



One Water and Stewardship Committee

Update on Delta Conveyance

Item 6a

January 8, 2024

Item 6a Update on Delta Conveyance

Subject

Update on Delta Conveyance

Purpose

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) recently released the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Delta Conveyance Project. In addition, DWR released an updated planning timeline and analysis of State Water Project reliability beyond 2040.

Next Steps

Staff will provide updates based on key planning milestones and bring forward future decisions on project funding.

Policy Considerations

The Delta Conveyance Project Final EIR is an important milestone in the effort by DWR to modernize the State Water Project and protect against future water supply losses caused by climate change, sea level rise, and earthquakes:

- Given the best available science and the risks associated with climate change and sea level rise, what is the best way to promote a sustainable State Water Project supply within Metropolitan's One Water approach?
- How will Delta Conveyance Project decision-making be coordinated with the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) process?

Update on Delta Conveyance

Presentation Overview

- Overview of DCP Milestones
- Final Environmental Impact Report
- DCP Planning Timeline
- SWP Reliability Beyond 2040
- Next Steps

Delta Conveyance Project – Milestones to Date





Delta Conveyance Project Final EIR

January 8, 2024

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Delta Conveyance Project Final EIR

Release & Certification

- DCP Final EIR released December 8 & certified December 21
 - Adopt CEQA Findings, MMRP & Statement of Overriding Considerations
 - Project approval
 - Notice of Determination
 - 30-day clock for CEQA litigation



Approved Project:

- Bethany alignment
- 6,000 cfs
- 2 intakes
- Pumping plant connects the tunnel directly to Bethany Reservoir

By the Numbers:

- 3,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) per intake
- 1 below-ground tunnel for ~45 miles
- 36 feet tunnel diameter (inside)
- 140 – 170 feet depth
- 18 inches thickness of tunnel segments

Delta Conveyance Project Final EIR

Response to Comments

- DWR reviewed & considered all comments
 - Including those received after the comment period
- ~729 letters and other communications
- ~7,300 individual comments
- Comments covered a broad range of policy and environmental technical topics

Delta Conveyance Project Final EIR

Project Refinements

- Refinements to project description
 - Footprints & construction activities
 - Refinements to clarify operations
- Inclusion of Contra Costa Water District settlement
- Air Quality & GHG modeling
- Per CEQA, these refinements did not trigger recirculation



Delta Conveyance Project Planning Timeline & Next Steps

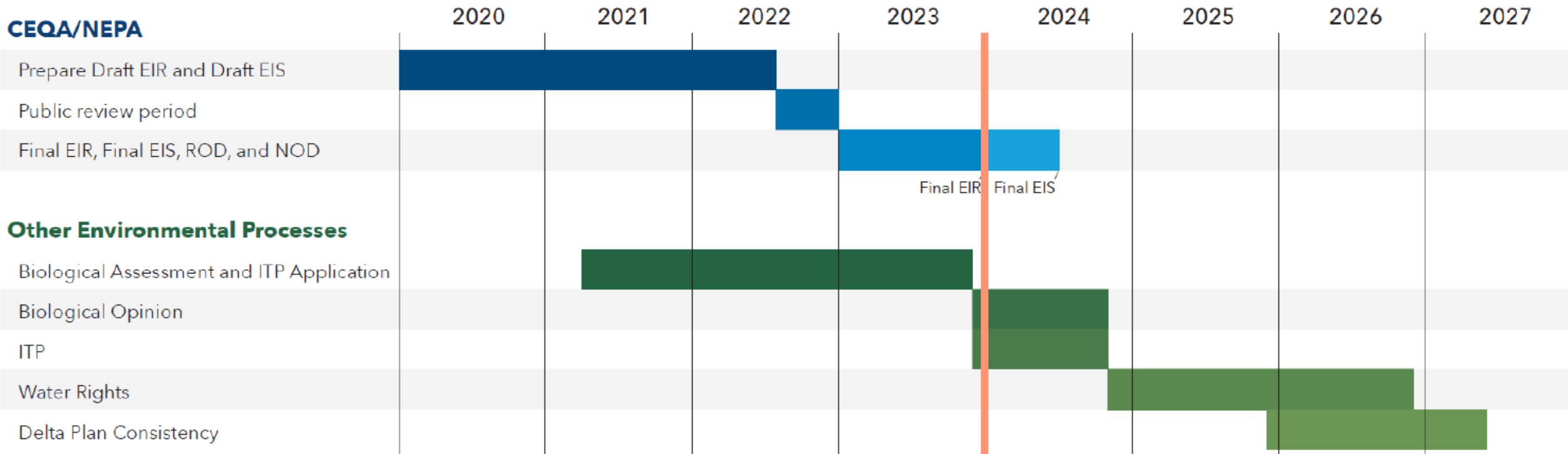
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Delta Conveyance Project - Planning Timeline

