

AUGUST 2025

Agenda Item: 9  
Meeting Date: August 28, 2025  
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# Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project



Delta  
Stewardship  
Council

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

# Overview

- Cutting the Green Tape: Statutory California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP)
- Description of the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project
- Delta Plan Considerations



Photo courtesy of Metropolitan Water District

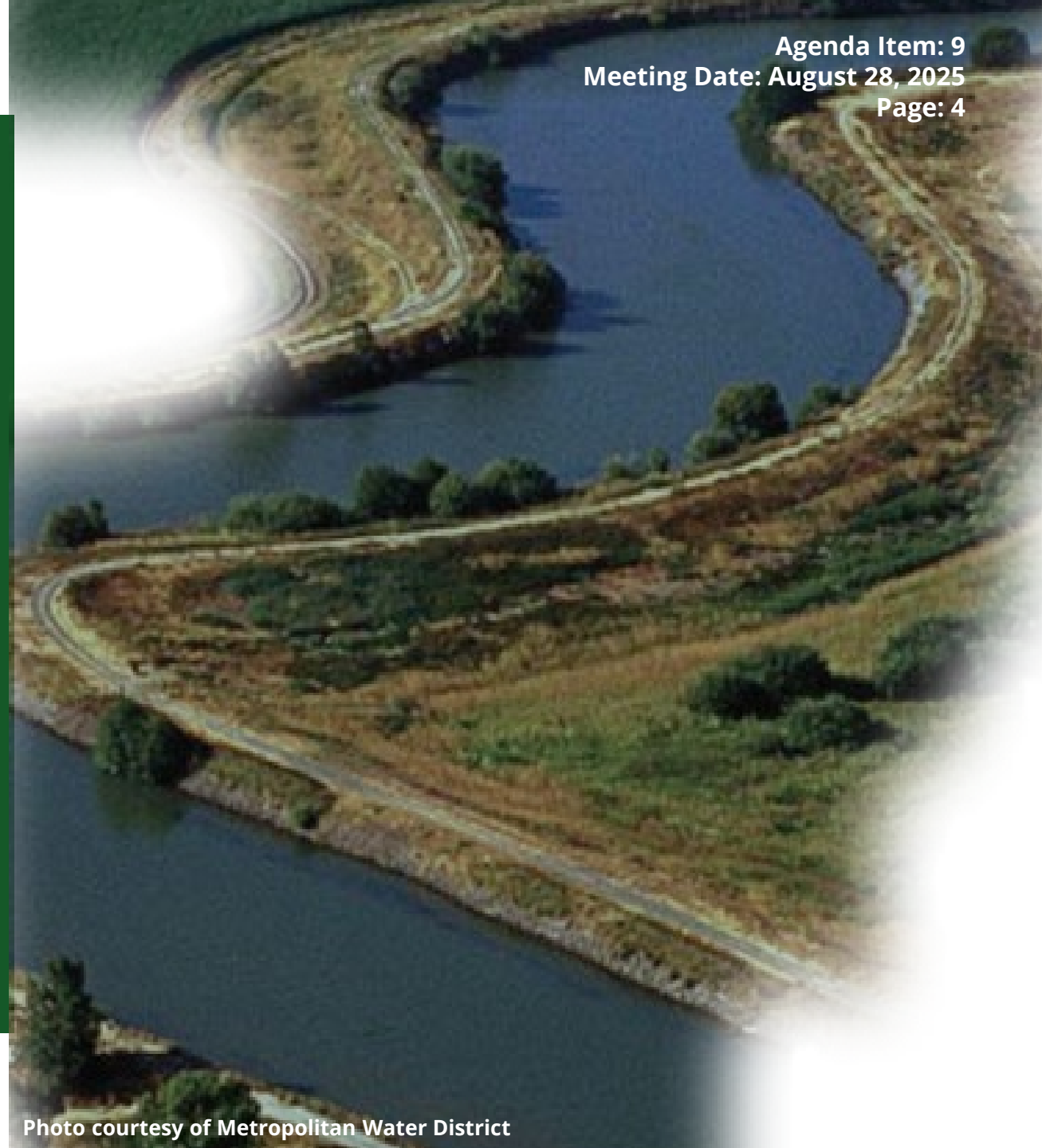
# Cutting the Green Tape



- CEQA Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) (Public Resources Code section 21080.56(a) through (d))
- Administered by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- Projects must meet specific qualifying criteria for SERP
- Lead agency must determine project to be exempt from CEQA
- Director of Fish and Wildlife must concur with lead agency determination, based on substantial evidence and best available science

# Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project

- Proposed by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan)
- Metropolitan determined that Webb Tract Project meets SERP criteria
- Director of Fish and Wildlife concurred
- Metropolitan and CDFW coordinated with Council staff



# Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project

As pertains to the Delta Plan, Metropolitan:

- Completed the “Good Neighbor Checklist” for restoration projects identified in Delta Plan Recommendation **ER RB**,
- Voluntarily completed Delta Plan Appendix 3A for Policy **ER PA**, and Delta Plan Appendix 4A for Policy **ER P2**,
- Prepared a Long-Term Monitoring and Management Plan that aligns with Delta Plan Adaptive Management Plan requirements (**G P1(b)(4)**),
- Prepared a brief analysis of the Webb Tract Project’s consistency with Delta Plan regulatory policies and found that the Webb Tract Project is not a covered action, and
- Obtained letters from the Delta Counties Coalition and 16 other organizations supporting the Webb Tract Project and Metropolitan’s use of the SERP.

# Delta Plan Considerations

- Projects exempt from CEQA are not covered actions unless there are “unusual circumstances” (23 CCR section 5001(ss)(4))
- Metropolitan, in concurrence with Director of Fish and Wildlife, has determined the project qualifies for SERP.
- Council staff have reviewed the project documentation and consulted with Metropolitan and CDFW, including steps taken by Metropolitan to demonstrate how the Webb Tract Project aligns with the Delta Plan
- Pursuant to the Council’s regulations, Metropolitan has determined that the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project is not a covered action and does not intend to submit a certification to the Council.
- No Council action needed at this time.

# Thank you

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