Project Description:

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) proposes the construction of two marsh-pond complexes that would house native fish for experimental study. Each marsh-pond complex consists of a propagation pond, a cooling marsh, and a food marsh that would be constructed in two phases. The first phase is a smaller demonstration pilot, and the second larger phase will capitalize on what was learned in the first phase. The tule marshes would be of varying sizes and serve two distinct functions: the first type of marsh would be designed to optimize cooling of water temperatures (cooling marsh) and the second type is for production of food for the native fish (food marsh). The propagation ponds would contain the fish and would be connected to the cooling and food marshes through screened concrete-lined canals. Research conducted at these ponds would help refine future research on delta smelt and the establishment of a marsh-pond complex that could support delta smelt. This Proposed Project assumes, prior to any transport and stocking of hatchery delta smelt, that fish are available from the Fish Conservation and Culture Laboratory (FCCL) and their release and rearing in the propagation ponds is approved by the USFWS and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).