Delta Conveyance Project Planned Schedule



Delta Conveyance Project

Planning Process Next Steps

- Ongoing permitting, through early 2027
- Community Benefits Program development, through late 2025
- Updated cost estimate, spring 2024
- Statewide cost benefit analysis, mid-2024
- Bond validation, ongoing



State Water Project Reliability Beyond 2040

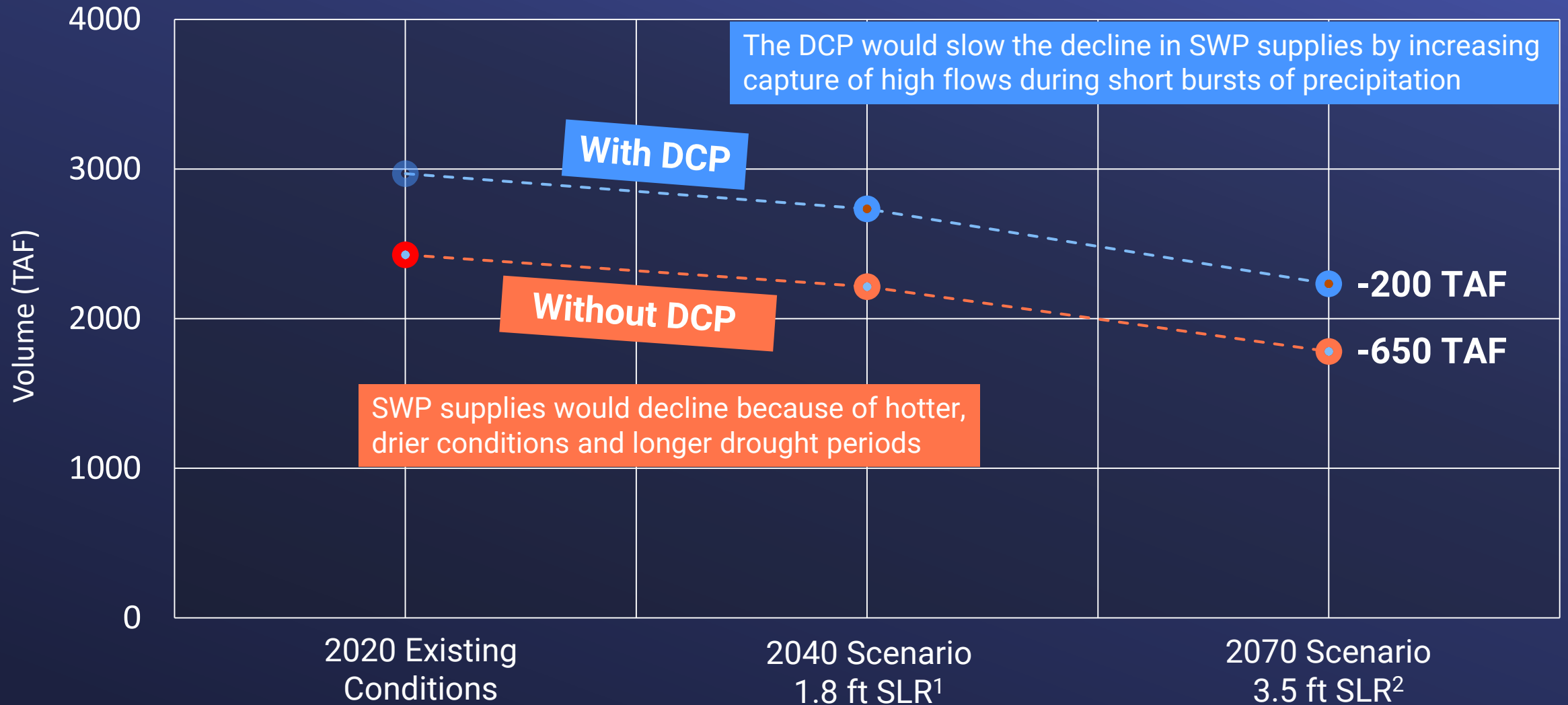
Reliability Beyond 2040

- Metropolitan's Dec 2022 Draft EIR comment letter requested additional analysis
- 2070 Technical Memo developed by DWR
 - Hotter and drier
