

FACT SHEET

The Delta Regional Monitoring Program, FY14/15 Support: Connecting Water Quality Management and Science in the Delta	
Deliverables: Delta RMP Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), 2 Meeting Summaries, Monitoring Design	
Status: QAPP has been provisionally approved by the SWAMP QA Officer, will be complete 12/31/15. Meeting summary documents are complete. Monitoring Design document is complete.	
Primary Investigator: Thomas Jabusch, ASC	Recipient Organization: Aquatic Science Center
Project Cost: \$302,903	SFCWA Funding: \$100,000
Partners: Delta RMP Participants: individual POTWs, individual, stormwater agencies, individual agricultural coalitions, IEP, SFCWA, USEPA, and CVRWQCB	



Introduction

The program’s mission is to inform decisions on how to protect, and where necessary, restore beneficial uses of water in the Delta, by producing objective and cost-effective scientific information critical to understanding regional water quality conditions and trends.

The development of the Delta RMP by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQB) was initially prompted by the collapse of the popula-

tions of several species of fish in the early 2000s, a phenomenon termed the Pelagic Organism Decline (POD). Data from existing monitoring programs were found to be inadequate in coverage, not easily combined, and not adequate to support a rigorous analysis of the role of contaminants in causing POD. This recognition persuaded regulatory agencies to improve coordination across multiple monitoring programs through the Delta RMP.

The Delta RMP Steering Committee (SC) was formed in 2012. Subsequently, the SC appointed a Technical Advisory Committee and appointed the Aquatic Science Center (ASC) as the Implementing Entity.

Objectives

The Strategic Workplan of the Water Boards defines the scope of the Delta RMP as:

- To initially focus on the legal Delta, including those portions of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers within the legal Delta and the Yolo bypass upstream of the Delta.
- To coordinate monitoring that is being conducted within the legal boundaries of the Delta
- To address monitoring needs and the needs for a toxicity response program in the Delta.

Program participants have further defined the objectives of the Delta RMP as follows:

The primary goal of the Delta RMP is to provide coordinated Delta-wide monitoring, reporting, and assessment of water quality, while pursuing the following objectives:

1. Improve the efficiency of water quality data collection and management in the Delta;
2. Generate products that inform and educate the public, agencies, and decision makers;
3. Raise awareness of Delta water quality conditions and how they impact beneficial uses;
4. Foster independent science, objective peer review, and a transparent review process;
5. Focus on the Delta;
6. Focus on the highest priority water quality information needs; and
7. Contribute to a holistic understanding of the Bay-Delta.

Results

In FY14/15, with support from SFCWA, the Delta RMP:

1. Raised \$302,903 in funding from program participants (including \$100,000 from SFCWA).
2. Approved foundational documents describing the governance structure and function of the Delta RMP. CVRWQCB also modified certain permits to allow for participation the Delta RMP in lieu of individual permit monitoring requirements.
3. Provided \$72,000 in funding for Year 1 of a two-year study of pathogens in collaboration with the Municipal Water Quality Investigations program.
4. Provided \$70,000 to USGS to prepare a synthesis of sensor data for nutrients and nutrient-related parameters.
5. Completed a comprehensive Monitoring Design to guide the scientific program into the future.
6. Completed a Quality Assurance Project Plan for current use pesticide monitoring and pathogens monitoring.
7. Approved a workplan and budget (\$893,939) for FY15/16. The workplan consists of current use pesticide monitoring, synthesis of information on nutrient monitoring in the Delta, and funding for Year 2 of the pathogens study.
8. Started collecting field samples for pathogens in April 2015 and current use pesticides in July 2015.

Conclusions

In FY14/15, the Delta RMP made the transition from planning to implementation. The Monitoring Design was approved by the Steering Committee in June 2015. The first samples for the pathogen study were collected in April 2015 and, in July 2015, current use pesticide monitoring and nutrient synthesis tasks also started.

Next Steps

The next steps for the Delta RMP are to implement the workplans for FY14/15 and FY15/16, including:

- Develop a Memorandum of Understanding between program participants to facilitate contributions to the program,
- Prepare a Communications Plan, and
- Complete the planned scientific program for FY15/16.

References

The Delta RMP governance documents, Monitoring Design, and meeting summaries are available on the program website at:

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/delta_water_quality/comprehensive_monitoring_program/