

SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS TELEPHONIC REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 10, 2020

The Board of Directors of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority convened at approximately 9:30 a.m. This meeting was held via teleconference/ZOOM in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order (N-29-20) and the declared State of Emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19, with Chair Cannon Michael presiding.

Directors and Alternate Directors in Attendance Division 1

Dave Weisenberger, Alternate for James McCloud
Bobby Pierce, Director - Vince Lucchesi, Alternate
Anthea Hansen, Director
Rick Gilmore, Director

Division 2

Ryan Ferguson, Alternate for Dan Errotabere
William Bourdeau, Director
John Bennett, Director
Bill Diedrich, Director

Division 3

Dan McCurdy, Director
Chris White, Director (arrived after item 7) - Jarrett Martin, Alternate
Cannon Michael, Director
Ric Ortega, Director - Ellen Wehr, Alternate

Division 4

John Varela, Director - Aaron Baker, Alternate
Gary Kremen, Director - Richard Santos, Alternate
Jeff Cattaneo, Director
Sara Singleton, Alternate for Joe Tonascia

Division 5

Bill Pucheu, Director
Jose Gutierrez, Alternate for Tom Birmingham

Authority Representatives Present

Federico Barajas, Executive Director
Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer
Frances Mizuno, Special Projects Administrator
Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel
Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director
Joyce Machado, Director of Finance
Stewart Davis, IT Officer
Bob Martin, Facilities O&M Director

Others in Attendance

Mike Wade, California Farm Water Coalition
Tom Boardman, Westlands Water District

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John Wiersma, Henry Miller Reclamation District
Dennis Cardoza, Foley & Lardner LLP
Dana Jacobson, Valley Water
Nader Noori, Bureau of Reclamation
Don Wright, WaterWrights.net
Manny Amorelli, James Irrigation District
Vince Gin, Valley Water
Russ Freeman, Westlands W.D.
Jeff Mitchell, Kronick, Moskovitz, & Gerard
Chris Park, CITI Group

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order and roll was called.

2. **Board to Consider Additions or Corrections to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.**

General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported that the public employee performance evaluation listed under item 17 will be removed from the agenda.

3. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

No public comment.

CONSENT ITEMS

4. **Agenda Items 4-6: Board to Consider: a) November 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes, b) Acceptance of the Financial & Expenditures Reports, c) Staff Reports.**

On a motion of Director Rick Gilmore, seconded by Director Bill Pucheu, the Board accepted the Meeting Minutes, Financial Expenditures Reports, and Staff Reports. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Gilmore, Ferguson, Bourdeau, Bennett, Diedrich, McCurdy, Martin, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Kremen, Cattaneo, Singleton, Pucheu, Gutierrez
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

ACTION ITEMS

5. **Agenda Item 7: Board of Directors to Consider the Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Resolution Authorizing the Preparation and**

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Distribution of a Preliminary Official Statement and the Preparation, Execution and Delivery of an Official Statement with Respect to Revenue Bonds to Finance a Portion of the Cost of Extraordinary Maintenance to the Jones Pumping Plant, Authorizing the Execution of Certain Documents, and Authorizing Certain Other Actions in Connection Therewith

Executive Director Federico Barajas provided a brief background regarding the Jones Pumping Plant Unit Rewind Project financing and the preliminary official statement. Barajas reported that Friant has already executed their first payment consistent with the schedule from the funding agreement. Staff has updated all tables and any suggested changes from the prior meeting have been incorporated into the Preliminary Official Statement.

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave provided an overview of the memo provided in the packet and the updated schedule with the goal of concluding the transaction by the end of January. Arroyave then introduced Doug Brown, and he provided a summary of the resolution.

On a motion of Director Rick Gilmore, seconded by Director John Bennett, the Board approved Resolution authorizing the preparation and distribution of a Preliminary Official Statement and the preparation, execution and delivery of an Official Statement with respect to Revenue Bonds to finance a portion of the cost of extraordinary maintenance to the Jones Pumping Plant, authorizing the execution of certain documents, and authorizing certain other actions in connection therewith. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Gilmore, Ferguson, Bourdeau, Bennett, Diedrich, McCurdy, White, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Kremen, Cattaneo, Pucheu, Gutierrez
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

6. **Agenda Item 8: Board of Directors to Consider Water Resources Committee Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Fiscal Year 2022 Objectives.**

Executive Director Federico Barajas provided a brief overview of the memo provided in the packet. Barajas asked Water Policy Director Scott Petersen to review the current fiscal year objectives and to present the FY 2022 Objectives.

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided an overview of the FY 2022 Objectives. Petersen reported on the two key modifications: 1) Objective 3 – Improve Water Infrastructure affecting member agencies. Staff is proposing a directive to pursue state and federal legislation for infrastructure funding for key projects, and adding the San Luis Transmission Project as a key project with explicit authorization and direction for staff engagement. 2) Objective 4 – Improve Outreach and Education. Staff is proposing to include local, state and federal policymakers in

outreach efforts, by directing staff to adopt and implement an annual Communications Plan, and specify key goals for outreach and education efforts this year, including establishing relationships with new federal and state policymakers, further developing relationships with existing ones, and increasing focus on coalition building.

On a motion of Director Bill Diedrich, seconded by Director Chris White, the Board adopted the Fiscal Year 2022 Objectives. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Gilmore, Ferguson, Bourdeau, Bennett, Diedrich, McCurdy, White, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Kremen, Cattaneo, Pucheu, Gutierrez, Motte

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

REPORT ITEMS

7. Agenda Item 9: Presentation regarding Brown Act Overview

General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd introduced Jeff Mitchell from Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann and Girard. Mitchell provided a brief overview of relevant Brown Act provisions, including: 1) Legislative Bodies, 2) Ad Hoc Committees, 3) Serial Meetings, 4) One on One Discussions, 5) Closed Sessions, 6) Teleconferencing, 7) Agenda Requirements, 8) Conduct of Meetings, and 9) Violations.

