

Delta Stewardship Council Active Projects List

Agenda Item: 6
Meeting Date: November 16, 2023

November 7, 2023

The tables below highlight a sample of active projects for Council member review. Active projects include both potential covered actions and related plans and projects. An explanation of Column 4, Status, is provided on page 8.

Changes since October 2023 are denoted with an asterisk (*). Five projects were removed this month.

State Projects

Name	Location (County)	Proponent	Status	California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Status	Description
*Delta Conveyance	Delta-wide	Department of Water Resources (DWR)	Next Consultation meeting 01.2024	Final Environmental Impact Report expected to be available late 12.2023 Certification Mid. 2025	A facility to convey water from the Sacramento River in the north Delta directly to the existing State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) pumping plants in the south Delta
Little Egbert Multi-Benefit Project	Solano County	DWR	Comment Letter 7.28.23	NOP	Transition of land from agricultural to tidal wetlands, subtidal and riparian habitat located at the south end of the Yolo Bypass
Franks Tract Futures 2020 Reimagined	Contra Costa	California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)	Comment Letter	Not Initiated	Explore options for improving ecosystem, water quality, recreation, and community benefits at Franks Tract

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Name	Location (County)	Proponent	Status	California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Status	Description
Chippis Island (EcoRestore)	Suisun Marsh	DWR	Early Consultation		DWR is in process of developing ecosystem restoration design
Long Term Operations of the State Water Project	Delta wide	DWR	Comment letter 9.6.23	NOP	DWR is seeking approval of long-term operations of the SWP facilities in the Delta, Suisun Marsh, and Suisun Bay to continue to provide water supply for agricultural, municipal, and industrial uses.

Regional Projects

Name	Location (County)	Proponent	Status	CEQA Status	Description
Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership	Solano, Yolo	CVFPB	Early Consultation; Comment Letter	NOP	Multi-partner initiative for programmatic activities in YB-CS
*Sacramento Regional Water Bank	Sutter, Placer and Sacramento Counties	Regional Water Authority (RWA)	Comment letter 10.19.23	NOP	Regional water bank to coordinate and expend conjunctive use practices of RWA members.

Local Projects

Name	Location (County)	Proponent	Status	CEQA Status	Description
Stone Lakes Restoration Project	Sacramento	Sacramento County	Anticipating Certification	Initial Study /Negative Declaration (IS/ND)	Large-scale seasonal wetland and riparian and oak woodland restoration and enhancement project in the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge
Cache Slough Complex Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)	Solano, Yolo	Solano County	Monitoring	Not Initiated	Plan to provide coverage for endangered species take at existing water supply diversions and intakes
Bees Lake Habitat Restoration	Yolo	City of West Sacramento	Comment Letter	NOD	Restore historic physical and ecological processes and improve public access management
Solano Multispecies HCP	Solano	Solano County Water Agency	Monitoring	Not initiated	Provide coverage for endangered species take that may result from future urban growth, infrastructure, and ongoing operations and maintenance activities

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Name	Location (County)	Proponent	Status	CEQA Status	Description
Delta Smelt and Native Species Preservation Project	San Joaquin	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan)	Comment Letter	NOI	Demonstration pilot consisting of two marsh complexes that would house native fish for experimental study
Montezuma Slough Fish Screen	Solano	CDFW	Certification submitted 10.27.23	EIR/EIS NOD	Installation of a fish screen at the Montezuma slough intake on the Grizzly Island Wildlife area
Extension of the Lower Yuba River Accord Water Transfer Program		Yuba County Water Agency	Comment Letter	NOP	Extend the current water transfer program beyond its current expiration date of December 31, 2025, through 2050.

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Name	Location (County)	Proponent	Status	CEQA Status	Description
*City of Sacramento 2040 General Plan and Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Update	City of Sacramento	City of Sacramento	Comment Letter 10.19.23	NOA for DMEIR	The City published a draft General Plan Update and Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and draft Master EIR for review and public comment
*Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan and Climate Action Plan Update	Contra Costa County	Contra Costa County	Comment Letter 10.20.23	NOP	The County is updating its General Plan and Climate Action Plan

Other Projects

ame	Location (County)	Proponent	Status	CEQA Status	Description
Mokelumne Aqueducts Resiliency Project	San Joaquin, Contra Costa County	East Bay Municipal Utilities District	Comment Letter	NOP	Replace a portion of the existing Mokelumne Aqueducts with a buried Aqueduct Tunnel of approximately 16.5 miles in length

