



INFORMATION ITEM

California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Delta Conveyance Update

Summary

Staff from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) will provide an update on the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP). DWR has previously provided updates to the Council on the DCP, including in January, April, July, and November of 2023. Today's presentation will include next steps related to the project's planning and permitting efforts and an opportunity for Councilmembers to ask questions of DWR staff.

Background

The Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) is a project proposed by DWR to construct new State Water Project infrastructure used to export water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta).

DWR released a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the DCP in July 2022. The proposed project alternative identified in the DEIR is known as the Bethany Reservoir Alignment. Under this alternative, DCP would include two new 3,000 cubic feet per second intake structures in the North Delta along the Sacramento River, and a connection to storage and export infrastructure in the South Delta. The Council submitted comments on the DCP DEIR in December 2022 (available here: <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/pdf/council-meeting/outgoing-correspondence/2022-12-16-comments-on-delta-conveyance-project-deir.pdf>). DWR certified the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the DCP and approved the Bethany Reservoir Alignment in December 2023.

Relationship to the Delta Plan

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 (Wat. Code, § 85000 et seq.; Delta Reform Act) charges the Council with implementing the Delta Plan (Wat. Code, § 85204) and gives the Council appellate authority over certain actions in the Delta, defined as "covered actions," to ensure that covered actions in the Delta are

consistent with Delta Plan regulatory policies (Wat. Code, §§ 85225, 85225.10, 85225.15, 85225.20, 85225.25) An agency undertaking a covered action must certify to the Council that its action is consistent with the Delta Plan. As described in the DEIR, the DCP is a covered action. The Council anticipates receiving a certification of consistency from DWR in 2025. That certification of consistency would be appealable pursuant to the Delta Reform Act.

Delta Conveyance Project Update

The DCP recently completed a major milestone with the completion of the FEIR. Carrie Buckman, DWR's Environmental Program Manager for Delta Conveyance, will provide an update on DCP status and next steps related to planning and permitting efforts.

Fiscal Information

Not applicable.

List of Attachments

No attachments.

Contact

Jeff Henderson
Deputy Executive Officer
Delta Stewardship Council
jeff.henderson@deltacouncil.ca.gov