



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

# Board Report

## Bay-Delta Resources Group

- **Bay-Delta Management Report**

### Summary

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This report provides a summary of activities related to the Bay-Delta for May 2024.

### Purpose

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Informational

### Detailed Report

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#### Long-Term Delta Actions

##### Delta Conveyance

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released a benefit-cost analysis for the Delta Conveyance Project that finds the infrastructure modernization project would create billions of dollars in benefits for California communities. These benefits include: reliable water supplies, climate change adaptation, earthquake preparedness and improved water quality. According to the report, for every \$1 spent, \$2.20 in benefits would be generated.

The Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) released a project cost estimate of \$20.1 billion in real 2023 (undiscounted) dollars. A preliminary cost assessment conducted in 2020, early in the design process, showed the project would cost about \$16 billion in undiscounted 2020 dollars. Accounting for inflation to 2023 dollars shows that the 2020 cost assessment estimate and 2024 cost estimate are similar in cost. The cost estimate includes \$200 million for the project's Community Benefits Program for local Delta community projects. Although DWR committed to this program by including it in the project's environmental impact report and project approval, with the release of the cost estimate there is now an identified dollar value.

Value engineering in the cost estimate identified design and construction innovations that present opportunities to cut costs, save time, and reduce risks. These engineering innovations, while not representing changes to the approved project description, demonstrate potential for a cost reduction of about \$1.2 billion. The DCA will continue to research additional innovations as pre-construction design and engineering progress.

#### Near-Term Delta Actions

##### Regulatory and Science Update

Staff implemented the Floating Wetland Cage Study. The objective is to leverage the field deployment of Floating Wetlands on Bouldin Island to determine whether increased food production from the floating wetland increases the growth and survival of Delta smelt. Studies supported by Metropolitan staff and funding were showcased at the 2024 Interagency Ecological Program Annual Workshop.