8. Agenda Item 10: Report on State and Federal Affairs.

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the incoming Biden Administration has made a number of key nominations for Cabinet positions, with more expected to come. Nominations of interest for the Authority made to date include: 1) Secretary of Agriculture: Tom Vilsack, 2) Secretary of Interior: Tom Udall, 3) Secretary of Health and Human Services: Xavier Becerra, California Attorney General, 4) Office of Management and Budget: Neera Tanden.

Petersen reported On Friday, December 4, Reclamation transmitted to Congress a supplemental WIIN Act funding request letter for the Fiscal Year 2021 budget cycle, which included additional requests for the WIIN Act storage account, and included requests for the recycled water and desalination accounts.

Petersen reported that importantly for next year, Fiscal Year 2022 will be the first time in a decade that overall topline spending levels haven't been set under prior law. That will require a negotiation between the two chambers and the White House on numbers the appropriators can use to write their 12 spending bills, which is likely to complicate the process.

Petersen reported that the House overwhelmingly passed the Water Resources

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Development Act on Tuesday that establishes new water infrastructure projects and sets policy for the Army Corps of Engineers, sending it to the Senate on a voice vote. The bill would approve 46 new flood control, harbor, ecosystem and lock and dam projects on waterways across the country and would authorize the study of 27 more.

Petersen reported that the California Water Commission is holding a series of listening sessions throughout California to solicit public input on the role of the CWC in funding conveyance and it's impacts on water resilience. Authority staff has been working with Water Commission staff to co-host the workshop for Central California and anticipates a workshop in mid to late January. Further details will be forthcoming as this develops.

9. **Agenda Item 11: Executive Director's Report.**

- a) **B.F. Sisk Dam Raise Project** – Executive Director Federico Barajas introduced Chris Park from CDM Smith. Park provided a PowerPoint presentation with updates regarding the Feasibility report, the final EIR and EIS, Caltrans coordination, ESA consultation/CAA Permitting/NHPA Consultation, and the Project schedule.
- b) **San Luis Transmission Project (SLTP)** – Special Projects Administrator Frances Mizuno provide a brief update. Mizuno reported that the Authority received two proposals from private investors in response to the RFP. Both have financing options that include 50% or 100% financing of the project. Mizuno reported that the proposals are being reviewed by the Authority, Reclamation, and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). Mizuno reported that Valley Water reached out expressing their interest in participating in the financing of this project.
- c) **2021 Board Schedule** – Barajas reviewed the 2021 Board schedule provided in the packet and reported that the Board of Director's January meeting would be rescheduled to January 14, the July meeting will be rescheduled to July 15, and the September meeting will be rescheduled to September 16. Barajas asked the Board if the May meeting should be rescheduled due to Spring ACWA conference, and the decision was made not to.
- d) **New Board Member Orientation** – Barajas reported that staff will be coordinating calendars to schedule New Board Member Orientation.
- e) **Budget Workshop** – Barajas reported that a budget workshop is scheduled for December 17.
- f) **Sacramento Office Update** – Barajas reported that the Authority's Sacramento office will be moving in January 2021 to the Garden Hwy area.

10. **Agenda Item 12: Chief Operating Officer's Report.**

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Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that a Salary Survey ad hoc committee is meeting on January 5, and anticipates having a presentation of results, and a draft recommendation to the Finance & Administration Committee at the January meeting.

Arroyave reported that the DHCCP Committee is scheduled to meet January 11.

Arroyave reported that the Jones Pumping Plant Unit 5 Rewind should be completed and ready for final testing January 17.

Arroyave reported that due to the dry hydrology there is a heavy need for water transfers. Special Projects Administrator Frances Mizuno expressed the need to start the water transfer approval process earlier due to the difficulties the Authority faced this year. Mizuno reported that DWR and Reclamation recognizes this as well, and are ready to receive water transfer proposals as early as February.

11. Agenda Item 13: Update on Water Operations and Forecasts

Westlands Water District's Tom Boardman reported that persistent dry conditions are holding Jones pumping to one unit. Banks has recently reduced its pumping to equal to the CVP as part of COA accounting. Pumping may increase slightly next week following an approaching weak storm. After grim statistics were reported on the extent of dryness during October and November, it was stated that the State climatologist is observing changing conditions in the western pacific that may improve the storm track for California by later this month.

Boardman reported Shasta storage was about 2.0 MAF with accumulated precipitation at 23% at the dam. Folsom storage is 308 TAF with minimal snowpack above the reservoir.

Boardman reported that low exports during November reduced the refill of CVP San Luis storage by 100 TAF under median conditions. As such, CVP San Luis storage no longer is expected to fill with average hydrology. Boardman reviewed San Luis reservoir storage projection charts which depict how much the reservoir will fall short of filling under dry and median conditions.

12. Agenda Item 14: Committee Reports.

- a. **Water Resources Committee** – Board Chair Cannon Michael reported that the committee met.
- b. **Finance & Administration Committee** – Chair Rick Gilmore reported that the committee met.
- c. **O&M Committee** – No report.

13. Agenda Item 15: Outside Agency/Organization Reports.

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a. State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA)

No report.

b. Family Farm Alliance (FFA)

Report included in the packet.

c. Farm Water Coalition.

Mike Wade reported that they helped Authority staff produce and distribute the Authority Newsletter. Wade reported that they are working on new Fact Sheets in 2021 that will help connect the policy objectives of our members with a communications program.

d. Association of California Water Agencies

Director Bill Diedrich offered to provide notes from the Ag Committee & Ground Water Resources meetings to anyone interested. Diedrich reported that information from the ACWA virtual conference is available online, and recommends listening to the Secretaries' comments.

e. San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint Effort

No report.

14. Agenda Item 16: Board Member Reports.

No Board Member reports.

15. Agenda Items 17-19: Closed Session Report.

Chair Cannon Michael adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 11:27 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:36 a.m., General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd stated that no reportable actions were taken.

