvements by December 2005
- Complete construction of first phase Canal lining project by December 2006

Franks Tract

Schedule:

- Complete water quality and fish studies and make recommendations by April 2005
- Complete feasibility studies, assess fisheries and recreational impacts, and develop pilot projects by Summer 2006
- Construct and monitor pilot projects, January 2006 - January 2008

Delta Cross Channel Program

Schedule:

- Complete evaluations and make recommendations on reoperation by November 2005
- Implement reoperation recommendations by January 2006

Relocation of M&I Intake

Schedule:

- Complete evaluation of water quality improvements (date to be developed)

Through-Delta Facility

Schedule:

- Complete evaluations, determine TDF technical viability, and recommend projects for implementation by November 2005
- Seek funding and initiate EIR/EIS for project implementation by January 2006

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACTIONS AND SCHEDULES

OCAP ESA Consultation

Schedule:

- OCAP Biological Opinions issued by ~~summer~~ fall 2004 (**Completed**)

SDIP ESA Consultation

Schedule:

- SDIP Biological Opinion issued by ~~January 15,~~ August 2005

Update of CALFED ROD Programmatic Regulatory Commitments and Programmatic Biological Opinions

Schedule:

- Complete assessment of the efficacy of the EWA and progress toward achieving the milestones; by August 2004 (**Completed**)
- Update Programmatic Regulatory Commitments by September 30, 2004 (**Completed**)
- Update Programmatic Biological Opinions by September 30, 2004 (**Completed**)

Environmental Water Account (EWA)

Schedule:

- Decision on continuing short-term EWA by September 30, 2004 (**Completed**)
- Draft EIS/EIR on long-term EWA by June 2005
- Final EIS/EIR on long-term EWA by December 2005

Delta Regional Ecosystem Restoration Implementation Plan (DRERIP)

Schedule:

- Complete development and peer review of species life history and ecosystem element conceptual models by ~~December 2004~~ June 2005
- Evaluate Delta ERP Actions and approve priority setting process by ~~May~~ November 2005
- Complete final DRERIP in ~~December 2005~~ June 2006

DELTA LEVEES ACTIONS AND SCHEDULES

Schedule:

- Implement the Levee System Integrity Multi-Year Program Plan (Years 5-8)

SCIENCE ACTIONS AND SCHEDULES

Independent Science Board

Schedule: Ongoing

Environmental Water Account Independent Reviews

Schedule:

- EWA Science Panel review in November 2004 (**Completed**)

Focused Study on South Delta Hydrodynamics, Water Quality, and Fish

Schedule:

- Conduct pilot investigations on South Delta hydrodynamics, fisheries, and water quality between May 2004 and ~~July~~ December 2005
- Conduct detailed full scientific study on feasibility of using new SWP/CVP operations strategies to reduce fishery impacts based on pilot work and peer review between March 2005 and July 2007 ~~January 2006 and December 2007~~
- Report full results and whether new operations strategies are feasible as soon as possible, but no later than 2008 ~~Make operations recommendations by July 2008~~

Focused Study on Delta Smelt and Fish Facilities

Schedule:

- Evaluate fish survival in the existing CHTR process between April 2004 and June 2007
- Recommend implementing CHTR improvements for delta smelt by July 2008

Science Program PSP

Schedule:

- Proposal Solicitation Package will be available October 2004 (**Completed**)

SWRCB Periodic Review

Schedule:

- Periodic review proposed to start in fall of 2004

South Delta Fish Facilities

Schedule:

- Maintain and improve existing fish facilities. Ongoing
- Conduct alternative facility configurations and operational studies, July 2004 to July 2006
- Recommendation on new fish facility alternatives (with SDIP 10300) by July 2006

Performance Evaluation and Monitoring Program

Schedule:

- Final Conceptual Plan by January 2006 and ~~draft funding needs by October 2004~~
- Final Implementation Plan for Comprehensive Monitoring Plan by July-2005~~6~~
- ~~Program implementation by January 2006~~