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Delta Conveyance	Delta-wide	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Comment Letter	Draft Environmental Impact Study (EIS)	A facility to convey water from the Sacramento River in the north Delta directly to the existing SWP and CVP pumping plants in the south Delta. The scope is limited to construction activities, structures, and modifications to federal levees and navigation projects
Mossdale Tract Area Urban Flood Risk Reduction Study	San Joaquin	San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency	Early Consultation	NOP	Identify a plan to achieve an urban level of flood protection for the Mossdale Tract (Reclamation District No. 17)
Delta Cross Channel Gate Upgrades Project	Sacramento	Reclamation	Draft NEPA will be out in Fall of 2023 for comments	Not initiated	Provide for remote and more frequent operation, to manage water quality in the Central Delta and at the SWP and CVP pumping plants
City of Pittsburg General Plan 2040	Contra Costa	City of Pittsburg	Comment Letter	NOP	The City will prepare a programmatic Environmental Impact Report (Program EIR) to evaluate the environmental effects associated with the General Plan update.

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ame	Location (County)	Proponent	Status	CEQA Status	Description
Bay Delta Plan Update Implementation	San Francisco Bay, Sacramento to San Joaquin Delta	State Water Resources Control Board	Comment Letter	NOP	The proposed project is adoption of regulations pursuant to the rulemaking procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act (Gov. Code, § 11340 et seq.) to allocate responsibility to water rights holders and claimants for implementing the Bay-Delta Plan Lower San Joaquin River flow and southern Delta salinity components of the 2018 Bay-Delta Plan.
Knightsen Wetland Restoration Project	Contra Costa County	East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy	Council presentation August 2023. No certification.	Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) approved by CDFW	The Project will restore and convert 645 acres of former agriculture and rangeland to native habitat types and will benefit the native species that utilize these habitats.
*Sherman Island Wetland Restoration Project _ Phase III (Whale's Nose)	Sacramento County	RD 341	CDFW consultation, comment letter to CDFW	SERP Pre Concurrence Consultation	Restore and enhance up to 1,369 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands.

Status Types

Active projects include both potential covered actions and related plans and projects of interest. The active project “Status” reported above is not sequential but tends to align with certain phases of the CEQA process. The relationship between generalized steps in the CEQA process (top row) and generalized status types (bottom row) is illustrated in **Figure 1**. Each status type is described in more detail, below.

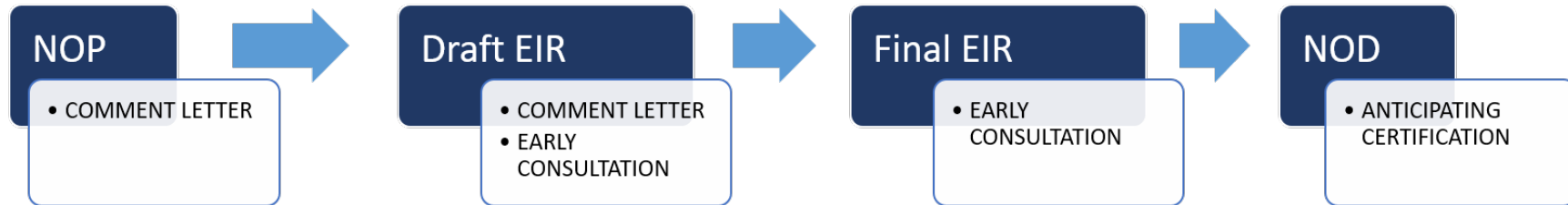


Figure 1. Typical Project Sequence

Coordinating: Occasionally, the Council will coordinate with state and local agencies prior to the initiation of the CEQA process in order to track and/or inform project formulation. Coordination may include informal discussions or attendance at project planning meetings.

Comment letter: Council staff prepare comment letters in response to each phase of the CEQA process leading up to a final document (e.g., Notice of Preparation [NOP], IS/ND, IS/MND, DEIR). The Council may also comment on other interim studies and reports, as needed. The Council comments on potential covered actions as well as on long range plans identified in the Delta Reform Act (Wat. Code section 85212) and projects located outside of the Delta that will have a significant impact on the Delta (Wat. Code section 85210[j]).

Early consultation: The Delta Reform Act directs the Council to offer early consultation to assist state and local public agencies in preparing certifications of consistency (Wat. Code section 85225.5). The timing and frequency of early consultation is at the discretion of the project proponent.

Anticipating certification: Council staff anticipate a certification of consistency once a notice of determination (NOD) has been issued. Proponents of covered actions must file a certification of consistency prior to project implementation (Wat. Code section 85225). The timeframe between NOD and implementation varies.