16. Agenda Item 20: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2 (a) (3)

No reports.

17. Agenda Item 21: Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:37 a.m.

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SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY
SPECIAL TELEPHONIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WATER RESOURCES
COMMITTEE, AND FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
SPECIAL JOINT WORKSHOP MINUTES
DECEMBER 17, 2020

The Special Telephonic Joint Workshop of the Board of Directors, Water Resources Committee, and Finance & Administration Committee of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority convened at approximately 9:00 a.m. This meeting was held via teleconference/ZOOM in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Order (N-29-20) and the declared State of Emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19, with Vice-Chair William Bourdeau presiding.

Water Resources Committee Members Present

Ex-Officio

William Bourdeau

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Director
Rick Gilmore, Director

Division 2

William Bourdeau, Director
John Bennett, Director
Bill Diedrich, Director

Division 3

Chris White, Director
Ric Ortega, Director - Ellen Wehr, Alternate

Division 4

John Varela, Director - Aaron Baker, Alternate
Gary Kremen, Director - Richard Santos
Jeff Cattaneo, Director
Sara Singleton, Alternate for Joseph Tonascia

Division 5

Bill Pucheu, Director
Tom Birmingham, Director - Jose Gutierrez, Alternate

Water Resources Committee Members Present

Ex-Officio

William Bourdeau

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Alternate

Division 2

DRAFT

Bill Diedrich, Member - William Bourdeau, Alternate

Division 3

Chris White, Member - Rick Ortega, Alternate

Division 4

Vincent Gin, Member - Jeff Cattaneo, Alternate

Division 5

Tom Birmingham, Member

Finance & Administration Committee Members Present

Ex-Officio

William Bourdeau

Division 1

Rick Gilmore, Member - Anthea Hansen, Alternate

Division 2

Bobbie Ormonde, Member

Division 3

Chris White, Member

Division 4

Sara Singleton, Member - Dana Jacobson, Alternate

Division 5

Bill Pucheu, Member

Authority Representatives Present

Federico Barajas, Executive Director

Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer

Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

Bob Martin, Facilities O&M Director

Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel

Joyce Machado, Director of Finance

Stewart Davis, IT Officer

Darlene Neves, Supervisor of Operational Accounting

Lauren Neves, Accountant III

Cathy Bento, Accountant II

Others Present

Manny Amorelli, James Irrigation District

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1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Vice Chairman William Bourdeau called the meeting to order, and roll was called.

2. Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Agenda Item 3: Review Proposed FY22 O&M Budget

Executive Director Federico Barajas introduced the item, and discussed the O&M Technical Committee's and Finance & Administration Committee's recommendations to approve the proposed FY22 O&M budget.

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave then reviewed the proposed FY22 O&M budget in more detail. Arroyave noted that the budget was out for 30-day review as of November 10, 2020. Arroyave discussed the largest items in both the routine and extraordinary components of the budget and reviewed changes from the draft of the budget presented to the O&M Technical Committee. Staff answered questions posed by Board and Committee members, and staff will be making small changes in response to direction.

4. Agenda Item 4: Review Proposed FY22 Activity Budget

Executive Director Federico Barajas reviewed the proposed FY22 Activity budget. Barajas discussed comparisons between the FY21 and proposed FY22 budgets, with a particular focus on the proposed Leg Ops budget. General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reviewed the legal components of the proposed budget, and Policy Director Scott Petersen discussed the technical and legislative advocacy components of the proposed budget. Barajas discussed next steps in budget development, including refinements to salary line items in the budget based on the salary survey.

5. Agenda Item 5: Review Preliminary Illustrative WY21 O&M Rates – SLDMWA O&M Only

Finance Director Joyce Machado reviewed the preliminary illustrative WY21 O&M rates, which are based on a 25% allocation. Machado discussed the plan to survey for additional contractor estimated deliveries based on other anticipated WY21 AG allocations.

6. Agenda Items 6-8: Closed Session Report

Vice Chairman William Bourdeau adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 10:25 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:35 a.m., General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd stated that no reportable actions were taken.

7. Agenda Item 9: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)

No reports given.

8. *Adjournment*

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:36 a.m.

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January 7, 2021

To: Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer

From: Bob Martin, Facilities O&M Director

Subject: O&M Report for December 2020

Operations Department

The C.W. "Bill" Jones Pumping Plant (JPP) operated at one unit during the month of December due to Delta outflow requirements and water quality, with an average flow rate of 845 cfs.

Total pumping for the month of December at the JPP was 51,948 acre-feet. The O'Neill Pump/Generating Plant (OPP) pumped 25,273 acre-feet and generated 2,239 acre-feet. No water was conveyed through the Delta-Mendota Canal/California Aqueduct Intertie Plant (DCI).

The Federal share in San Luis Reservoir on December 31st was 375,126 acre-feet as compared to 398,445 acre-feet on December 31st, 2019.

Releases from Friant Dam ranged from 404 to 425 cfs and flows entering the Mendota Pool ranged from 130 to 151 cfs. Flows of 130 to 150 cfs were released passed Mendota Dam for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP).

Canal Operations staff members performed open channel and closed-pipe flow measurements, routine patrols, bi-weekly meter readings, water samples, well soundings, and meter maintenance during the month of December.

