

Delta Plan Draft Program EIR

Public Process Update

November 17, 2011

Draft EIR Availability

- The EIR is available:
 - Posted on the Council website on November 4, 2011
 - <http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/draft-eir>
 - At main County libraries
 - Copy of Draft EIR is available for public review in a public library in each county in the Study Area
 - On CD-ROM upon request
 - Send e-mail with the subject line “Request for CD-ROM Copy of DPEIR” to eircomments@deltacouncil.ca.gov, or by calling 916-445-0144.

Notice of Availability (NOA) was Widely Distributed

- Over 1,250 recipients of NOA
- Every County Clerk and Board of Supervisors, Incorporated City, and Council of Government (COG) in the Study Area
- Special Districts, Parks/Conservancies, and Public School Districts located in/near the Delta/Suisun Marsh
- Scoping Meeting attendees that signed in

Additional Notice of Availability Recipients

- Relevant Federal, State, Regional, and Local Agencies
- State Water Project Water Contractors
- Central Valley Project Water Contractors, including 250+ water rights contractors
- All Native American Indian Tribes in the State

EIR Noticed in Multiple Newspapers

Newspaper	
LA Times	Ventura County Star
San Jose Mercury News	Modesto Bee
San Francisco Chronicle	Oakland Tribune
San Diego Union-Tribune	The Bakersfield Californian
Sacramento Bee	Stockton Record
Orange County Register	The Tribune (SLO)
Riverside Press-Enterprise	Chico Enterprise-Record
Fresno Bee	Santa Barbara News-Press
Contra Costa Times	Record Searchlight (Redding)

Approach to EIR Analysis -1 (Summarized from October 27, 2011)

- **Draft EIR covers a broad range of issues and conclusions**
 - 19 resource areas analyzed
 - 280 conclusions regarding the significance of specific environmental impacts
- **Proposed Project is the Fifth Staff Draft Delta Plan**

Approach to EIR Analysis - 2

- Delta Plan proposes policies and recommendations that *encourage* other agencies to undertake new projects to achieve the coequal goals
- The EIR assumes the Delta Plan will be successful, and that new projects will occur that might affect the environment
- EIR evaluates typical environmental impacts of these new projects

Approach to EIR Analysis - 3

- EIR identified and evaluated five categories of project types:
 - Reliable Water Supply Projects
 - Delta Ecosystem Restoration Projects
 - Water Quality Improvement Projects
 - Flood Risk Reduction Projects
 - Delta-As-Place Enhancement Projects
- EIR also evaluated specific projects named in the Delta Plan at program level

Approach to EIR Analysis - 4

- Because precise siting, design, and operational characteristics of these typical projects is not known, EIR analogizes to *actual*, similar projects and draws on their environmental and technical analyses in the Delta Plan EIR's analyses
- This process was very helpful and informative in providing context for the Delta Plan EIR
 - Example: Davis-Woodland Water Supply Project and its EIR

Approach to EIR Conclusions

- This EIR takes a conservative approach because project-specific details are not known
 - For example, concludes impacts could be significant based on a single example (analogous project required 24-hour construction so could cause nighttime construction noise impacts)
 - Council cannot guarantee that an agency with a non-covered action will implement mitigation this EIR requires
- CEQA compels this approach

Alternatives to the Project

No Project Alternative

Alternative 1A - Export More Water Out of the Delta; Decreased Emphasis on Local and Regional Water Self-Reliance; Focus Levee Improvements on Protecting Water Supply Corridors

Alternative 1B - Export More Water Out of the Delta; Reduced Conservation and Water Efficiency Measures; Only Voluntary Actions by State and Local Agencies; Coordination, not Regulation; Large Number of Additional Studies Before Action

Alternative 2 - Decreased Export of Water from the Delta; Increased Emphasis on Ecosystem Restoration throughout California

Alternative 3 - Increased Emphasis on Protection and Enhancement of Delta Communities and Culture; Protection of Delta Agricultural Land and Less Ecosystem Restoration; Fewer Regulations for Delta Counties

Alternatives Analysis

- The impacts of the Proposed Project and Alternatives are compared to Existing Conditions
- Impacts of the Alternatives also compared to the impacts of the Proposed Project
- Alternatives that do less than the Proposed Delta Plan to halt and reverse the increasing environmental and flood risk deterioration in the Delta were considered to have greater impacts than the Proposed Project in those resource areas

How to Comment

- Email: eircomments@deltacouncil.ca.gov
- Mail: Delta Stewardship Council, 980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500, Sacramento, CA 95814, Attn: Terry Macaulay
- Use the comment box on the Council's web site (<http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/comment-draft-eir>)
- Public Meetings
 - Thursday, November 17, 2011, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sheraton Grand Hotel, 1230 J Street, Sacramento, CA (Council will take oral public comment)
 - Thursday, December 15, 2011, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., California State Capitol, Room 447, Sacramento, CA (Council will take oral public comment)
- Comment period currently scheduled to close on January 3, 2012 at 11:59 p.m. PST