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In the News

California's best-kept secret?

Statewide survey finds 78 percent clueless about Delta

By Alex Breitter

The Stockton Record -February 2, 2012

Nearly four out of five Californians do not know what the Delta is, despite the fact that the estuary of 1,000 square miles provides drinking water for cities from San Jose to San Diego.

Asked in a new statewide poll to share what, if anything, they know about the Delta, 585 of the 750 people surveyed in late January said they hadn't heard about it or didn't know about it.

That's 78 percent.

"I have not heard about it," one respondent said. "If it is the bill about weapons control, it is (expletive). Every person in the world should have the right to keep and bear arms."

Said another: "It is the oil line from Canada to the United States," likely a reference to the Keystone pipeline in the news lately.

Yet another respondent thought the surveyor was talking about a political candidate.

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120202/A_NEWS14/202020335/-1/NEWSMAP

Sandhill cranes bring their trumpet and
dance to the Delta each winter

By Denis Cuff

Contra Costa Times- February 3, 2012

GALT -- Jesse Roseman, a nature preserve manager, stalks along a pond in search of a very big and rare bird that evolved wading in the primordial ooze that once covered much of the Central Valley.

"Listen. Their sound is not like any other bird," Roseman says as he hears the eerie, reverberating cry of sandhill cranes calling out as they land in the Cosumnes River Preserve. "It's an ancient bird. Some people call them living fossils." Sometimes called the "rib-eye of the sky" in states like Kentucky, where its hunting is allowed and where it thrives in wetlands, the sandhill crane population declined sharply in California in Gold Rush days, when the birds were sold like turkeys in San Francisco butcher shops. But in the past two decades, its population here has stabilized, with the help of new, crane-friendly farm practices that have helped preserve its habitat.

And today, in the middle of the winter crane season, those who have fought for the crane are celebrating the success of that effort.

http://www.mercurynews.com/science/ci_19879354?source=rss

U.S. to provide Sacramento \$19 million for
water, flood-control work

By Matt Weiser

The Sacramento Bee- February 9, 2012

The Sacramento region will receive more than \$19 million in federal funds for water and flood-control projects.

The largest allocation is \$7.4 million to ensure the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is fully funded for its share of work this year on a new flood-control spillway at Folsom Dam. Another \$720,000 will fund planning to raise the dam for more flood storage. Rep. Doris Matsui, D-Sacramento, announced the funding Wednesday. It comes from a special \$59 million reserve fund for critical flood-control projects approved by Congress in an appropriations package for 2012. Another \$11 million comes from the U.S. Department of Interior for rural water supply projects, announced by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar.

The largest slice is \$4.3 million for design and construction of fish screens at water diversions along the Sacramento River, including one for the Natomas Mutual Water Company in Sacramento.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2012/02/09/4250367/us-to-provide-sacramento-19-million.html>

Report: Strengthening Delta levees critical
to economy

By Melanie Turner

Sacramento Business Journal -February 6, 2012

Strengthening the levees of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta is critical to the economic sustainability of the Delta and regional economy, a plan recently approved by the Delta Protection Commission concluded.

The Economic Sustainability Plan, approved Jan. 26, also found that seismic improvements near lowland Delta levees and vegetation on the water side of enlarged levees "is the most cost-effective strategy to achieve the state's co-equal goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration."

The findings are consistent with those of a Delta Risk Management Strategy by the Department of Water Resources which found that levee improvement plans had higher economic benefits and lower total costs than strategies that include a peripheral canal, according to a joint news release from the Delta Protection Commission and University of the Pacific.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/sacramento/news/2012/02/06/report-delta-levees-economy-farming.html>



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Sacramento District

Delta Islands & Levees Feasibility Study

Sacramento District, USACE (SPK)

Current Work

The Corps team members are meeting regularly with study partners from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Draft problem and opportunity statements focus the team on the authorized study purposes of **Ecosystem Restoration, Flood Risk Management**, and other related water resources purposes. Meetings were held to capture goals, constraints, and objectives that will lay the groundwork to identify data and information gaps. In October through December 2010, the team developed “assumptions” that need to be made in order to refine the scope, schedule, and budget of the study. These assumptions included topics such as: report format, study boundary, future without project scenarios (future scenarios without the Delta Study in place), number of iterations (study refinements), etc.