Control Operations staff performed the following switching/clearance placements for the month of December:

- DMC Check 2 and Westley Wasteway; Radial gate hardware replacement
- JPP Unit 6; Annual Maintenance
- JPP Unit 1 Motor Housing; Cooling water leak

Civil Maintenance Department

The Civil Maintenance crews worked on the following projects for the month of December:

- Chemical and mechanical weed control
- Grading of DMC and Wasteway operating roads
- Install pipe fencing on Newman Wasteway crossings and various DMC crossings
- Replaced traffic strips on DMC farm bridge at milepost 94.27

- Repair vandalism to Westley Wasteway control panel
- Replaced radial gate hardware at DMC Check 2 and Westley Wasteway
- Erosion repair on Newman Wasteway
- Installation of stairs and handrails to DMC turnout gates and meters
- Maintenance and repairs to float lines, signs, fences, and gates
- Garbage collection on DMC and Wasteways

Plant Maintenance Department

Electrical/C&I Staff:

- JPP Unit 5 armature run-out check
- Electrical connections to new compressor and air dryer in Tracy Sandblast and Paint building
- Assist with radial gate hardware replacement at DMC Check 2 and Westley Wasteway
- Tracy 13.8kV switchgear protective relay updates and testing
- Install new level detector at DMC Check 7
- JPP Units 1 & 6 annual maintenance
- Assist SCADA department with OPP SCADA node upgrade

Mechanical Staff:

- JPP Units 1 & 6 annual maintenance
- JPP Unit 5 armature run-out check
- Replace Tracy Water Treatment Plant (WTP) #1 Booster pump check valve
- Fabricate holder for machining JPP Unit exciter brushes
- Provide support to NEC for JPP Unit 5 rewind
- Paint JPP Unit 5 rotor fan
- Paint JPP break room ceiling
- Installation of new air compressor and dryer for the Tracy Sandblast & Paint building
- Repair cooling water pipe leak in JPP Unit 6 motor housing
- Machine JPP Unit 6 slip rings

USBR Support Services

Water Authority crews performed the following work at USBR facilities for the month of December:

- Replace TFCF Unwatering Pump control fuses
- Run electrical conductors to new water heater in USBR Admin building
- Weld crack on TFCF debris sweep arm
- Adjust drive chain on TFCF trash conveyor
- Adjust packing on TFCF velocity control pump valve

Engineering Department

The Engineering staff worked on the following projects during the month of December:

- JPP Unit 5 rewind project management
- JPP flow control for the newly installed plant evaporative cooling unit
- JPP switchgear buildings relay settings update

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- JPP Unit 5 excitation armature repair
- JPP excitation slip ring brush holder upgrade to constant pressure type
- OPP fall protection and confined space improvements
- OPP vane control accumulator tanks 5-year inspection
- Anode replacement projects for DCI and OPP
- DMC subsidence correction project
- DMC MP115.90 flowmeter evaluation
- Upper DMC communication upgrades
- Firebaugh Canal Water District MP109.45 turnout SCADA incorporation
- RO&M Exam reports and recommendations

Land Management Activity Summary

The Engineering staff issued the following two (2) access permits during December:

- P2102014 was issued to The City of Tracy to have their contractor make corrections to existing pipeline crossing project area at DMC Milepost 15.08.
- P2141021 was issued to PG&E to access the San Luis Drain roadway in order to replace their utility pole located at Milepost 92.20-L in landowner's parcel.

The Engineering staff were involved with the following land management projects during December:

- Pipeline crossing replacement at DMC MP102.04 (Widren Water District)
- International Parkway bridge replacement (City of Tracy)
- Road resurfacing & bridge improvements at Hwy 152 (Caltrans)
- Corral Hollow bridge replacement
- Tracy Hills utility crossing at MP15.08
- PG&E pipeline crossing coating replacement at MP32.61
- Koster Road bridge guardrail modifications

Safety Department

The Safety Department worked on the following items this month:

- JHA support for the crews
- Conduct facility safety inspection for Electric Shop, Tracy Admin Office, Los Banos Admin Office, Warehouse, Control Operations, Tracy Field Office
- Schedule of annual hearing tests – Paul Borba,
- Conduct Weekly Safety Tailgate talks with Maintenance and Operations crews
- Sent out Weekly Safety Tailgate Topics – Eye Protection, Hearing Conservation, Respiratory Protection, Confined Spaces
- Provided Safety Message for Monthly Newsletter – COVID-19 Prevention
- Provided Safety Message to All SLDMWA employees – Driving in Fog
- Sent out Alameda County and Merced County COVID-19 updates to COO
- Sent out CA/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Standard 3205
- Began drafting the SLDMWA's COVID-19 Prevention Plan
- Conduct new hire safety orientation for John Brodie – Los Banos Admin Office and Tony Fontes – Tracy Field Office

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Work & Asset Management Department

The Work & Asset Management Department worked on the following items this month:

EAM/Financial Software Replacement Project

- Continued User Acceptance Testing of financial functions, purchasing, inventory, fixed assets, payroll, and equipment maintenance tasks.
- End User Training sessions held on financial tasks, purchasing, inventory, fixed assets, payroll, and equipment maintenance tasks.
- Shepherd provided a demonstration of the CMMS functions to the foremen and Engineering staff.
- Kickoff Meeting held for the SuitePeople HR implementation.
- Staff drafted procedures for reference by the end users and provided completed templates for the data imports.
- Routine internal staff meetings were held, as well as, with the NetSuite, Shepherd, and PyanGo teams to keep the project on schedule.

Contracts in Process

- Fire Protection and Assessment– Award phase – Waiting on signed agreement and insurance docs from vendor
- Change Order for JPP Armature Repair - \$806.62 Credit
- Change Order for Shepherd CMMS Program & Implementation - \$1,400

Ongoing:

- Purchasing in support of the O&M crews, to maintain warehouse stock, and locate & purchase disinfecting supplies & protective gear to comply with COVID-19 protocols
- Warehouse receiving, stocking, and distribution
- Fleet and property management
- Oracle WAM invoicing
- Janitorial cleaning & disinfecting per COVID-19 guidelines
- Contract Management/Administration Activities

Information Technology Department

The Information Technology Department worked on the following items this month:

