Metropolitan Water District and the Delta: A Path Forward

Restore the Delta

Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla

DCP Construction Timeline: The Reality

Litigation Timelines

- Litigation is time-consuming, and ongoing litigation is not expected to be resolved soon
- Litigation is unfolding under a dozen different categories presently, and will expand

Bay-Delta WQP Updates

- The Bay-Delta Plan POI is incomplete, uncertainty for water deliveries & environment
- Voluntary Agreements have no accounting plan
- Uncertainty & future litigation will impact operations for DCP

Permitting Processes

- 40+ parties are actively opposing the change petition for the DCP
- Numerous permits required from State and Federal Agencies for DCP
- Federal permitting may be delayed in lieu of administration changes

Active Litigation or Quasi-Judicial Proceedings

State Law	Federal Law	Fiscal Responsibility
• California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)* • California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and Fully Protected Species • Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act • Water Rights* • Delta Reform Act*	• National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) • Endangered Species Act (ESA) • Clean Water Act • Administrative Procedures Act (APA) • Title VI of the Civil Rights Act	• Bond Obligations* • Central Valley Project

*Ongoing legal or quasi-judicial proceedings

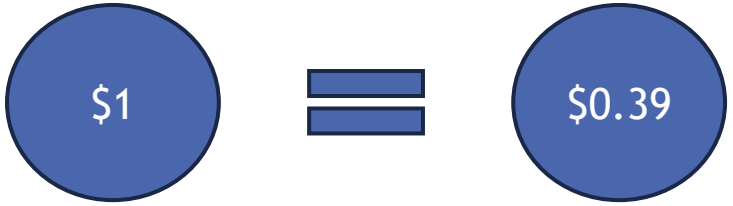
Water Availability + Funding: Logic Gaps

- DCP unrealistically expected to be built by 2045
  - Water supply reliability uncertain from the present until construction is completed
- Metropolitan lacks local storage capacity for water during wet periods presently
- Water rights: not complete. What is the historical maximum DWR can operate under?
- Regardless to federal changes, regulatory standards are still in place at the federal and state levels

Water Availability + Funding: Logic Gaps

- Over assumption of population growth (California Department of Finance)
- Price of water for resale declines during wet periods, making bond repayment difficult;
  - During dry periods, water available for sale?

Cost-Benefits of Funding from the Agricultural Sector

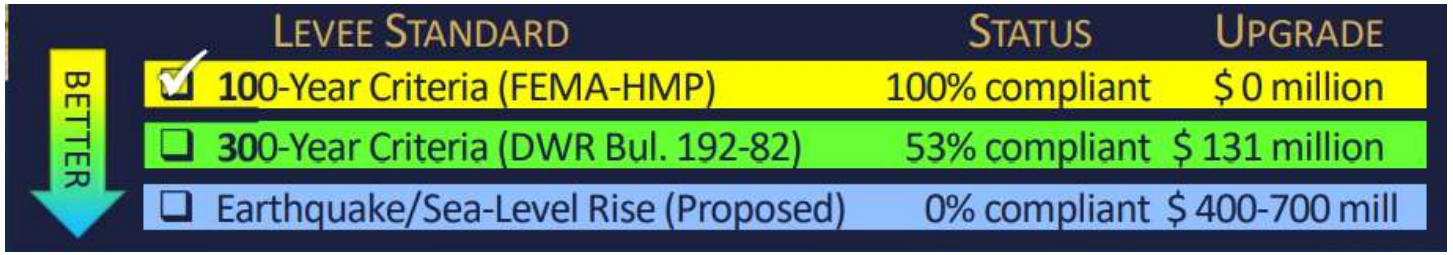


Farmers will likely opt out, leaving the bulk of the cost for Metropolitan to shoulder

Why would Metropolitan spend another $147 million for Delta Conveyance planning when a more cost-effective option for long-term water supply needs is readily available and affordable now?

Levee Management: Proposed Approach

- Goal: A unified approach for effective levee management
- Levees currently meet FEMA standards to qualify for disaster funding
  - No complete levee failure since 2005 → Victora Island
  - Cost: $40-70 million for full breach recovery
- Upgrades would seek to meet 300-year criteria AND Earthquake/Sea Level Rise Criteria



Delta Engineers have done the work - the designs are ready - good collab with Met engineers - we just need implementation

Levees vs. the DCP: A Risk Analysis

Risk Factors	Delta Conveyance Project	Levee System Upgrades
Seal Level Rise	• Climate change influenced SLR was not evaluated • Continued reliance of Levees for protection	• Upgrades would protect against SLR • Protect existing SWP infrastructure
Seismic Events	• Ground Shaking • Soil Instability • Liquification	Updates would: • Lessen the chance of a massive levee failure • Protect existing SWP infrastructure • Solving for SLR solves SE
Floods	• Changes to Water Surface Elevation • Continued reliance on levees	Updates would ensure flood protection for: • Protect existing SWP infrastructure • 4 million Delta Country Residents

Levees vs. the DCP: A Risk Analysis

Risk Factors	Delta Conveyance Project	Levee System Upgrades
Subsidence	Peat Soil: • Shrink-Swell potential • Soil Compression • Co2 Release	Upgrades to levees, paired with: • Urban flood mitigation projects • Wetlands, tules – west Delta • Rice farming, native plants Would **reduce** subsidence
Fishery Declines	Construction: • Acoustic Effects • Sediment Disturbance • Water quality effects • Physical Injury • Increased predation risk • Increased Water Temperature • Reduced Habitat Operations: • Entrainment • Impingement • Predation	• Expand wetlands • Ensure necessary flows • New technologies for real-time fish passage

Levees vs. the DCP: A Risk Analysis

Benefits + Impacts	Delta Conveyance Project	Levee System Upgrades
Agriculture	• Prolong agriculture in unsustainable areas • Disruption + long-term impacts to Delta Farmers	• Protect agriculture across the Delta • Promote Sustainable Agriculture in the Central Valley
Community	• Increased rates for Southern California ratepayers	• Protect communities and property from flood risk • Ensure SWP water supply for Metropolitan for less money
Cost	$20.1 billion	Thru Delta Freshwater pathway: $400 - 700 million

Additional Economic Comparisons: Valley Econ Blog

CAMP4W

Metropolitan's Commitment + Benefits:
- 20-year investment
- $15 billion
- 500,000 acre-feet of new water supply; and
- 250,000 acre-feet of new storage

Delta Conveyance Project

Metropolitan's Commitment + Benefits:
- Min. 25 years
- 75% Metropolitan funding share in the DCP would provide:
- 60% of Delta water supply; and
- 0% of the required storage

Levee Upgrades: an Unavoidable Necessity

- Levee upgrades are an immediate necessity for Metropolitan to guarantee its Delta water supply
- 4 million Delta Country Residents rely on these levees for flood protection
  - **The DCP will NOT solve this issue**
- Upgrades are needed to meet safety standards (Victoria Island), e.g. allowing large trucks to turn around
- The DCP's construction timeline will likely extend far beyond 2045
  - Levee upgrades will be necessary to ensure a reliable supply of water to MWD
- **Levees will remain critical FOR the DCP, if it clears all legal, regulatory and financial hurdles**

Why would Metropolitan spend another $147 million for Delta Conveyance planning when a more cost-effective option for long-term water supply needs is readily available and affordable now?

THANK YOU!