



Joint One Water and Adaptation Committee and  
Subcommittee on Imported Water

# Delta Conveyance Project Status Update

Item 6c

December 8, 2025

Presented by: Maureen Martin, Ph.D.

Item 6c  
Delta  
Conveyance  
Project Status  
Update

## Subject

Oral and Written Update on the Delta Conveyance Project

## Purpose

Provide the Board a general status update on the Delta Conveyance Project, including project engineering, current funding agreements, legislation, permitting, and litigation.

# Agenda

- Amended Funding Agreement
- DWR Commitments to Metropolitan
- Engineering Innovations
- Water Rights
- Delta Plan Consistency Certification
- Additional Updates
- Summary and Timeline

# Amended Funding Agreement Finalized June 2025

## Approved by Metropolitan's Board in December 2024

- Participation percentage of 47.2 percent
- \$141.6 million dollars for preconstruction and planning work through 2027
- Payments to begin in Q1 2026

## Metropolitan's funding may be paused or terminated if

- There is a material adverse change in the benefits or costs of the DCP relative to the updated 2024 cost estimate and benefit-cost analysis

# 2024 DWR Commitments Status



- \$75 M dollar refund to partially resolve protest items  
Funds received and deposited in November 2025
- Obtain Key Permits by end of 2026  
State Incidental Take Permit obtained and Federal Biological Opinion for construction anticipated in early 2026
- Close Project Funding Gap  
DWR has met with contractors throughout 2025 with different funding proposals, including discussions to advance opportunities for expanding beneficiaries
- Improve Near Term SWP Reliability  
DWR's Climate Adaptation Strategy was released in early 2025 and evaluated a portfolio of solutions

# Delta Conveyance Design & Construction Authority Innovations

- Focused on potential alternative design or construction approaches
- First innovations introduced as part of “Secondary Estimate” attached to the May 2024 Cost Estimate – initial savings around \$1.25B (6% of total)
- Most of the cost reduction attributed to potential shortened construction timeframes
- Additional engineering innovations are being explored
- Updated cost estimate & Basis of Design Report planned for early 2027



# Water Rights Change in Point of Diversion (CPOD)



## Why

- The State Water Project water rights require an additional point of diversion to be added to allow for diversions from the DCP

## Current Status

- The CPOD hearing began in March 2025
- The State Water Board has not yet provided a schedule for closing briefs or their final determination on the petition

# Delta Plan Consistency Certification

## Why

- Agencies must determine if their proposed action is covered by the regulatory Delta Plan policies
- If covered, it is considered a “covered action” and certifying agencies must determine if their action is consistent with the Delta Plan regulatory policies

## Current Status

- DWR submitted its certification on October 17
- DSC written determination expected in April 2026



## Additional Updates



### Geotechnical Investigations

- The June 2024 preliminary injunction enjoining the DCA was reversed
- Work likely to resume in Spring 2026

### Bond Validation

- 2020 case is currently pending on appeal with a decision by mid-February 2026
- A second bond validation was filed in January 2025 based on a new revenue bond resolution. Trial is set for March 2026

# Oxford Global Projects (OGP) Benchmarking & Risk Analysis

## Additional Updates



- OGP's review compares historical performance of mega-projects with DCP
- Key inaccuracies in the report lead to overstated project risk
- OGP misrepresents the 2024 DCA cost estimate update

## DCP Update Summary

- DWR is meeting commitments set forth in the 2024 letter exchange
- Updated project cost estimate in early 2027
- Critical proceedings are ongoing - water rights, Delta Plan consistency, and bond validation
- Staff will continue to bring updates to Metropolitan's Board and work collaboratively with agencies and partners

# DCP Planning & Permitting Milestones 2026 - 2027



Notes: Timeline is based on current best available information/staff estimates and is subject to change.  
\$ represents quarterly planning payments.

