

Delta Stewardship Council Active Projects List

**Agenda Item: 6
Council Meeting Date: February 29, 2024.**

February 5, 2024

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 January 2024 are denoted with an asterisk (*). No new projects were added, two 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)	Early Consultation	Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR)	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 8.2.23	Notice of Preparation (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	Certification Submitted 2.9.24		DWR is developing a draft certification for a 900-acre transition from managed wetlands for duck hunting to tidal wetland and marsh restoration in the Suisun Marsh.
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.
*Twitchell Island West End Wetland (EcoRestore)	Sacramento County	DWR/ RD1601	Comment letter 12.29.24	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)	Project intends to restore and enhance 40 acres of wetland and 80 acres of riparian and scrub habitat within a 185-acre project area footprint.
West False River Drought Salinity Barrier Project	Contra Costa County	DWR	Comment letter 8.22.22	DEIR	Temporary drought salinity barrier would be installed in West False River up to two times between 2023 and 2032 if drought conditions occur.

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Name	Location (County)	Proponent	Status	California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Status	Description
Sherman Island Wetland Restoration Project Phase III (Whale's Nose)	Sacramento County	DWR/Reclamation District (RD) 341	CDFW consultation	Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) Pre-Concurrence Consultation	Restore and enhance up to 1,369 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands.

Regional Projects

Name	Location (County)	Proponent	Status	CEQA Status	Description
Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership	Solano, Yolo	Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB)	Early Consultation; Comment Letter	NOP	Multi-partner initiative for programmatic activities in Yolo Bypass and Cache Slough.
Sacramento Regional Water Bank	Sutter, Placer and Sacramento Counties	Regional Water Authority (RWA)	Comment letter sent 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	Certification of Consistency	Initial Study /Negative	Large-scale seasonal wetland and riparian and oak woodland restoration and enhancement project

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Name	Location (County)	Proponent	Status	CEQA Status	Description
Stone Lakes con't.			complete 1.1.24	Declaration (IS/ND)	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	Certification of Consistency complete 1.22.24	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.
Delta Smelt and Native Species Preservation Project	San Joaquin	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan)	Comment Letter	Notice of Intent (NOI)	Demonstration pilot consisting of two marsh complexes that would house native fish for experimental study.

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Name	Location (County)	Proponent	Status	CEQA Status	Description
Extension of the Lower Yuba River Accord Water Transfer Program		Yuba County Water Agency	Comment Letter sent 9.12.23	NOP	Extend the current water transfer program beyond its current expiration date of December 31, 2025, through 2050.
Webb Tract Wetland Mosaic Landscape Project	Contra Costa County	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)	Early consultation	Not initiated	MWD would design and construct up to 3,500 acres of managed, flooded wetlands and up to 1,500 acres of rice fields at Webb Tract.
*City of Sacramento 2040 General Plan and Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Update	City of Sacramento	City of Sacramento	Comment Letter 10.19.23	Final MEIR filed 1.19.24	The City published a draft General Plan Update and Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and DMEIR for review and public comment.

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Name	Location (County)	Proponent	Status	CEQA Status	Description
Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan and Climate Action Plan Update	Contra Costa County	Contra Costa County	Comment Letter 10.20.23	DEIR	The County is updating its General Plan and Climate Action Plan.
*Staten Island Wetland Restoration Project	San Joaquin County	Delta Conservancy	SERP comment letter sent to CDFW 10.19.23	SERP concurrence received from CDFW on 10.20.23 NOE filed 10.31.23	CDF&W to restore 745.9 acres of wetland habitat including managed seasonal and semi-permanent wetlands to provide fish and wildlife benefits.
*Lower San Joaquin River Reach TS_30_L_Levee Improvement Project	San Joaquin County	San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency (SJAFCA)	Certification of Consistency complete 12.08.23	Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR)	The project consists of reducing flood risk for 262 critical infrastructure sites.

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Name	Location (County)	Proponent	Status	CEQA Status	Description
Paradise Cut Expansion & South Delta Restoration Project	San Joaquin County	SJAFCA	Feasibility Study to be completed in 2025	Not initiated	The Project seeks to decrease peak flows during potential flood events and improve and enhance habitat.
*American River Common Features Contract 4	Sacramento County	CVFPB	Certification of Consistency completed. 12.08.23	SEIR	Levee Improvement Project consisting of levee raises, cut of walls, seepage, berm and other levee improvements along the Sacramento River.

Other Projects

Name	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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Name	Location (County)	Proponent	Status	CEQA Status	Description
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	SJAFCA	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	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)	Monitoring	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 2.9.24	NOA	The City prepared a programmatic Environmental Impact Report (Program EIR) to evaluate the environmental effects associated with the General Plan update.

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Name	Location (County)	Proponent	Status	CEQA Status	Description
*Bay Delta Plan Water Quality Plan Implementation	San Francisco Bay, Sacramento to San Joaquin Delta	State Water Resources Control Board	Comment Letter 1.19.24	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.

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.

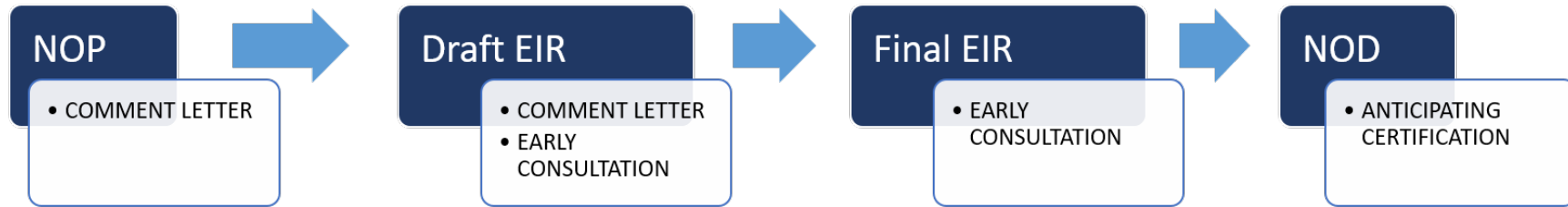


Figure 1. Typical Project Sequence

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.