- Installation of new services/contracts with AT&T
 - Phase 1 complete (Router and circuit installation)
 - Phase 2 Installation of ASEoD complete and awaiting SDWAN
 - Phase 3 AT&T is responsible for performing configuration/programming for SDWAN installation
 - Phase 4 GO LIVE scheduled for February 1st
 - Phase 5 Port phone call paths to routers with ETA on February 19th
- Un-Wired bandwidth increase will coincide with Phase 4 with ETA on February 8th
- Netsuite
 - Upgrade planning meetings
 - Online training, User and Administration
 - Final preparation for January 4th, GO LIVE
- Continuing support for our "Work at Home" users

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- Assist with December FAC, WRC, DHCCP Steering and BOD meetings with Zoom
- Desktop support calls.
- Email server upgrade preparations
- Sacramento Office move site visit and walkthrough 12-15-20
- Deployed new laptop for new employee John Brodie)
- Planning for laptop refresh
- Began planning process to evaluate upgrading/replacing copiers
- Contacted document management vendor to look at potential of deployment
- Researched concurrent license install for new version of RX Logix software to be installed for C&I Technicians
- Adjustments to ZIX
- McCrometer flowmeter project support
- Completed OSHA COVID training

Human Resources Department

The Human Resources Department worked on the following items this month:

General Administrative Activities:

- Recruitments:
 - Special Programs Manager (re-advertising continued)
 - Heavy Equipment Operator (recruiting continued)
 - Contract Specialist (recruiting)
 - Maintenance Worker, Tracy (candidate offered position, started 12/30/20)
- Compensation Survey – on-going support to Consultant
- Background checks for PIV cards (continuing)

Trainings/ Conferences:

- Stephanie, Leslie & Laures continue to view webinars for ensure compliance with new legislation as it pertains to COVID-19
- Stephanie, Leslie & Laures view weekly webinars hosted by JPIA for COVID-19
- HR working with Safety Officer to meet Cal-OSHA COVID regulations for employers (prevention plan)

Government Reporting:

- Families First CoronaVirus Response Act (FFCRA) expiration 12/31/2020
- Updates/changes to California Family Rights Act (CFRA) take effect 1/1/2021
- Working with Biddle on Affirmative Action reporting for YE 2020
- Annual queries with FMCSA for all Class A drivers

Ongoing:

- FMLA notices/follow ups
- COBRA notices/follow ups
- Worker's Comp follow ups
- Monthly safety points distribution
- Health benefits eligibility/employee assistance
- Maintain OSHA logs for calendar year
- Wellness program

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EXTRAORDINARY O&M & CAPITAL PROJECTS

DELTA-MENDOTA CANAL (DMC)

Bridge Abutment Repair at MP 92.73

Status: Project is on hold. The 6-inch pipe owned by PG&E that crosses under the bridge, adjacent to the abutment, is the main transmission line for the City of Dos Palos. All parties have agreed that it would be a safety hazard to conduct work with the gas line in place. SLDMWA drafted a letter on Reclamation's behalf and is currently under review. The letter informs PG&E that their gas line is impeding O&M of the bridge and canal liner and advised them that the terms of their agreement state that their facility can not interfere with Reclamation's facility. Project shall remain on hold until gas line has been realigned.

DMC Subsidence Mitigation

Status: Reclamation performed a Value Planning Study for this project in November. Reclamation provided the draft report summarizing the results of the Study to the SLDMWA review this month, with final report expected in January. The information in the report will be used to prepare the technical memorandum and appraisal level cost estimate for the project. TSC conducted a site visit of entire canal the first week of October. The site visit informed TSC of the many constraints associated with project work within the DMC such as utility and bridge crossings. TSC issued a formal design data request this month and SLDMWA will begin gathering the data in January. It is a significant amount of data to gather, and will require significant resources to accomplish. In addition, Reclamation is the lead on the project to add two pumps at the Intertie Pumping Plant. The supply contracts for the pumps, motor and valves are in progress. Reclamation is currently reviewing the pump supply (government furnished items) submittal, and delivery will occur 8 to 12 months after approval. The installation of the government furnished items will be completed by UNICO Services.

DMC Flowmeter Upgrade Program

Status: Meters are currently being manufactured by McCrometer. Deliveries of meters are expected to begin late January or early February.

C.W. "BILL" JONES PUMPING PLANT (JPP)

JPP Excitation Cabinet & Control Panel Refurbishment (1800333) FY2018 Project

Status: No activity this month. USBR Denver Office engineering staff continue to work on the design of the static system. The 60% design documents were expected from USBR Denver Office in December and were not provided. SLDMWA is working with Reclamation to receive a status update.

JPP Unit No. 5 Rewind

Status: National Electric Coil (NEC) began onsite work on June 15th as scheduled and project is currently tracking two weeks behind schedule. During hi-pot testing an arc was documented on one of the coils even though the unit passed the test. NEC submitted a repair procedure and USBR Denver and SLDMWA are reviewing closely prior to approving. Once approved, the repair is scheduled to occur early January and will be followed by retesting of the stator coils. The rotor poles have been delivered to the JPP and will be installed in January.

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EXTRAORDINARY O&M & CAPITAL PROJECTS

JPP Unit No. 1 Rewind

Status: The Notice to Proceed was sent to National Electric Coil (NEC) and the initial 40% payment has been made to begin work on the Unit 1 rewind. The agreement with DHR Hydro Services was executed to perform the project management of the NEC contract. Production of the stator core laminations is scheduled to begin in February.

JPP/OPP/DCI Fire Protection Systems Assessment

Status: Water Authority advertised a formal Request for Proposal for an outside engineering firm to provide the assessment. Plans are to contract with Reclamation for review of the assessment completed by the engineering firm. Two proposals were received and evaluated. Contract award will occur in early January.

O'NEILL PUMPING/GENERATING PLANT (OPP)

Design New Access Opening near Pump Bowl (1800332) FY2018 Project

Status: No Activity this month. The design phase of this project has been proposed for FY22 EO&M budget. SLDMWA plans to contract the design of new pump bowls through the original manufacturer, Fairbanks Morse. The new pump bowls will incorporate two cast in 'windows' for access hatches to provide safer, easier maintenance. The result of the design phase will be the approval of the design modification and the Technical Specifications necessary to manufacture the new bowls.

