



San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
Monday, October 5, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

**Notice of Telephonic Water Resources Committee Regular Meeting and
Joint Telephonic Water Resources Committee Regular Meeting-Special Board
Workshop**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86184979134?pwd=ZWlYbGR1cEtzRjQwN3orcTNhQm1yQT09>

Meeting ID: 861 8497 9134

Passcode: 337259

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NOTE: In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order (N-29-20) and the declared State of Emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19, members of the Water Resources Committee, Board of Directors, and Water Authority staff will be participating in this meeting remotely from multiple locations. This meeting will occur exclusively through ZOOM. If members of the public have any problems using the call-in number during the meeting, please contact the Authority office at 209-826-9696.

NOTE FURTHER: Any member of the public may address the Water Resources Committee/Board concerning any item on the agenda before or during consideration of that item, as appropriate.

Because the notice provides for a special telephonic meeting of the Water Resources Committee ("WRC") and a joint special telephonic WRC Meeting/Special Board Workshop, Board Directors/Alternates may discuss items listed on the agenda; however, only WRC Members/Alternates may correct the agenda or vote on action items.

Agenda

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Water Resources Committee to Consider Additions or Corrections to the Agenda for the Water Resources Committee Meeting only, as Authorized by Government Code Section 54950 *et seq.*
3. Opportunity for Public Comment – Any member of the public may address the Water Resources Committee/Board concerning any matter not on the agenda, but within the Committee's or Board's jurisdiction. Public comment is limited to no more than three minutes per person. For good cause, the Chair of the Water Resources Committee may waive this limitation.

ACTION ITEMS

4. **Water Resources Committee to Consider Approval of the September 14, 2020, Meeting Minutes**

REPORT ITEMS

5. Executive Director's Report, Barajas
 - A. B.F. Sisk Dam Raise Project
 - B. San Luis Transmission Project
 - C. Jones Pumping Plant Unit Rewind Project
 - D. Comments regarding Shasta Dam Enlargement supplemental EIS
 - E. May include reports on activities within the Water Resources Committee's jurisdiction related to 1) CVP/SWP water operations; 2) California storage projects; 3) regulation of the CVP/SWP; 4) existing or possible new State and Federal policies; 5) Water Authority activities; 6) COVID-19 response
6. Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities, Petersen
(May include reports on activities related to 1) Reinitiation of Consultation on Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, including environmental compliance; 2) State Water Resources Control Board action; 3) San Joaquin River Restoration Program; 4) Delta conveyance; 5) Reclamation action; 6) Delta Stewardship Council action; 7) San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint)
7. Update on Water Operations and Forecasts, Boardman
8. Committee Member Reports
9. Closed Session

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9 – 5 potential cases

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) or (3) of Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9 – 3 potential cases

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

Existing Litigation Pursuant to paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9

- A. Natural Resources Defense Council et al. v. Bernhardt et al., U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 1:05-cv-01207, LJO-BAM (Old FWS – OCAP BO/Contracts)
- B. Modesto Irrigation District, et al. v. State Water Resources Control Board & Woods Irrigation Company, Sacramento County Superior Court Case No. 34-2011-80000803 (Complaint for Declaratory Relief re Woods Irrigation Company)
- C. SWRCB Water Rights Complaints: Modesto Irrigation District, State Water Contractors, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, Interested Persons in SWRCB CDO Enforcement Proceedings and/or Petitions for Reconsideration: Pak & Young; Mussi et al; George Speckman Testamentary Trust (Water Rights Complaints)
- D. Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, Friends of the River, San Francisco Crab Boat Owners Association, Inc., The Institute for Fisheries Resources, and Felix Smith v. Donald R. Glaser and San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 2:11-CV-02980-KJM-CKD ("PCFFA v Glaser" or "GBP Citizens Suit")
- E. San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority and Westlands Water District v. Delta Stewardship Council, et al., Sacramento County Superior Court Case No. 34-2013-80001500 (Delta Plan Litigation). Appeals in Delta Plan Litigation:
State Water Contractors, et al. v. Delta Stewardship Council, et al. (Sacramento County Superior Court JCCP No. 4758) (Third District Court of Appeal Case No. C082944); California Water Impact Network, et al. v. Delta Stewardship Council, et al. (Sacramento County Superior Court JCCP No. 4758) (Third District Court of Appeal Case No. C082994); Central Delta Water Agency, et al. v. Delta Stewardship Council, et al. (Sacramento County Superior Court JCCP No. 4758) (Third District Court of Appeal Case No. C082994); North Coast Rivers Alliance, et al. v. Delta Stewardship Council, et al. (Sacramento County Superior Court JCCP No. 4758) (Third District Court of Appeal Case No. C082994); San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Agency, et al. v. Delta Stewardship Council, et al. (Sacramento County Superior Court JCCP No. 4758) (Third District Court of Appeal Case No. C082994); Save the California Delta Alliance v. Delta Stewardship Council, et al. (Sacramento County Superior Court JCCP No. 4758) (Third District Court of Appeal Case No. C082994)
- F. City of Fresno, et al. v. United States, U.S. Court of Federal Claims, Case No. 16-1276L (Friant Takings Suit)

