

Delta Stewardship Council Active Projects List

Agenda Item: 8
Council Meeting Date: May 23, 2024.

May 13, 2024

The tables below highlight a sample of active projects for Council member review. Active projects include both potential covered actions and related plans and projects. An explanation of Column 4, Status, is provided on page 8.

Changes since April 2024 are denoted with an asterisk (*). Two new projects were added, four projects were removed this month.

State Projects

Name	Location (County)	Proponent	Status	California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Status	Description
Delta Conveyance	Delta-wide	Department of Water Resources (DWR)	Early Consultation	Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR)	A facility to convey water from the Sacramento River in the north Delta directly to the existing State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) pumping plants in the south Delta.
*Little Egbert Multi-Benefit Project	Solano County	DWR	Comment Letter 8.2.23	DEIR being prepared by DWR 4.24.24	Transition of land from agricultural to tidal wetlands, subtidal and riparian habitat located at the south end of the Yolo Bypass.
Franks Tract Futures 2020 Reimagined	Contra Costa	California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)	Comment Letter 09.20	Not Initiated	Explore options for improving ecosystem, water quality, recreation, and community benefits at Franks Tract.

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Name	Location (County)	Proponent	Status	California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Status	Description
Twitchell Island West End Wetland (EcoRestore)	Sacramento County	DWR/ RD1601	Comment letter 12.29.24	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)	Project intends to restore and enhance 40 acres of wetland and 80 acres of riparian and scrub habitat within a 185-acre project area footprint.
Twitchell Island Levee Improvement	Sacramento County	RD1601	District awaiting funding agreement from DWR	EIR	Levee improvement project
West False River Drought Salinity Barrier Project	Contra Costa County	DWR	Comment letter 8.22.22	DEIR	Temporary drought salinity barrier would be installed in West False River up to two times between 2023 and 2032 if drought conditions occur.
Sherman Island Wetland Restoration Project Phase III (Whale's Nose)	Sacramento County	DWR/Reclamation District (RD) 341	CDFW consultation	Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) Pre-Concurrence Consultation	Restore and enhance up to 1,369 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands.

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Regional Projects

Name	Location (County)	Proponent	Status	CEQA Status	Description
Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership	Solano, Yolo	Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB)	Early Consultation; Comment Letter sent 10.19.23	NOP	Multi-partner initiative for programmatic activities in Yolo Bypass and Cache Slough.
Sacramento Regional Water Bank	Sutter, Placer and Sacramento Counties	Regional Water Authority (RWA)	Comment letter sent 10.19.23	NOP	Regional water bank to coordinate and expend conjunctive use practices of RWA members.
*Banta Carbona Floodplain Project	San Joaquin County	Banta Carbona Irrigation District (BCID)	Early consultation meeting 4.8.24	PEIR 08.2022	Using Statewide Restoration General Order through the Water Board. Determining process to certify.

Local Projects

Name	Location (County)	Proponent	Status	CEQA Status	Description
Cache Slough Complex Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)	Solano, Yolo	Solano County	Monitoring	Not Initiated	Plan to provide coverage for endangered species take at existing water supply diversions and intakes.
Delta Smelt and Native Species Preservation Project	San Joaquin	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan)	Comment Letter	Notice of Intent (NOI)	Demonstration pilot consisting of two marsh complexes that would house native fish for experimental study.

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Name	Location (County)	Proponent	Status	CEQA Status	Description
*Extension of the Lower Yuba River Accord Water Transfer Program		Yuba County Water Agency	Early consultation	Draft EIR	Extend the current water transfer program beyond its current expiration date of December 31, 2025, through 2050.
Webb Tract Wetland Mosaic Landscape Project	Contra Costa County	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan)	Early consultation	Potential CEQA SERP	Metropolitan would design and construct up to 3,500 acres of managed, flooded wetlands and up to 1,500 acres of rice fields at Webb Tract.
City of Sacramento 2040 General Plan and Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Update	City of Sacramento	City of Sacramento	Comment Letter 10.19.23	Final MEIR filed 1.19.24	The City published a draft General Plan Update and Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and DMEIR for review and public comment.
Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan and Climate Action Plan Update	Contra Costa County	Contra Costa County	Comment Letter sent 04.02.24	NOA	The County is updating its General Plan and Climate Action Plan.
Paradise Cut Expansion & South Delta Restoration Project	San Joaquin County	SJAFCA	Feasibility Study to be completed in 2025	Not initiated	The Project seeks to decrease peak flows during potential flood events and improve and enhance habitat.

