

DFG Briefing for the California Water Commission's April 18, 2012 Meeting

Status Update:

- The Draft DFG report on Ecosystem Improvement Priorities is currently going through internal DFG review.
- DFG anticipates having a draft of this report available to share with DWR and the CWC sometime in May 2012.
 - This date is somewhat flexible, since it is dependent upon the date of public release for the Draft DFG Conservation Strategy, which is an attachment to this report.

Draft Report Summary:

The Draft DFG report on priority ecosystem improvements primarily relies upon the *DRAFT Ecosystem Restoration Program Conservation Strategy for Restoration of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecological Management Zone and the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley Regions* (DFG Conservation Strategy). In the report we also mention several existing DFG reports and documents that can, and should be, referenced by project proponents in the development of ecosystem improvement actions. These plans provide the existing framework used by DFG to prioritize and guide actions to improve and restore ecological processes and habitat needed to maintain the state's fish and wildlife resources.

Priority ecosystem improvements identified by DFG within this draft report are projects that achieve one or more of the following:

- recovery for endangered and other at-risk species and native biotic communities;
- rehabilitate natural processes;
- maintain or enhance populations of selected species for sustainable commercial or recreational harvest;
- protect or restore functional habitat types;
- prevent or reduce negative impacts from non-native species; and
- improve and/or maintain water and sediment quality conditions that support healthy ecosystems.

These priority ecosystem improvements are supported by the DFG Conservation Strategy. The DFG Conservation Strategy is focused on the restoration of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley regions; however DFG supports these priority ecosystem improvements for application throughout the state. These priorities are not ranked, and are in no particular order. This list reflects high priority ecosystem issues that could be positively influenced by water supply projects.