- G. Monterey Coastkeeper, et al. v. Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, et al., Sacramento County Superior Court Case No. 34-2018-80002853; Environmental Law Foundation v. State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento County Superior Court Case No. 34-2018-80002851; Protectores del Agua Subterranea v. State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento Superior Court Case No. 34-2018-80002852 (“Waste Discharge Requirement Cases”)
 - H. North Coast Rivers Alliance v. Delta Stewardship Council, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 34-2018-80002898; Central Delta Water Agency v. Delta Stewardship Council, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 34-2018-80002900; Friends of the River v. Delta Stewardship Council, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 34-2018-80002901; California Water Impact Network v. Delta Stewardship Council, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 34-2018-80002904 (“Delta Plan Amendment Cases”)
 - I. North Coast Rivers Alliance, et al. v. San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, et al., Merced County Superior Court, Case No. 19CV-04989 (GBP Long-Term Storm Water Management Plan)
 - J. Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations, et al. v. Wilbur Ross, et al., U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 1:20-cv-00431-DAD-EPG (ROC on LTO BiOps)
 - K. California Natural Resources Agency, et al. v. Wilbur Ross, et al., U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 1:20-cv-00426-DAD-EPG (ROC on LTO BiOps)
 - L. California Sportfishing Protection Alliance v. All Persons Interested in the Matter of the Validity of the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Regions Groundwater Sustainability Plan, et al., Stanislaus County Superior Court, Case No. CV-20-001748 (Delta-Mendota Subbasin SGMA Challenge)
 - M. Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority et al. v. California Department of Water Resources et al., Fresno County Superior Court, Case No. 20CECG01303 (SWP EIR Challenge)
 - N. AquAlliance et al. v. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, et al., U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 1:20-cv-00878 (Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR)
 - O. Guillermo Garcia v. Travis James Conrad and San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, Merced County Superior Court, Case No. 19CV-04982 (traffic collision)
 - P. Winnemem Wintu Tribe et al. v. State Water Resources Control Board et al., San Francisco County Superior Court, Case No. CPF20517115 (GBP Waste Discharge Requirements)
10. Return to Open Session
 11. Report from Closed Session, if any, Required by Government Code Section 54957.1
 12. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)
 13. ADJOURNMENT

Persons with a disability may request disability-related modification or accommodation by contacting Cheri Worthy or Felicia Luna at the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Office via telephone (209) 826-9696 or email cheri.worthy@sldmwa.org or felicia.luna@sldmwa.org at least 3 days before a regular meeting or 1 day before a special meeting/workshop.

This agenda has been prepared as required by the applicable laws of the State of California, including but not limited to, Government Code Section 54950 et seq. and has not been prepared with a view to informing an investment decision in any of the Authority’s bonds, notes or other obligations. Any projections, plans or other forward-looking statements included in the information in this agenda are subject to a variety of uncertainties that could cause any actual plans or results to differ materially from any such statement. The information herein is not intended to be used by investors or potential investors in considering the purchase or sale of the Authority’s bonds, notes or other obligations and investors and potential investors should rely only on information filed by the Authority on the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board’s Electronic Municipal Market Access System for municipal securities disclosures, maintained on the World Wide Web at <https://emma.msrb.org/>.

**SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY
TELEPHONIC WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
AND JOINT TELEPHONIC WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING - SPECIAL BOARD WORKSHOP MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020**

The Telephonic Water Resources Committee Regular Meeting and Joint Telephonic Water Resources Committee Regular Meeting and Special Board Workshop of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority convened at approximately 10:00 a.m. This meeting was held via teleconference/ZOOM in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order (N-29-20) and the declared State of Emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19, with Committee Chair Tom Birmingham presiding.