 - Greater sea level rise
 - Increased runoff variability
 - Additional reductions in SWP supplies
 - Similar benefits as 2040 Scenario
- Aligns with Sept 2023 Board action on Representative Concentration Pathway 8.5

State Water
Project

State Water Project Reliability Beyond 2040

Average Annual SWP Delta Supplies



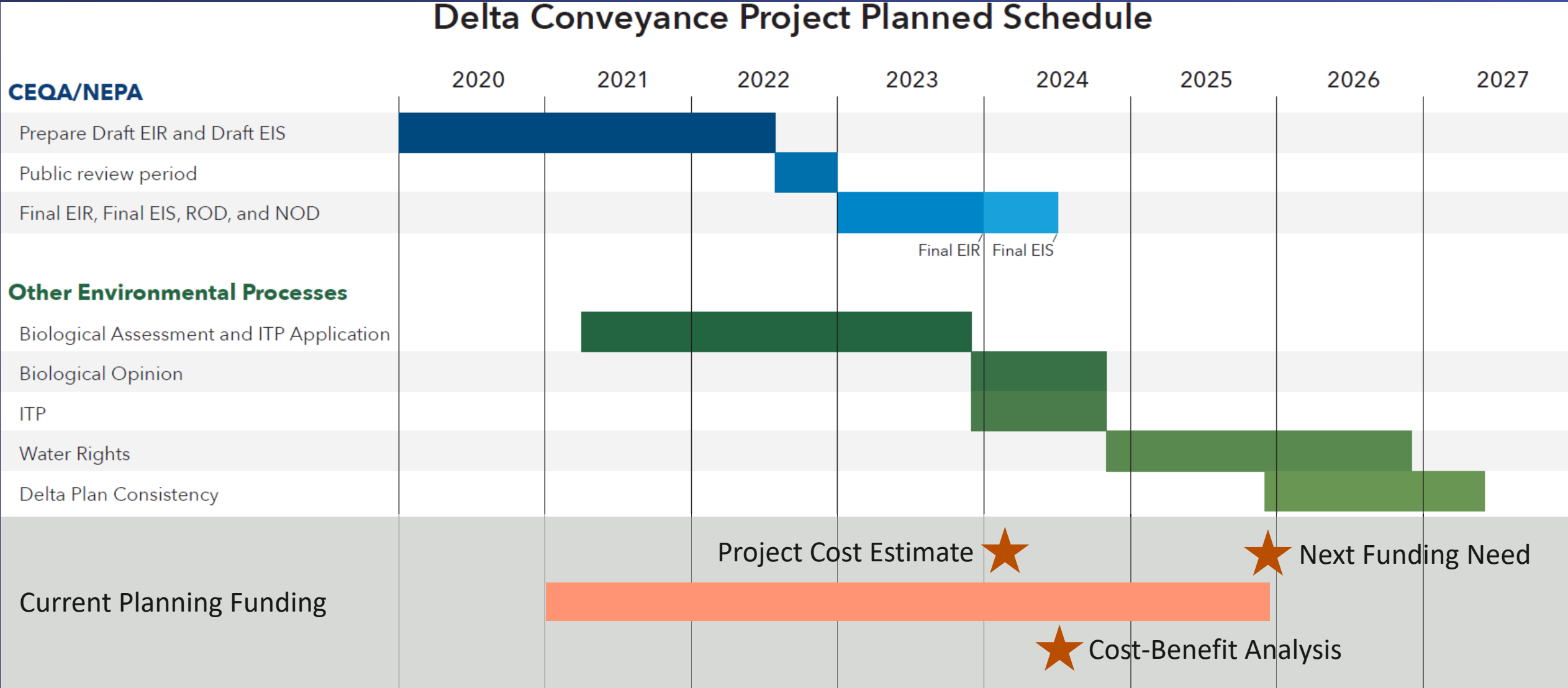
¹ 1.8 feet of sea level rise under the 2040 Central Tendency Climate Scenario as described in Appendix 30A. H++ corresponds to OPC's extreme scenario resulting from loss of West Antarctic ice sheet.