The second multi-agency meeting with other Federal, State, and local agencies was held in January, 2011; the meeting focused on the Delta Study’s sustainability concepts, Project Management Plan “assumptions”, and next steps. These and other planning components will guide ongoing revisions to the existing Project Management Plan (PMP), signed in 2006 with DWR, the non-Federal project sponsor.

In order to better scope the technical investigations necessary to complete the study, the PDT has been brainstorming conceptual “measures” which could be combined to create preliminary conceptual alternatives to be evaluated in the study. This information was presented at the third multi-agency meeting, held in July 2011, in order to get feedback on preliminary conceptual measures and other work completed to date. **The team is currently working to identify preliminary conceptual alternatives and refining scopes for the 2006 PMP revision.**

Project Purpose

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

Funding

- The total cost of the feasibility study is currently \$12,000,000; cost shared 50/50 with the DWR
- FY 08 appropriations at \$859,000
- FY 09 appropriations at \$478,000
 - Reprogrammed additional \$150,000
- FY 10 appropriations at \$394,000
- FY 11 appropriations at \$239,000
- FY 12 appropriations at \$971,000

Milestones

- ✓ Delta Site Visit—March 2009
- ✓ Funds Reprogrammed—June/July 2009
- ✓ Problems & Opportunities PDT Session—September 2009
- ✓ Second meeting with other Federal, State, and Local agencies—January 12, 2011
- ✓ Third meeting with other Federal, State, and Local agencies—July 13, 2011
- Public Workshops—2012

CALFED Levee Stability Program

Sacramento District, USACE (SPK)

Current Work

The Corps team is moving forward with the **McCor-mack-Williamson Tract** project and meeting with The Nature Conservancy/RD 2110 in order to finalize and sign the FCSA for the project. The FCSA package has been sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters office for review and approval.

The Corps team has completed draft Project Management Plans (PMPs) for three additional LSP projects, including **Bacon Island, Walnut Grove, and River Junction**. Final review and certification of PMPs and negotiation of Feasibility Cost Share Agreements (FCSAs) with non-Federal sponsors is ongoing. A Program Management Plan (PgMP) has been developed to capture program processes and procedures. The PgMP also includes templates for PMPs and FCSAs developed for projects in the LSP.

Bethel Island Project

On July 13th, the FCSA for Bethel Island – Horseshoe Bend was signed by the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District (BIMID) and the Corps. The PDT met on November 1st and tentatively selected a cost effective plan for recommendation. Engineering designs and cost estimates are underway.

Emergency Response Planning

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed between USACE and DWR, allowing the Corps-DWR to initiate Phase 1 of GIS Flood Contingency Mapping and Emergency Response Planning for the Delta region. A Final Phase 1 (95% complete) meeting was held on September 26th at the USACE Sacramento District offices to discuss deliverables and next steps. The final products for Phase 1 have been completed and delivered to participating counties. The final Phase 1 product includes:

- Standardized GIS database of Emergency Management data,
- Flood Contingency Map Books and large scale wall maps of the Delta region, and
- An accompanying report documenting the existing framework, existing data, and any potential data gaps.

For more information and final product visit:

www.deltafloodemergencyplan.org

Project Purpose

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

Funding

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

- FY 08: Received \$4,920,000
- FY 09: Received \$4,784,000
- FY 10: Received \$4,814,000
- FY 11 Received \$598,700



Lower San Joaquin Feasibility Study

Sacramento District, USACE (SPK)

Current Work

- Hydraulic Modeling:
 - State of California Central Valley Floodplain Evaluation and Delineation (CVFED) model schedule for use within the LSJRFS:
 - Revised schedule date for release of HEC-RAS calibrated models is now January 2012
 - Pending LIDAR post processing final FLO-2D models will be released by March 2012
- Preliminary Screening:
 - The project delivery team is conducting a preliminary screening of the Lower San Joaquin River study area to initiate prioritization of flood damage areas. The preliminary screening is scheduled for completion by May 24, 2012.