Water Resources Committee Members Present

Ex-Officio

William Bourdeau

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Alternate for Bill Koster

Division 2

Lon Martin, Alternate for Bill Diedrich

Division 3

Chris White, Member

Division 4

Garth Hall, Member

Division 5

Tom Birmingham, Member - Steve Stadler, Alternate

Board of Directors Present

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Director

Division 2

William Bourdeau, Director

Lon Martin, Alternate

Division 3

Chris White, Director - Jarrett Martin, Alternate

Division 4

Garth Hall, Alternate

Division 5

Tom Birmingham, Director

Steve Stadler, Director

Authority Representatives Present

Federico Barajas, Executive Director

Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel

Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer

Frances Mizuno, Special Projects Administrator

Stewart Davis, IT Officer

Others Present

Tom Boardman, Westlands Water District

Ashley Boren, Sustainable Conservation

Katie Halderman, Sustainable Conservation

Erika Lovejoy, Sustainable Conservation

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Tom Birmingham called the meeting to order.

2. The Water Resources Committee to Consider Additions or Corrections to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.

No additions or corrections.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment.

4. Water Resources Committee to Consider Approval of the June 1, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

Chair Tom Birmingham pronounced the July 6, 2020 meeting minutes approved, with no changes or corrections.

5. Water Resources Committee to Consider Recommendation to Board of Directors to Authorize Withdrawal from the San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority (SJVVIA).

Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that in March 2020, Authority staff met with the SJVVIA Chair and communicated that the Authority would not be joining the amended JPA. Barajas reported that in July 2020, Authority staff learned that the SJVVIA would be finalizing the amended JPA, but was still listing the Authority as a member. Barajas reported that following conversation with the Tulare County Counsel, staff determined that the best way to allow the SJVVIA to proceed with an amended JPA was for the Authority to: (1) propose edits to the amended JPA that clarify the Water Authority's status, and (2) submit a letter representing the Water Authority's withdrawal from the SJVVIA. Barajas reported that once the withdrawal is effective, Water Authority staff can continue to maintain engagement with SJVVIA on an informal basis, by attending relevant meetings and seeking to participate in relevant projects.

Member Garth Hall made a motion that the Water Resources Committee recommend the withdrawal from the San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority (SJVVIA). The motion was seconded by Member Chris White and passed unanimously. The Committee action is reported as follows:

AYES: Bourdeau, Hansen, Martin, White, Hall, Birmingham

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

6. Water Resources Committee to Consider Recommendation to Board of Directors to Adopt Staff Recommendation for Positions on Legislation, Petersen

a. H.R. 8166 (Cox) The Western Water Storage Infrastructure Act

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that this bill would increase funding authorization for water storage and conveyance infrastructure and would extend key California water provisions of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act through 2029. Additionally, the legislation would extend the CALFED program through 2024.

Member Tom Birmingham made a motion that the Water Resources Committee recommend the Board of Directors adopt the staff Recommendation for Position on H.R. 8166 Legislation, as well as provide direction to staff to advocate for the inclusion of language that would remove barriers to

the advancement of Pacheco Reservoir using CALFED funds. The motion was seconded by Member Chris White and passed, with Committee action reported as follows:

AYES: Bourdeau, Hansen, Martin, White, Birmingham

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: Hall

b. S. 4530 (Feinstein)/H.R. 8041 (Harder), Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program Authorization Act

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that this bill establishes a program within the Department of the Interior which will improve the understanding, management, and deployment of snowpack measurement technologies used for seasonal water forecasting and preserve key elements of the basic technology elements of the Aerial Snowpack Observatory program and provides \$15 million in authorizations from fiscal year 2022-2026.

c. H.R. __ (Garamendi), WIFIA Improvement Act

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that this bill would amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 to extend the maturity date of WIFIA loans from up to 35 years to up to 55 years and would clarify the budgetary treatment of financial assistance for federal projects for which the recipient is an eligible entity

Dennis Cardoza reported that this bill just received a bill number, and it is H.R. 8217.

Member Tom Birmingham made a motion that the Water Resources Committee recommend the Board of Directors adopt staff Recommendation for Positions on S.4530 (Feinstein)/H.R. 8041 (Harder), and H.R. 8217 (Garamendi). The motion was seconded by Member William Bourdeau and passed, with Committee action is reported as follows:

AYES: Bourdeau, Hansen, Martin, White, Birmingham

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: Hall

7. Presentation on Sustainable Conservation's Efforts to Advance Programmatic Permitting for Aquatic Restoration.

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that Sustainable Conservation has approached the Authority as a potential partner on work related to the advancement of

programmatic permitting for aquatic restoration projects. Petersen reported that given the many demonstrated benefits of aquatic habitat restoration to endangered species abundance, staff wanted to provide an opportunity for Sustainable Conservation to brief the Committee on the current status of their work and for staff to receive direction as to the type and level of participation that the Authority may want to have in the work being done by Sustainable Conservation on these efforts.