² 3.5 feet of sea level rise under the 2070 Median Climate Scenario as described in 2070 Technical Memo. Per 2018 OPC Guidance, 0.5% likelihood by 2070 under high emissions.



Next Steps

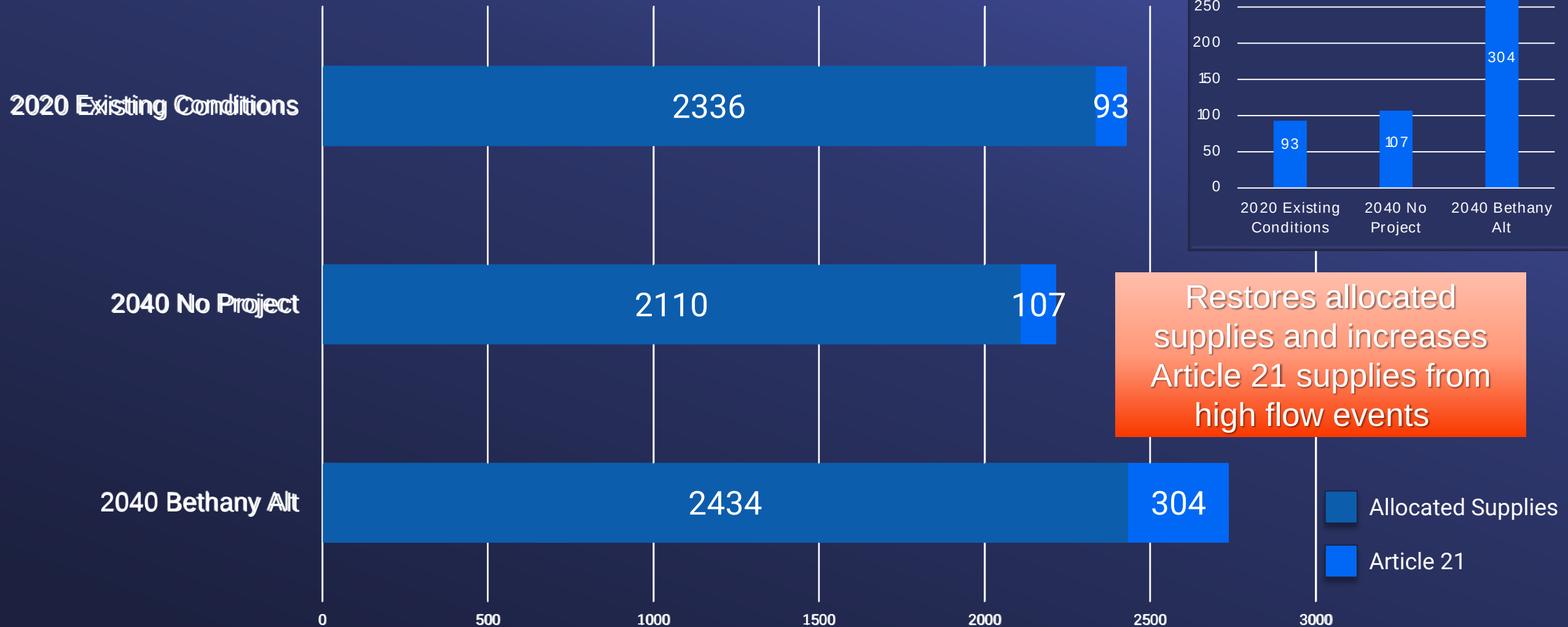
Next Steps





Adapting to High Flow Events Amid Climate Change

SWP Deliveries, Long Term Average (TAF)^{1,2,3}



¹2040 scenarios discussed included No Project and Proposed Project (Bethany Alternative), ²H++ corresponds to OPC's extreme scenario resulting from loss of West Antarctic ice sheet

