

January 27, 2022

Delta Conveyance Project

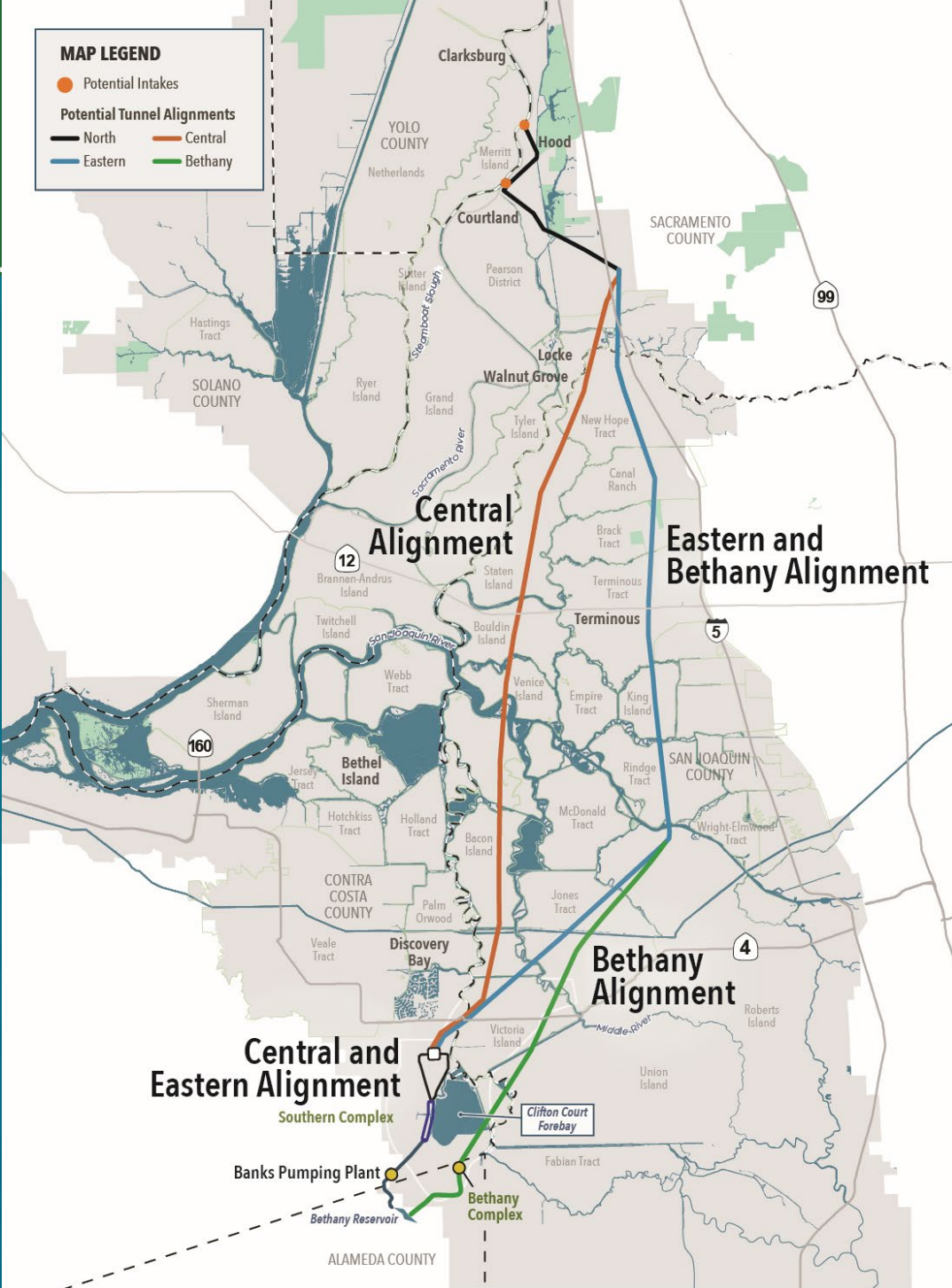
Environmental Planning Update

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Department of Water Resources

CEQA Proposed Project: Bethany Alternative



- DWR has identified the Bethany Alternative as the proposed project that will be identified in the Draft EIR because it has the least impacts to wetlands and waters
- DWR sent a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to amend DWR's Section 404 permit application to make the application consistent with the proposed project
- This letter is available [here](#), with a Q&A available [here](#)
- Key elements (tunnel shafts and southern facilities) are different than those considered for California WaterFix