Petersen introduced Ashely Boren and Katie Haldeman. Haldeman presented a PowerPoint presentation “Statewide Restoration Permitting Initiative”, focusing on water and aquatic habitat, and programmatic permitting, and Boren and Haldeman answered questions from Authority staff and Committee members.

8. Executive Director’s Report.

Deferred until the Board meeting.

9. Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities.

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that on September 8, 2020, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), released a proposed rule to amend portions of the regulations that implement section 4 of the Endangered Species Act. Petersen reported that the proposed revisions set forth a process for excluding areas of critical habitat under section 4(b)(2) of the Act, which mandates consideration of the impacts of designating critical habitat and permits exclusions of particular areas following a discretionary exclusion analysis. proposed rule aims to articulate clearly when and how FWS will undertake an exclusion analysis, including identifying a non-exhaustive list of categories of potential impacts for FWS to consider. Petersen reported that the proposed rulemaking would respond to applicable Supreme Court case law, reflecting agency experience, codifying current agency practices, and making some modifications to current agency practice. Petersen reported that the intended effect of this proposed rule is to provide greater transparency and certainty for the public and stakeholders. Petersen reported that comments on this proposed rule are due October 8, 2020.

Petersen reported that on July 31, 2020, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), published a draft rule to propose adding a definition of “habitat” to the regulations that implement Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act. FWS and NMFS are proposing the regulatory definition of “habitat,” in light of the Supreme Court’s holding in *Weyerhaeuser Co. v. U.S. FWS* regarding the relationship between “habitat” and “critical

habitat.” Petersen reported that staff coordinated with member agency staff and submitted comments on the proposed definition.

Petersen reported that Reclamation has extended the public comment period for the Shasta Dam Reservoir Expansion Project from September 21 to October 5 to allow more time for public engagement.

10. Agenda Item 11: Update on Water Operations and Forecasts

Deferred until the Board meeting.

11. Agenda Item 12: Committee Member Reports.

Member Garth Hall announced his retirement from Valley Water at the end of the month. Chair Tom Birmingham, Federico Barajas, and William Bourdeau thanked Garth for his excellent service and contributions.

12. Agenda Item 13: Closed Session

Committee Chair Tom Birmingham adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 11:05 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:25 p.m., General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported that there were no reportable actions taken in closed session.

13. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2

None.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:25 p.m.



MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Water Resources Committee Members and Alternates

FROM: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

DATE: October 5, 2020

RE: Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities

BACKGROUND

This memorandum is provided to briefly summarize the current status of various agency processes regarding water policy activities, including but not limited to the (1) Reinitiation of Consultation on Long-Term Operations (“ROC on LTO”), (2) State Water Resources Control Board Action, including the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan update, (3) San Joaquin River Restoration Program, (4) Delta Conveyance, (5) Delta Stewardship Council, and (6) Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley.

POLICY ITEMS

Endangered Species Act Regulations

Critical Habitat Designation (Comments due Oct. 8)

On September 8, 2020, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), released a proposed rule¹ to amend portions of the regulations that implement section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The proposed revisions set forth a process for excluding areas of critical habitat under section 4(b)(2) of the Act, which mandates consideration of the impacts of designating critical habitat and permits exclusions of particular areas following a discretionary exclusion analysis. The FWS’ proposed rule aims to articulate clearly when and how FWS will undertake an exclusion analysis, including identifying a non-exhaustive list of categories of potential impacts for FWS to consider. The proposed rulemaking would respond to applicable Supreme Court case law, reflect agency experience, codify some current agency practices, and make some modifications to current agency practice. The intended effect of this proposed rule is to provide greater transparency and certainty for the public and stakeholders.

