

DRAFT DO NOT CITE

REVISED Delta Conveyance Project Draft Environmental Impact Report Review Outline

Delta Independent Science Board

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION (DO NOT CITE)

September 14, 2022

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This document contains the revised draft outline of the Delta Independent Science Board's review of the [draft Delta Conveyance Project Environmental Impact Report](#), along with draft excerpts from Chapter 2 of the review (Delta ISB's Review Mandate, Process, and Approach).

Revised Review Outline

- 1) Summary of Major Findings
- 2) Delta ISB's Review Mandate, Process, and Approach
- 3) Some Strengths of the Draft EIR
- 4) Overall Key Topics that Span Chapter Reviews (Subheadings for categories of major issues, each subheading with findings and discussion of key issues)
 - a. Range of alternatives
 - b. Identification of future conditions
 - c. Evaluations of specific impacts
 - i. Missing impacts
 - ii. Use of relevant science
 - iii. Risk and uncertainty in outcomes
 - iv. Long-term project performance (after 2040)
 - v. Mitigation
 - vi. System level effects
 - vii. Seismic hazard
 - d. Comparison of impacts across alternatives
 - e. Adaptive management (w.r.t. climate, ecosystem changes, changes in regulations, water demands, new flooded islands, other infrastructure (esp. storage), etc.)
 - f. Missing elements and unanswered questions
 - g. Other cross cutting issues?
 - h. Readability
- 5) Appendix A: Comments on Individual Chapters of the Draft EIR

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DRAFT Section 2: Delta ISB's Review Mandate, Process, and Approach

In accordance with our responsibilities to provide scientific oversight of programs that support adaptive management, as specified in the Delta Reform Act of 2009, the Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB) evaluated this draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) based on its ability to provide and organize the kind of scientific and technical information that would be useful for informing public and stakeholder discourse on the desirability of the proposed project and its reasonable alternatives. This review is a technical/scientific evaluation assessment that is consistent with the Delta ISB expertise, and it includes elements that are not required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), but that the Delta ISB feels is needed to evaluate and compare alternatives. The Delta ISB selectively commented on the areas in which they have some expertise.

Our focus in this review is on the overall scientific integrity and completeness of the draft EIR based on our global experience. This review cannot encompass the many localized details given that this EIR is immense in volume, scope, and details. No group of reviewers can understand and thoroughly evaluate everything in this EIR and all its strengths, flaws, and omissions within a 90-day period. Given this limited timeframe, we will likely have missed some shortcomings and identified a few problems that may not have a substantial effect. However, the Delta ISB, as a group of 10 scientifically distinguished experts (mostly from outside California), brings advantages of independence and broad perspectives on the adequacy of the scientific approaches, methods, and topics evaluated in the EIR and their value for making environmental and water management decisions.

[More on process and approach to be drafted]