Main Transformers Rehabilitation/Replacement Project (2001247)

Status: TSC continues to work on the specifications for the rehabilitation, and SLDMWA staff continues to provide surveys, inspections, and additional drawings.

Arc Flash Hazard Analysis, Facility Rating, & Protective Relays Reviews (Electrical Equipment Periodic Reviews) (2001994)

Status: No activity this month. The survey was completed in June by the USBR. The periodic review reports are scheduled to be completed by February 2021.

TRACY FACILITIES (TFO)

TFO Domestic Water Treatment Plant Replacement (2000158)

Status: No activity this month. Engineering review of the water treatment plant data has begun. A topographic drawing was prepared to address the flooding issue of the existing treatment building and will include underground utility coordination.

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STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO: Board Members and Alternates

FROM: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

DATE: January 14, 2021

RE: Update on Science Program

SUMMARY

The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority's ("Water Authority") current science commitments for Fiscal Year 21 (March 1, 2020 – February 28, 2021) may be considered in three categories. First, the Water Authority re-budgeted \$362,063 in the current budget to fund seven studies previously authorized to be funded. Second, the Water Authority began the year with approximately \$62,026 in funds remaining from the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency ("SFCWA") to fund three studies initially authorized by SFCWA and transferred to the Water Authority for funding and management. Third, the Water Authority has budgeted \$500,000 in the current budget for science studies. More detail regarding the various science commitments is provided below. In total, the Water Authority started the current fiscal year with approximately \$924,089 available to fund science, of which \$623,089 has been obligated.

1. Previous Commitments - \$362,063 in FY 21 Budget

Subject	Description of Work / Objective(s)	FY 21 Budget
Rice Fields Fish Food Study – Delta Fallowing Pilot Program	Study of flooded rice ground relative to food production for native fish. Goal to better understand aquatic food web productivity on managed floodplains	\$31,290
Development of eDNA monitoring tool for detection of Delta Smelt	Goal to develop an accepted eDNA monitoring tool for species detection in tidally mixed aquatic ecosystems in the Delta, and to advance eDNA aquatic monitoring towards a state-of-science that can be applied in the context of scientific, policy, and regulatory decision-making	\$63,000
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Fallowing Pilot Evapotranspiration Monitoring Program	Study between April 1, 2018 and September 30, 2018 of consumptive use on between 2,000 and 4,000 acres in the legal Delta during the 2018 irrigation season. Goal to identify a method of reliable measurement of the reduction in	\$10,000

	consumptive use associated with temporary crop idling on lands within the legal Delta.	
Establishing Environmental Baselines for the Shallow Shoals of Tule Red Bathymetry, Water Quality, and Macroinvertebrate Densities	Study of Tule Red tidal restoration project that is expected to provide food resources and rearing habitat to contribute to the recovery of native fish and wildlife. Goal to gather baseline data needed to better understand the effects of the tidal marsh restoration process on the Project intertidal mudflat and subtidal (together shallow shoals) areas.	\$45,274
Interior Delta Export Effects Study	Study of specific data gaps related to export operation effects on juveniles salmonids. Goal to fill information gaps on juvenile salmonid survival in the south Delta to update salmonid loss models, optimize survival for salmonids near salvage facilities, and support water reliability through enhanced coordinated operations. Last year, the Study didn't receive its anticipated Proposition 1 grant to go to scale, so Authority funding provided for the study to continue and provide capacity for a grant application for the recent Proposition 1 grant funding notification, which was recently awarded.	\$30,785
Delta Smelt Incidental Take Limit Research	Funds support the evaluation of differences in salvage between pre- and post-BiOp conditions and the determination of how much variance in salvage can be explained by each of the predictor variables. Support provided to ICF Jones & Stokes, Inc., through a cost share with SWC.	\$14,252
CAMT Facilitation	Funds support facilitation and assistance with CAMT and CSAMP meetings. Main contracts with Essex Partnership (Bruce DiGennaro) and Hansen Environmental (Chuck Hansen) held by SWC. The Water Authority has shared the facilitation costs informally with State Water Contractors, but moving forward facilitation costs are anticipated to be provided by Reclamation, with water contractors funding studies.	\$75,000

2. SFCWA-Funded Studies Being Managed by the Water Authority - \$4,628 Remaining

Subject	Description of Work / Objective(s)	SFCWA Funds Remaining
Analysis of Phytoplankton Blooms and Ambient	Study of phytoplankton abundances and biogeochemical rates and review of	\$0

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Phytoplankton Populations in the Delta	Phytoplankton bloom events data. Goal to analyze existing data to improve understanding of controls on phytoplankton blooms in the north Delta, and to assess the relationship of those blooms to zooplankton population abundances and growth rates.	
Measuring Impact of Control of yellow Starthistle in the Northern Sac. Valley and Superior California on Watershed Runoff and Groundwater Levels	Study of the water benefits of yellow Starthistle (YST) control. If there appears to be replicable water supply benefit from YST removal, will prepare plan of recommended YST removal in California that results in increased runoff and/or improved groundwater levels.	\$4,628
Rice Fields Fish Food Study – Delta Following Pilot Program	Study of flooded rice ground relative to food production for native fish. Goal to better understand aquatic food web productivity on managed floodplains	\$0