Similarities and Differences Between Draft EIR Alternatives

- Alignments include the same intake facilities
- Twin Cities sites are similar
 - Eastern and Central include a railroad connection and smaller long-term RTM footprint
 - Bethany includes larger long-term footprint for RTM storage
- Shaft locations vary
 - Central has a launch shaft on Bouldin Island
 - Eastern and Bethany are the same from Twin Cities to a launch shaft at Lower Roberts Island
- Primary differences are from footprint and construction effects related to southern facilities



Bethany Reduces Impacts to Waters of the United States



Eastern Alignment* (June 2020) (acres)

<u>Wetland Total</u>	<u>181.27</u>
Permanent	141.15
Temporary	40.12
<u>Other Waters Total</u>	<u>153.35</u>
Permanent	106.30
Temporary	47.05
<u>Grand Total</u>	<u>334.62</u>

Bethany Alternative (January 2022) (acres)

<u>Wetland Total</u>	<u>14.54</u>
Permanent	12.03
Temporary	2.51
<u>Other Waters Total</u>	<u>53.19</u>
Permanent	25.01
Temporary	28.18
<u>Grand Total</u>	<u>67.73</u>

*Alternative identified in June 2020 Section 404 application



Implications of Shifting the Proposed Project

- Preliminary CEQA requires lead agencies to identify their current thinking about a proposed project in a Draft EIR
- Including the Bethany Alternative as the proposed project in the Draft EIR does not indicate that DWR is selecting an alternative for implementation or deciding that the Delta Conveyance Project should move forward
 - DWR will not make a decision until the conclusion of the environmental review process
- All alternatives will be evaluated at the same level of detail in the Draft EIR
- All alternatives include dual operations with the new north Delta diversion and existing south Delta facilities



2021 - Year in Review

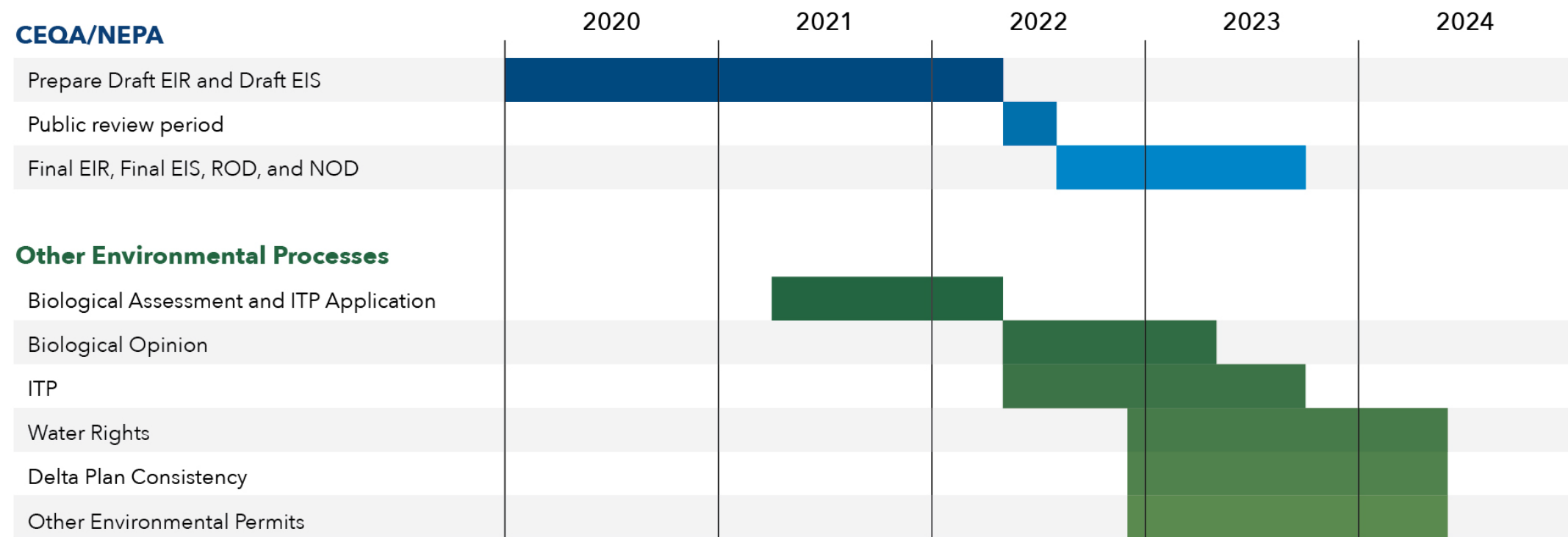
- CEQA and NEPA: continued development of EIR and EIS to assess potential impacts and identify mitigation measures to reduce impacts
- Tribal Consultation: continued consultation with Tribes regarding Tribal Cultural Resources and conducted Tribal surveys to accessible parcels
- ESA/CESA: continued coordination with USFWS, NMFS, and DFW to develop operational criteria and identify tools to assess potential effects
- Water rights: continued coordination of EIR analysis with State Water Board as a CEQA Responsible Agency, in expectation of submitting petition for change in point of diversion in late 2022
- Delta Plan Consistency: continued coordination with Delta Stewardship Council staff in early consultation
- Public Webinars: hosted informational webinars to provide background information related to preparation of the Draft EIR