Project Purpose

The purpose of this feasibility study is to determine if there is a Federal interest in providing flood risk management and ecosystem restoration improvements along the Lower (northern) San Joaquin River. The Lower San Joaquin River study area includes the San Joaquin River from the Mariposa Bypass downstream to, and including, the city of Stockton. The study area also includes the channels of the San Joaquin River in the southernmost reaches of the Delta: Paradise Cut and Old River as far north as Tracy Boulevard and Middle River as far north as Victoria Canal. The floodplains of the lower San Joaquin River and its tributaries are also included in the study area.



Funding

Prior to FY 2008	\$125,000
FY 2008	\$129,000
FY 2009	\$454,000
FY 2010	\$897,000
FY 2011	\$519,000

Milestones

FY 14: Feasibility Scoping Meeting

Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel Project

San Francisco District, USACE (SPN)

Current Work

The draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Report (dSEIS/R) was published 25 February 2011, the public hearing was held on 21 March 2011, and the comment period closed 18 April 2011. The project website is www.sacramentoshipchannel.org.

Funding

FY 09: Combined Federal and non-Federal share: \$1,276,000
FY 10: Combined Federal and non-Federal share: \$2,000,000
FY11: \$3,427,531 Federal and non-Federal

Milestones

- Publish revised dSEIS/R April 2012
- Revised dSEIS/R comment period April/May 2012
- Publish Final SEIS/R October 2012
- Sign Record of Decision (ROD) November 2012
- Award first construction contract (mitigation) November 2012

Project Purpose

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



Central Valley Integrated Flood Management Study

Sacramento District, USACE (SPK)

Current Work

The CVIFMS team is currently coordinating with the CVFPP team in approving the CVIFMS Project Management Plan (PMP) and associated Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FSCA) amendment that will lay out an adaptable and "living" strategy for the development of the CVIFMS and related products in close coordination with the evolving CVFPP process and efforts.

The CVIFMS team has begun work on the Programmatic Implementation Framework Document, also known as the Companion Document, which is anticipated to be completed in 2012. The team is also reviewing the public draft 2012 CVFPP.

Background

The CVIFMS will be developed within an integrated water resource management context and will complement the CVFPP system-level planning strategy, with an emphasis on moving toward a Federal/State flood risk management (FRM) implementation process including possible immediate feasibility study implementation recommendations. The study will include two major efforts:

Programmatic Implementation Framework Document. This document will be developed in a format and context that clearly and directly corresponds to the 2012 CVFPP Report. The document's primary purpose will be to provide a status update and a strategy that defines how the CVIFMS will be coordinating with the CVFPP in moving toward a Federal/State flood risk management (FRM) implementation process for the CVFPP, including possible immediate feasibility study implementation recommendations. The targeted audience is Congress and the California State Legislature.

Programmatic Feasibility Study. This document will be a programmatic level study prepared within an integrated water resource management context. The study will incorporate CVFPP shared data and the content will be coordinated with the 2017 CVFPP Report. The study will provide an FRM evaluation of the Central Valley at a system level with a recommended process for Federal/State implementation and cost sharing. The strategy is for the focus of the study to be at the feasibility level, so that alternatives, inclusive of the CVFPP Preferred State Plan, can be evaluated and Federal recommendations can be implemented. It is anticipated that a joint National Environmental Policy Act/California Environmental Quality Act document will be developed in support of the study alternatives and recommendations.

Project Purpose

In response to legislation signed by the Governor on 10 October 2007, the State of California, through the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board), initiated development of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP). This effort will culminate in a comprehensive analysis of flood management and related conditions in the Central Valley watershed as a system. The State is required to complete the first report of the CVFPP by 2012. This document is to be updated every 5 years thereafter. The State has requested Federal participation in preparing the CVFPP. This participation will be through the Central Valley Integrated Flood Management Study (CVIFMS). The CVIFMS is a continuation of the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins, California Comprehensive Study (Comp Study), which was authorized by Congress by section 209 of the Flood Control Act of 1962 (P.L. 87-874).