3. New Science - \$500,000 in FY 21 Budget

Subject	Description of Work / Objective(s)	FY 21 Budget
Science Studies/Efforts		\$500,000
Joint Funding of CSAMP Delta Smelt Structured Decision Making Scientific Support	Funds support development of additional biological support for the Delta Smelt Structured Decision Making process, specifically Identification and exploration of key effect pathways for impacts to each delta smelt life stage.	\$25,000
Joint Funding for Initiation of Delta Channel Maintenance Planning Effort	Funds support development of and establish criteria for silt removal operations and mitigation measures for a long-term channel maintenance program in the South Delta	\$50,000
Joint Funding of Delta Smelt Structured Decision Making Phase 3	This funding would support management and technical analyses required to conduct Phase 3 for the CSAMP Delta Smelt Structure Decision Making (SDM) project. Technical analyses would include modeling and the application of other analytical tools to evaluate the consequences of proposed management actions for Delta Smelt as well as the evaluation of potential consequences to other resource values including water supply and agriculture. Phase 3 is scheduled to occur from September 2020 to September 2021.	\$75,000
Joint Funding for Hanson Environmental as CAMT Technical Support	This funding would support continued CAMT participation by Dr. Charles Hanson through a contract with the State Water Contractors. Dr. Hanson assists in the development of various workplans and products, including Charters,	\$30,000

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	presentations, whitepapers, and other materials to support collaborative science.	
Joint Funding to Enhance Decision-Support Predictions for Management Actions to Benefit Delta Smelt	This work is to develop a path forward to enhance decision-support predictions for management actions to benefit Delta Smelt. This contract would support management of a series of engagements with experts and CSAMP members to identify and explore potential approaches for the structure and function of an advanced decision-support model that would incorporate system productivity and other factors that could benefit Delta Smelt. SLDMWA funding would be used to augment funding being provided by the Delta Science Program and the State Water contractors to cover Dr. Denise Reed’s time to organize and facilitate engagements, including an expert workgroup, and to prepare a draft white paper documenting the outcomes from the effort.	\$4,000
Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley 501(c)(3) Education Fund, Socioeconomic Impact Study Phase 2	Completion of Phase 2 of the 8-county study, using IMPLAN, to describe the economic and socio-economic impacts of water supply deficit in the Valley and to provide economic analysis support for various policy options promulgated by the Technical Committee to address the imbalance	\$15,000

FUTURE SCIENCE PROGRAM DIRECTION

The recently released federal Biological Opinions require annual scientific review of the Reasonable and Prudent Measures scientific panel review in years 4 and 8 of the implementation of the Biological Opinions.

It is anticipated that increased engagement on scientific studies to prepare sufficient scientific bodies of knowledge on the adaptive management provisions of the new biological opinions will be necessary from public water agencies in order to adequately prepare for the 4- and 8-year scientific review of the implementation of the new Biological Opinions. Staff is coordinating with CSAMP/CAMT, as well as Reclamation, NOAA Fisheries and U.S. FWS to determine anticipated annual scientific investments necessary to prepare for the scientific panels.

Authority staff is planning to focus on key areas for the 2021 and future budgets, in order to assist in the development of a more coordinated science strategy between public water agencies and state and federal agencies who fund the scientific enterprise. Specifically, these recommended areas are:

- Technical Support for Authority Engagement in Regulatory Processes

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- Steelhead Monitoring and Protection
- Delta Smelt Structured Decision Making Scientific Expertise
- CSAMP/CAMT Support
- Delta Coordination Group Support
- Development of Voluntary Agreement Science Plan

Technical Support for Authority Engagement in Regulatory Processes

The Authority has need of additional biological expertise to provide comments and a higher level of engagement with regulatory entities, including the State Water Resources Control Board, NOAA Fisheries, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and others. Specifically, Authority staff is proposing to issue an RFQ for scientific and biological support services and to establish contracting authority with a number of consultants for on-demand services centered on the areas of expertise of the respective consultant and staffing availability.

Steelhead Monitoring and Protection

The status of steelhead population trends continues to pose a threat to water supply reliability for south-of-Delta Central Valley Project contractors. Significant data gaps exist in the scientific body of knowledge regarding steelhead, including a method for estimating population levels and continued support of the I/E ratio in state level regulatory proposals. Steelhead species receive less funding than other scientific research, indicating an opportunity where the Authority could add value to the scientific enterprise. Specifically, there is a need for better data analysis and synthesis for steelhead.

Delta Smelt Structured Decision Making Scientific Expertise

Compass Resources, who manages the Delta Smelt Structured Decision Making process, has identified a need for a biologist for biological resource support, including literature searches that would better inform the SDM process. The Authority and the State Water Contractors are jointly funding this expertise.

CSAMP/CAMT Support

The Authority has remained engaged in CSAMP/CAMT and has jointly funded facilitation support, technical support and scientific studies related to management actions associated with project operations.

Delta Coordination Group Support

Authority staff is a member of the Delta Coordination Group (DCG), a group formed this year pursuant to Reclamation's Proposed Action and the Incidental Take Permit for the Coordinated Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. The DCG is charged with providing recommendations to Reclamation/DWR pertaining to Summer-Fall Habitat Actions for delta smelt.

January 14, 2021

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Development of Voluntary Agreement Science Plan

The Authority has previously funded facilitation of the Governance, Science and Adaptive Management Working Group and staff is proposing to continue that commitment through contributing funds for the development of the Science Plan for implementation of the Voluntary Agreements.

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BOARD ACTION REQUEST

State Water Contractors
Board of Directors
December 17, 2020

Contract to Develop a Planning Guide for Future South Delta Channel Depth Restoration

Requested Action: Authorize State Water Contractors to enter into an agreement with Anchor QEA for an amount up to \$150,000 for the development of a guide for the planning of a Channel Depth Restoration Program for the South Delta channels with cost share from SLDMWA, SDWA and CDWA.

Background: Channels of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, particularly in the southern Delta, have diminished capacity due to siltation. The siltation has a multitude of negative effects, including flow capacity reduction, increase water temperatures, reduced oxygen levels, degrading water quality, navigation impediment, invasive species, and compromised levee maintenance.