¹ <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/09/08/2020-19577/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-and-plants-regulations-for-designating-critical-habitat>

Reclamation Directives and Standards

Documents out for Comment

- [Accessibility to Information and Communication Technology: Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, IRM 05-08 \(comments due 10/18/2020\)](#)
- [Position Classification and Position Management, HRM 15-02 \(comments due 10/25/2020\)](#)
- [Maintenance of Auxiliary Mechanical Equipment, FIST 2-6 \(comments due 10/18/2020\)](#)
- [Bloodborne Pathogens, RSHS 35 \(comments due 10/11/2020\)](#)
- [Motor Vehicle Safety, RSHS 39 \(comments due 10/11/2020\)](#)
- [Concrete, Masonry, and Formwork, RSHS 25 \(comments due 10/25/2020\)](#)

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Activity

Documents out for Comment

- No document out for comment currently

Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update

The State Water Board is currently considering updates to its 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (“Bay Delta Plan”) in two phases (Plan amendments). The first Plan amendment is focused on San Joaquin River flows and southern Delta salinity (“Phase I” or “San Joaquin River Flows and Southern Delta Salinity Plan Amendment”). The second Plan amendment is focused on the Sacramento River and its tributaries, Delta eastside tributaries (including the Calaveras, Cosumnes, and Mokelumne rivers), Delta outflows, and interior Delta flows (“Phase II” or “Sacramento/Delta Plan Amendment”).

During the December 12, 2018 Water Board Meeting, the Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) and Department of Fish and Wildlife presented proposed “Voluntary Settlement Agreements” (“VSAs”) on behalf of Reclamation, DWR, and the public water agencies they serve to resolve conflicts over proposed amendments to the Bay-Delta Plan update.² The State Water Board did not adopt the proposed VSAs in lieu of the proposed Phase 1 amendments, but as explained below, directed staff to consider the proposals as part of a future Delta-wide proposal.

Phase 1 Status: The State Water Board adopted a resolution³ to adopt amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary

² Available at <https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Blogs/Voluntary-Settlement-Agreement-Meeting-Materials-Dec-12-2018-DWR-CDFW-CNRA.pdf>.

³Available at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2018/rs2018_0059.pdf.

and adopt the Final Substitute Environmental Document during its December 12, 2018 public meeting.

Phase 2 Status: In the State Water Board’s resolution adopting the Phase 1 amendments, the Water Board directed staff to assist the Natural Resources Agency in completing a Delta watershed-wide agreement, including potential flow and non-flow measures for the Tuolumne River, and associated analyses no later than March 1, 2019. Staff were directed to incorporate the Delta watershed-wide agreement as an alternative for a future, comprehensive Bay-Delta Plan update that addresses the reasonable protection of beneficial uses across the Delta watershed, with the goal that comprehensive amendments may be presented to the State Water Board for consideration as early as possible after December 1, 2019. As the State Water Board further refines this update, there will be opportunity for public comment.

The effort has made significant progress since an initial framework was presented to the State Water Board on December 12, 2018.

On March 1, 2019, the California Department of Water Resources and the Department of Fish and Wildlife submitted documents⁴ to the State Water Board that reflect progress since December to flesh-out the previously submitted framework to improve conditions for fish through targeted river flows and a suite of habitat-enhancing projects including floodplain inundation and physical improvement of spawning and rearing areas.

Since the March 1 submittal, significant work has taken place to develop the package into a form that is able to be analyzed by State Water Board staff for legal and technical adequacy. On June 30, 2019, a status update with additional details was submitted to the Board for review. Additionally, on February 4, 2020, the State team released a framework for the Voluntary Agreements to reach “adequacy”, as defined by the State team.

Further work and analysis is needed to determine whether the agreements can meet environmental objectives required by law and identified in the State Water Board’s update to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan.

Delta Conveyance

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Issues Notice of Intent

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) for the development of an Environmental Impact Statement for the Delta Conveyance Project. Publication of the NOI initiates the environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The NOI also signals the start of the federal scoping period, providing an opportunity for public

⁴ Available at http://resources.ca.gov/docs/voluntary-agreements/2019/Complete_March_1_VA_Submission_to_SWRCB.pdf

and agency comment on the scope and content of the NEPA review. Information related to the NEPA scoping period, including details on how to comment, can be found on the USACE website.

[Preliminary Cost Assessment Prepared](#)

The Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority has prepared a preliminary cost assessment for the Delta Conveyance Project. Cost information developed at this early stage provides a starting point to understand the program's probable costs based on industry standard methodologies. While planning and design of the program are in the very early stages, this information is intended to aid the beneficiary public water agencies who are ultimately responsible for funding the planning, environmental review, permitting and, if approved, design and construction of a proposed Delta conveyance facility. This information will be refined over time as planning and environmental review proceed and more precise design and engineering become available. Find the presentation material here and the meeting video archive will be located here when available.