Milestones

- √ Draft PMP and FCSA amendment, spring 2011
- Final PMP and FCSA amendment, early 2012
- Programmatic Implementation Framework Document, 2012
- Programmatic Feasibility Study, 2017

SF Bay to Stockton Navigation Improvement Project

San Francisco District, USACE (SPN)

Current Work

Work continues for studying existing conditions for the SEIS/R. The beneficial use survey has identified preliminary levee rehabilitation, habitat enhancement and stockpile sites for the placement of dredged material. The utilities survey has been completed. A draft habitat mapping report is complete and is under review. Preliminary estimates of economic benefits have been prepared. USACE will continue to work with participating Delta LTMS agencies to approve a sediment sampling and analysis plan.

Funding

FY 08: Received \$403,000 Federal
 FY 09: Received \$1,340,000 Federal
 FY 10: \$1,093,000 in FY09 carry over funds
 FY11: \$0 (\$380,850 Fed and non-Fed carryover from FY10)

Project Purpose

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

Milestones

- Feasibility Scoping Meeting (date TBD, funding dependent)
- Publish DEIS/DEIR (date TBD, funding dependent)

Delta Long Term Management Strategy (Delta-LTMS)

San Francisco District, USACE (SPN)

Current Work

A Technical Work Group (TWG) meeting was held on Monday, March 21, 2011. The meeting focused on the Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel deepening project.

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

Funding

FY 05: \$ 467,000
 FY 06: \$ 222,000
 FY 07: \$ 497,000
 FY 08: \$ 512,000 (includes reprogramming of \$50k)
 FY 09: \$ 230,300
 FY 10: \$ 249,000 (includes reprogramming of \$150k)
 FY11: \$ 0
 FY12: \$ 0

Project Purpose

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

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

Milestones

- Programmatic EIR/EIS for alternatives: FY 2014
- Adopt Sediment Management Plan: FY 2015

Delta Links

Delta Initiatives, Official Sacramento District, Corps of Engineers site:

<http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/projects/civil/Delta/News.html>

Delta LTMS: <http://www.deltaltms.com/>

Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS): <http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/dsmo/sab/drms/>

Delta Vision: <http://www.deltavision.ca.gov/>

Delta Stewardship Council: <http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/>

Delta Protection Commission: <http://www.delta.ca.gov/>

DWR, Delta Initiatives: <http://www.water.ca.gov/deltainit/>

Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDGP): <http://baydeltaconservationplan.com>

Bay-Delta Office (BDO), DWR: <http://baydeltaoffice.water.ca.gov/>

California Delta Chambers & Visitors Bureau: <http://www.californiadelta.org/>

SacDelta.com, an interactive guide to the Delta: <http://www.sacdelta.com/>

SF Bay to Stockton Navigation: <http://www.sfbaytostockton.org>

Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel: <http://www.sacramentoshipchannel.org>

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Sacramento District Commander:
Colonel Bill Leady

Public Affairs:
Sacramento District Public Affairs Chief:
DeDe Cordell- DeDe.Cordell@usace.army.mil

Sacramento District Planning Editors:
Brooke Schlenker- Brooke.E.Schlenker@usace.army.mil
Matilda Evoy-Mount- Matilda.L.Evoy-Mount@usace.army.mil

USACE South Pacific Division Public Affairs Chief:
Torrie McAllister- Victoria.L.McAllister@usace.army.mil

Previous editions and further information can be found at: <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/projects/civil/Delta/News.html>

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DeltaNews@usace.army.mil

Upcoming Delta Events

February

- 19: [Isleton Chamber of Commerce Spam Festival](#)
- 20: President's Day
- 25: [BDGP Public Meeting](#)

March

- 7: Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study PDT Meeting
- 15 & 16: [Delta Stewardship Council Meeting](#)
- 18: [Tracy Oasis Marina- Bass 4 Cash Tournament](#)
- 29 & 30: [Delta Stewardship Council Meeting](#)