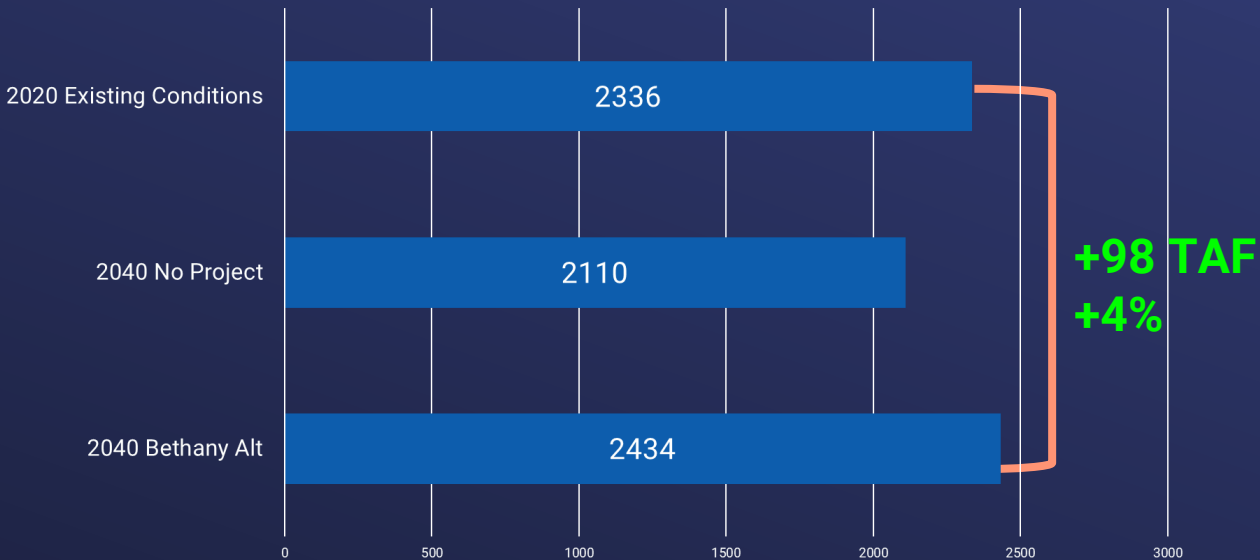
³Allocated supplies include Table A and Article 56 Carryover supplies as shown in Table 6A-1 of the DCP Draft EIR.