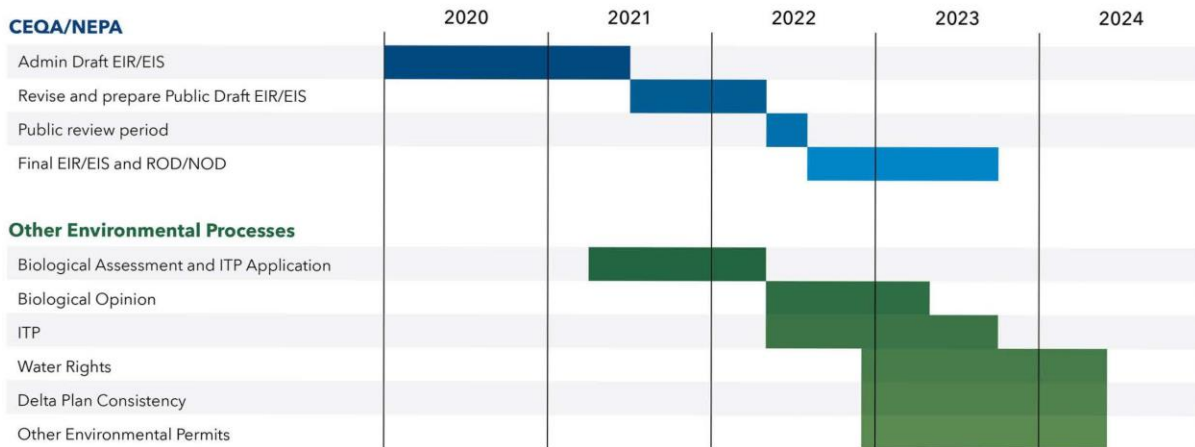
This cost assessment is related to the proposed project as it was identified in the Notice of Preparation and is not an indication of any type of project approval by the Department of Water Resources (DWR). DWR has made no decisions as to the selection of a specific alternative as the program planning and design are still in the "Initial Conceptual Design Phase" and alternatives are still being studied. A final decision regarding whether to approve the proposed Delta Conveyance Project or an alternative, including the no project alternative, will not occur until after completion of the environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act and NEPA, and other environmental permitting processes have been completed.

[Updated Schedule Now Available](#)

An updated program schedule is available on the Delta Conveyance Project website⁵. The schedule has been modified to align the state and federal environmental review processes, as well as to accommodate additional time needed for modeling. DWR expects permitting to be complete in mid-2024.

⁵ https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Delta-Conveyance/DC_Schedule_August2020_508.pdf?la=en&hash=9069D624DB200C0BC9C8B57BAA51DB7FC3CCB19B

Delta Conveyance Project Schedule



Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley

The Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley (Group) will hold its Executive Committee meeting on October 13 and the large Group meeting on October 15. Some 70 participants make up the Blueprint large group including Farm Bureaus, Water Authorities, Districts, Growers, Trade Associations, Fresno State, GSAs, Grasslands, Reclamation and white land interests. A comprehensive and collaborative plan is under development that the San Joaquin Valley (broad coalition) can support and advocate for with a focus on solutions in coordination with key stakeholders.

Annual 2020 invoices have been sent out and the finance committee is following up on payments. The Steering Committee for Phase II is developing a solution set. The Group and the following committees listed below are pursuing the goals of Blueprint, including funding opportunities and working in conjunction with other stakeholders.

Socio-Economic Impact Analysis (EIA) Phase I completed, Phase II being developed: A number of presentations and events have been completed while others have been rescheduled. Prior to the shelter in place order the Blueprint group had been implementing a communications plan to highlight the EIA and the impacts under a status quo approach. Phase II of the plan will look at a solution set being developed with the Technical Committee and others.

Project Status: Stantec and MBK have been engaged for Planning and Engineering services to support the development, evaluation, and selection of activities that will be pursued with the support of the Blueprint entity, including: Implementation of SGMA in the San Joaquin Valley, Development of a water supply plan to minimize loss of working lands, degradation of groundwater quality, loss or jobs, and other regional economic impacts, Development of an environmental plan to manage land use changes for agricultural lands that unavoidably must come out of production, and Develop safe, clean affordable water supplies for disadvantaged communities.

DAC/SDAC Drinking Water Feasibility Study: The objective of the Project is to identify the technical, financial, and institutional feasibility of providing surface water deliveries from the Madera Canal and Friant-Kern Canal to recharge basins, or other types of facilities, to improve drinking water conditions (accessibility, affordability, quality and quantity) for DACs and SDACs located in the Study Area. After a pilot study is implemented, expansion of projects to other areas is anticipated.