

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

Notice of Preparation	Board Action DCP Funding Agreement	Draft EIR 142-Day Public Comment Period	MetropolitanFinal EIRCommentRelease &LetterCertification
2020	2021	2022	2023
Committee Updates January February July September October	Committee Updates January February April June - DWR July September	Committee Updates January May - DCA June - DWR July October November	s Committee Updates April



Delta Conveyance Project Final EIR

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
- l 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

Delta Conveyance Project - Planning Timeline

Delta Conveyance Project Planned Schedule

CEQA/NEPA	2020	2021	2022	2	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Prepare Draft EIR and Draft EIS									
Public review period									
Final EIR, Final EIS, ROD, and NOD									
					Final EIR	Final EIS			
Other Environmental Processes									
Biological Assessment and ITP Application									
Biological Opinion									
ITP									
Water Rights									
Delta Plan Consistency									

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



¹1.8 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. ²3.5 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.

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Delta Conveyance Project Planned Schedule 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 **CEQA/NEPA** Prepare Draft EIR and Draft EIS Public review period Final EIR, Final EIS, ROD, and NOD Final EIR Final EIS **Other Environmental Processes Biological Assessment and ITP Application Biological Opinion** ITP Water Rights Delta Plan Consistency Project Cost Estimate 🜟 Next Funding Need **Current Planning Funding** Cost-Benefit Analysis

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Adapting to High Flow Events Amid Climate Change

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. January 8, 2024 One Water and Stewardship Committee

One Water and Delta Conveyance Putting the Pieces Together

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



LOCAL SUPPLIES

Recycling and other new local sources will provide a greater share of annual supplies.

INNOVATION

New ideas and technologies can help reduce the rate impact of needed investment in additional supplies and conservation.

Collaboration

Solutions come from working together.

CONSERVATION

Lowering demand, particularly outdoors, will help keep needs in balance with available supplies.

STORAGE

Purified wastewater will become an increasing source of replenishment for our groundwater basins. Meanwhile, during wet conditions imported supplies will help restock storage reserves for future drought cycles.

IMPORTED SUPPLIES

The proposed Delta Conveyance Project aims to improve the reliability of supplies from Northern California, taking advantage of high flow conditions while reducing exports when lower flows warrant. In addition, the Colorado River will remain an important supply for the Southland.

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 January 8, 2024
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