Adapting to High Flow Events Amid Climate Change

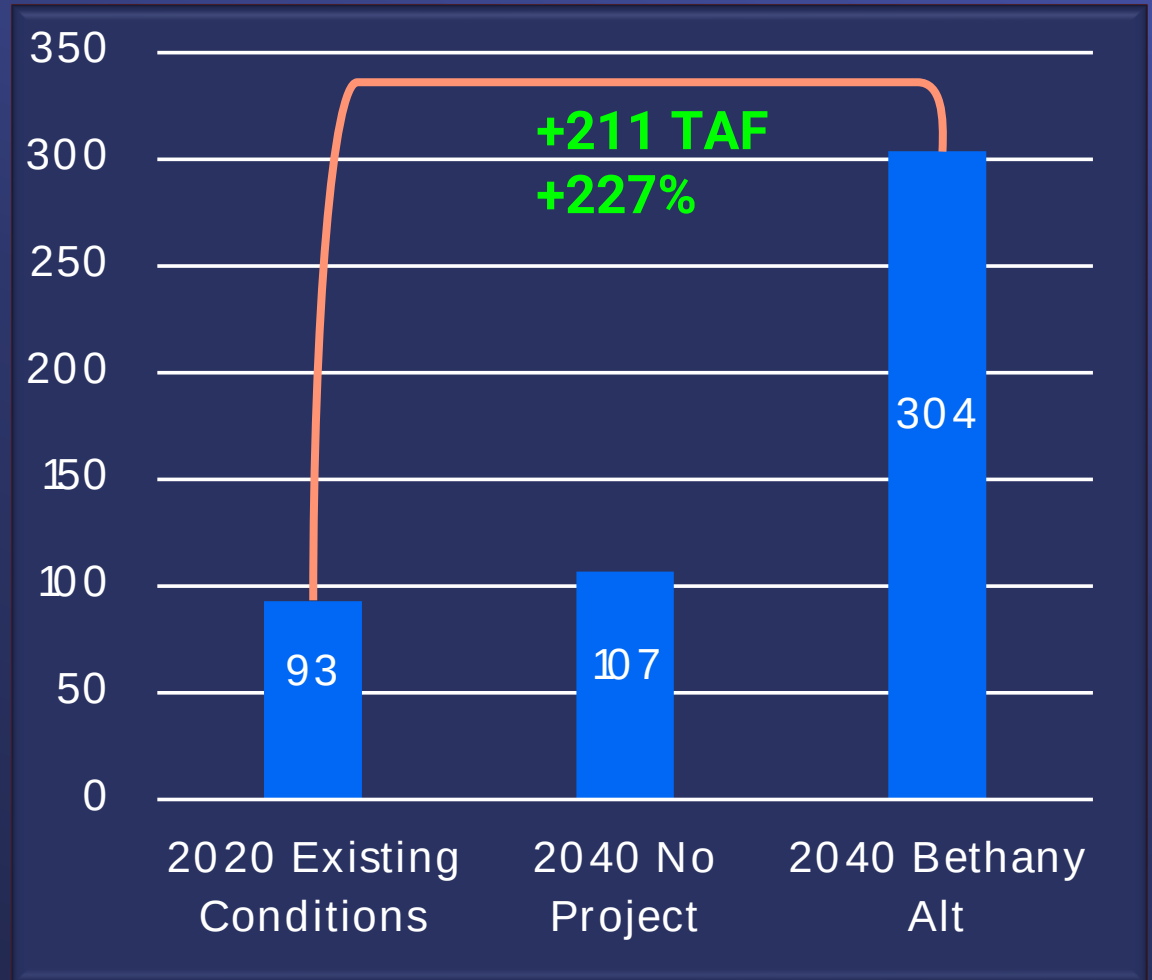
SWP Deliveries, Long Term Average (TAF)^{1,2,3}

Article 21 Supplies

Allocated Supplies



Capturing high flow events restores and protects water supply reliability



¹2040 scenarios discussed included No Project and Proposed Project (Bethany Alternative), ²H++ corresponds to OPC's extreme scenario resulting from loss of West Antarctic ice sheet

³Allocated supplies include Table A and Article 56 Carryover supplies as shown in Table 6A-1 of the DCP Draft EIR.

One Water and Delta Conveyance

Putting the Pieces Together

Southern California's Resource Portfolio An "All of the Above" Strategy for Reliability



One Water and Delta Conveyance

Delta Conveyance Project aims to protect and restore SWP water reliability

Vital To Metropolitan

- The SWP is a core component of Metropolitan's supply portfolio
- Metropolitan's infrastructure is designed and built to benefit from the SWP