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Name	Location (County)	Proponent	Status	CEQA Status	Description
City of Pittsburg General Plan 2040	Contra Costa	City of Pittsburg	Comment Letter 2.9.24	NOA	The City prepared a programmatic Environmental Impact Report (Program EIR) to evaluate the environmental effects associated with the General Plan update. Certification of Consistency expected.
Mokelumne Aqueducts Resiliency Project	San Joaquin, Contra Costa County	East Bay Municipal Utilities District	Comment Letter	NOP	Replace a portion of the existing Mokelumne Aqueducts with a buried Aqueduct Tunnel of approximately 16.5 miles in length.
Mosssdale Tract Area Urban Flood Risk Reduction Study	San Joaquin	SJAFCA	Early Consultation	NOP	Identify a plan to achieve an urban level of flood protection for the Mosssdale Tract (Reclamation District No. 17).

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Other Projects

Name	Location (County)	Proponent	Status	CEQA Status	Description
Delta Conveyance	Delta-wide	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Comment Letter	Draft Environmental Impact Study (EIS)	A facility to convey water from the Sacramento River in the north Delta directly to the existing SWP and CVP pumping plants in the south Delta. The scope is limited to construction activities, structures, and modifications to federal levees and navigation projects.
Delta Cross Channel Gate Upgrades Project	Sacramento	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)	Monitoring	Not initiated	Provide for remote and more frequent operation, to manage water quality in the Central Delta and at the SWP and CVP pumping plants.
Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan	San Francisco Bay, Sacramento to San Joaquin Delta	State Water Resources Control Board	Comment Letter 1.19.24	NOP	The proposed project is adoption of regulations pursuant to the rulemaking procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act (Gov. Code, § 11340 et seq.) to allocate responsibility to water rights holders and claimants for implementing the Bay-Delta Plan Lower San Joaquin River flow and southern Delta salinity components of the 2018 Bay-Delta Plan.

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Goat Island on Rush Ranch	Solano County	San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority	Tier from the 2015 MND Monitoring	Suisun Marsh PEIR, 2015 MND	Phase II presentation scheduled for Suisun AMAT in August 2024. AMAT site visit 5.14.24
*Plan Bay Area 2050+	Bay Area (9 counties)	MTC/ABAG (Metro Transportation Commission/Association of Bay Area Governments)	Draft of the plan 2050+ is completed as of 1.24	Not initiated.	Limited update to the 2050 plan, verifying growth and economic assumptions due to Covid. Extensive public outreach being done. Coordination effort, not within the Legal Delta.

Status Types

Active projects include both potential covered actions and related plans and projects of interest. The active project “Status” reported above is not sequential but tends to align with certain phases of the CEQA process. The relationship between generalized steps in the CEQA process (top row) and generalized status types (bottom row) is illustrated in **Figure 1**. Each status type is described in more detail, below.

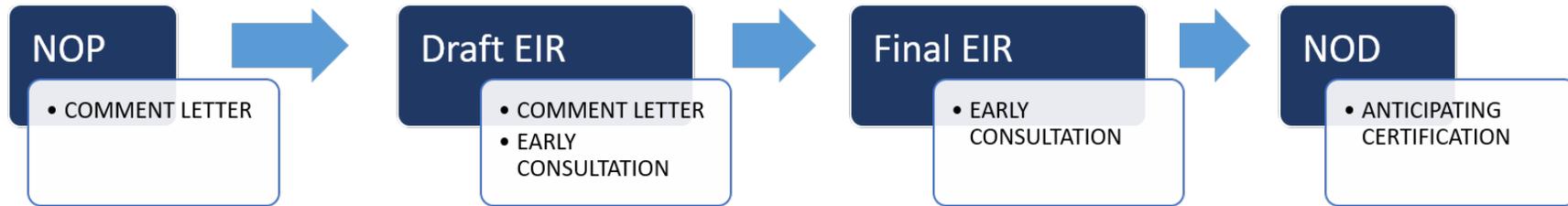


Figure 1. Typical Project Sequence

Coordinating: Occasionally, the Council will coordinate with state and local agencies prior to the initiation of the CEQA process in order to track and/or inform project formulation. Coordination may include informal discussions or attendance at project planning meetings.

Comment letter: Council staff prepare comment letters in response to each phase of the CEQA process leading up to a final document (e.g., Notice of Preparation [NOP], IS/ND, IS/MND, DEIR). The Council may also comment on other interim studies and reports, as needed. The Council comments on potential covered actions as well as on long range plans identified in the Delta Reform Act (Wat. Code section 85212) and projects located outside of the Delta that will have a significant impact on the Delta (Wat. Code section 85210[j]).

Early consultation: The Delta Reform Act directs the Council to offer early consultation to assist state and local public agencies in preparing certifications of consistency (Wat. Code section 85225.5). The timing and frequency of early consultation is at the discretion of the project proponent.

Anticipating certification: Council staff anticipate a certification of consistency once a notice of determination (NOD) has been issued. Proponents of covered actions must file a certification of consistency prior to project implementation (Wat. Code section 85225). The timeframe between NOD and implementation varies.