Current Project Schedule



Delta Conveyance Project Schedule



2021 Community Benefits Program Input and Development

A defined set of commitments made by project proponents and created in coordination with the local community to create tangible and potentially significant economic and social benefit to the residents, businesses, and organizations facing project impacts.

- Concept Paper
- Interviews with Community Members
- Interview Summary Report
- Public and Tribal Community Benefits Program Workshops
- Case Study Workshop
- A Draft Community Benefits Program Framework will be included as an appendix to the Draft EIR



Three Distinct But Complementary Processes

Regulatory Mitigation

Purpose: Address project impacts related to specific regulatory requirements (e.g., CEQA/NEPA)

Community Benefits Program

Purpose: Provide benefits to communities most impacted by construction of project facilities, based on community collaboration.

Ombudsman Program

Purpose: Clearinghouse single point of contact to streamline information, support and claims. Includes ensuring just compensation as a result of direct construction impacts.



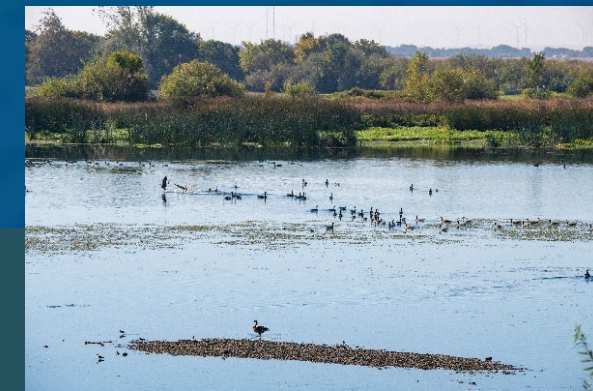
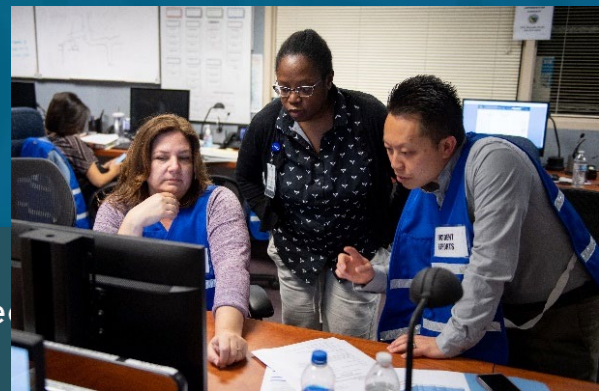
Two Community Benefits Program Components

1. Delta Community Fund

Fund efforts that empower the local community to protect, enhance, and sustain the unique cultural, historical, recreational, agricultural, and economic values of the Delta as an evolving place

2. Economic Development and Integrated Benefits

- Targeted hiring and business participation programs
- Integrated project benefits or “leave behinds”





Public Outreach and Community Engagement Plan for 2022

Public outreach in 2022 will focus on the release of the Draft EIR

Public Information

- Provide informational resources to help the public review, understand and react to the DEIR.
- Videos, website updates, fact sheets, graphics, social media, flyers, eblasts.

Public Outreach + Engagement

- Proactive outreach to inform and engage.
- Encourage and assist in participation.
- Emails, phone calls, meetings, briefings, presentation.

Public Participation + Notification

- Provide meaningful opportunities to access public review documents and respond through formal public input processes.
- Workshops, publicity, flyers, libraries, translations.



Ways to Stay Informed



- water.ca.gov/deltaconveyance
- dcdca.org



Project Hotline
866.924.9955



DWR Twitter
@CA_DWR
DCA Twitter
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Project Email
DeltaConveyance@water.ca.gov