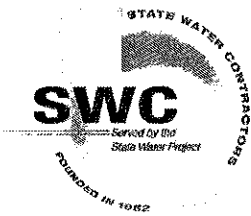
A workgroup comprised of representatives from a diverse group of stakeholders (USBR, DWR, SWRCB, SLDMWA, DFW, DSC, South Delta Water Agency, Central Delta Water Agency, and the State Water Contractors) are working on an inclusive and collaborative process to develop and implement a comprehensive, long-term program to remove excess silt buildup from Delta channels. The program first needs to identify the scope of the program, criteria for silt removal operations (dredging), and the required permitting and mitigation measures. This proposed initial contract with Anchor QEA will result in the development of a planning guide to address the aforementioned items. While this planning guide will be focused toward the most critically effected channels in the South Delta, it is envisioned that the guide could later be scaled/modified to address channel depth restoration in other Delta regions in the future. A complete description of the problem and proposed action has been jointly developed by the work group and is attached as a reference.

SWC would administer the contract on behalf of the workgroup. The \$150,000 maximum cost for the agreement would be proportioned among the following stakeholders, who have each already approved and provided their contribution, as follows:

San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority: \$50,000
Central Delta Water Agency: \$25,000
South Delta Water Agency: \$25,000

SWC's contribution of \$50,000 was previously approved by the Board of Directors in May 2020 under the Science Development objective.

Reference:
Delta Channel Restoration Problem Statement (attachment)



SACRAMENTO SAN JOAQUIN RIVER DELTA CHANNEL RESTORATION & MAINTENANCE

*Representatives of the above-identified federal agencies, state agencies, local agencies and non-governmental entities are interested in exploring a **Delta Channel Restoration/Maintenance Program**.*

Problem Statement

Channels of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, particularly those in the southern Delta, suffer from diminished capacity due to siltation. The siltation impacts:

- Net flow in the channels (reduced)
- Water temperature (increased)
- Dissolved oxygen (reduced)
- Salinity (“hot spot” buildup)
- Concentration of constituents of concern (increased)
- Toxic algae blooms (increased)
- Navigation (impeded)
- Flood response and levee maintenance (compromised)
- Invasive species (expanded)

Proposed Action

Through a transparent, inclusive, and collaborative process, develop and implement a comprehensive, long-term program to remove excess silt buildup from Delta channels, initially targeting those in the southern Delta. The program would identify the scope of the problem, criteria for silt removal operations (dredging), and mitigation measures. The objectives would be to: (1) engage permit agencies early and

secure all necessary permits, (2) establish an adequate and consistent source of funding, (3) reestablish adequate channel depths, and 4) provide for regular dredging that removes accumulating sediment to improve conditions for beneficial uses and the health of the Bay-Delta estuary.

Background Information

Impacts Generally: Siltation in the Delta channels has occurred and, left unaddressed, will choke more of the waterways with more severe consequences. The buildup of silt fundamentally alters the hydrodynamics of Delta channels to the detriment of all beneficial uses. As sediment accumulates, the amount of flow which can travel in and through the channels decreases. With decreased channel capacity, incoming flows (whether from riverine or tidal action) encounter greater resistance; thus, only diminished and restricted flows pass into and through the channels, impairing all beneficial uses and the overall health of the Bay-Delta estuary.

Aquatic Weeds: Current conditions in some occluded Delta channels are precluding many function like conveyance, recreation, and transportation because of a combination of reduced channel depths and aquatic invasive weeds. Further, sediment deposition makes many channels shallower, shifting the invasive aquatic weed composition from floating aquatic vegetation (FAV) like water hyacinth to submerged aquatic weeds (SAV) like *egeria densa*. Although both SAV and FAV flourish in the nutrient rich Delta waters, FAV is both easier to remove and mechanical removal techniques can be employed. The use of mechanical removals for FAV eliminates the associated dissolved oxygen demand from the decomposition of dead biomass that settles to the channel bottom after treatment with herbicide. As invasive aquatic weeds proliferate the channel function impacts beneficial uses. Although the State Parks Division of Boating & Waterways mounts a permit-limited aquatic weed management program, channel occlusion inhibits access and with shallow channels allowing the proliferation of stubborn rooted SAV like *egeria densa* management of these invasive aquatic weeds becomes much more challenging. With restored channel depths management of invasive aquatic weeds would be more attainable and alternative methods to remove FAV including mobile mechanical harvesting and possibly fixed mechanical harvesting facilities may be possible with a greater proportion of FAV than SAV and better channel flows to allow downstream movement of FAV.

Ecosystem Impacts: Shallower channels constrict flow for habitat, increase temperatures and decrease dissolved oxygen in the water, all of which adversely affect fish and other water-dependent species. Reduced channel capacities also decrease assimilation and dilution of pollutants, such as salts and metals, and encourage the growth of harmful algae blooms.

Navigation Impacts: Reduced depth and increased aquatic weeds significantly reduce accessibility of Delta channels for commerce, recreation, emergency response, and marine construction, including water-based levee repairs.

Water Supply Impacts: For in-Delta water users, shallow channels impede diversions due to pumps' and siphons' inability to divert water without adequate depth. The silt deposition is not uniform so the siltation process can create mounds or channel features that block water from reaching areas that otherwise would have sufficient water elevation for agricultural diversion. Also, because of the effect on hydrodynamics, water levels, and quality, the excess silt buildup generates avoidable and unnecessary friction among

regulators, recreational interests, in-Delta water users, and the operators of the CVP and SWP, both of which depend on Delta channels to convey water for use in areas south of the Delta.

High Flow Events: Very high flows entering the Delta might have formerly been expected to flush accumulated sediment out of the area and improve channel capacity. This is no longer the case; recent high flows, like those that occurred in 2017 and 2019, actually increased sediment buildup in many South Delta channels. The fast-moving flows on the rivers bring heavy sediment loads which then settle out in the meandering and slow-moving Delta channels. Thus, the adverse effects of the diminished channel capacity are increasing, and high flow events contribute to, rather than solve, the problem.

Potential Uses of Dredge Material: Although dredge material is expected to improve levees by depositing the material on the land side of levees to form stability berms, other uses, such as supporting Delta restoration projects should be explored.