Surface Storage

- San Luis Reservoir Carryover
- Flexible Storage
- Diamond Valley Lake

SWP Groundwater Banking

- Central Valley Programs
- High Desert Water Bank

Develop New Local Supplies

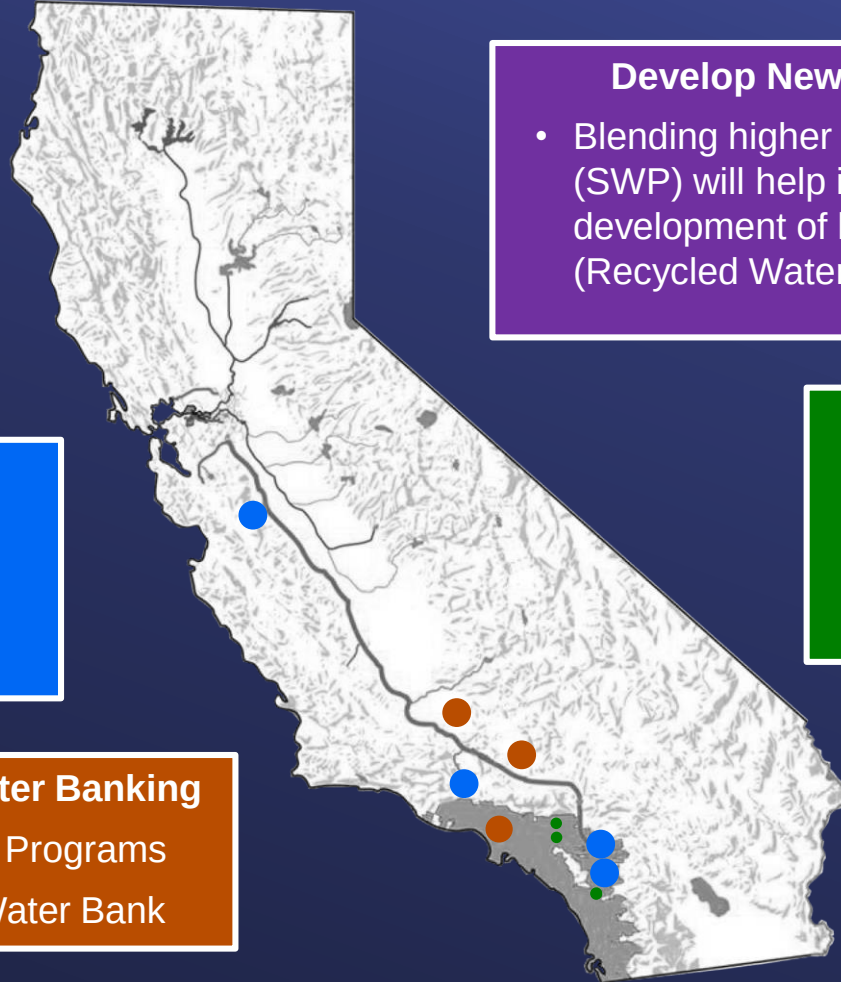
- Blending higher quality source water (SWP) will help in maintenance and development of local supplies (Recycled Water)

Water Quality at Existing Metropolitan Treatment Facilities

- Blending with Colorado River Supplies at Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner Treatment Plants

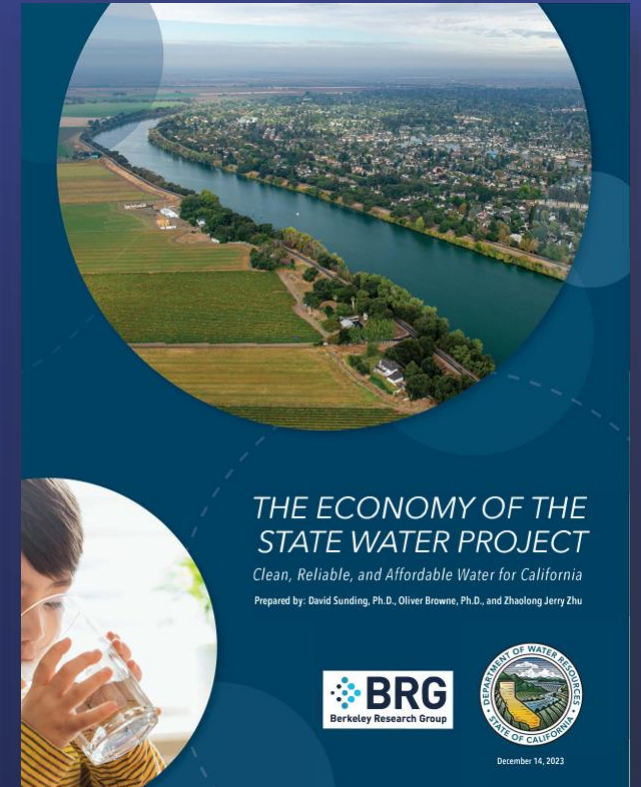
Local Groundwater Recharge

- Supply for In-Service Area Groundwater Basins
- Conjunctive Use Programs



The Economy of the State Water Project

- Report developed by Berkeley Research Group
- SWP service area would rank as the world's 8th largest economy
 - Provides water to over 27 million Californians as well as agriculture, commercial and industrial uses
 - Supports more than 8.7 million jobs
 - Serves between 65% & 75% of California's disadvantaged communities¹
- On average SWP supply costs range from \$250/acre-foot to \$1,440/acre-foot delivered²



¹ Range reflects difference between Median Household Income definition & CalEnviroScreen definition

² Average cost varies based on delivery location, \$250/af to San Joaquin Valley, \$600/af to Southern California, \$1,440/af to Central Coast