



Delta Conveyance Project

July 2023

Carrie Buckman
Environmental Program Manager



Presentation Agenda

- Need for the project
- Status Update
- What is anticipated to be released with FEIR?
- What is the FEIS Process?
- Soil Investigation Update



The State Water Project is an Important Water Supply for California that Can't be Replaced

- 27 million Californians rely on the State Water Project, including 6 million disadvantaged community members
- 750,000 acres of farmland are irrigated with State Water Project water
- 50% of California's water supply flows through the Delta and is delivered to 3 out of 5 Californians
- Local resiliency requires a stable State Water Project to support recycling, groundwater management, storage and conservation
- Water managers need functional water infrastructure to meet all water supply needs, including health and safety, economy, environment and water quality



Adapting to Climate Driven Weather Extremes

- California faces a future of continued water instability, more rain, less snow, and more frequent extreme events like drought and flood
- Predicted changes in annual runoff and precipitation type and timing will affect the ability of our current water management facilities to function as intended
- The proposed Delta Conveyance Project protects against future water supply losses caused by climate driven weather extremes, sea level rise and earthquakes
- The Delta Conveyance Project helps ensure that the State Water Project can safely capture, move and store water in the winter during high flow conditions, while meeting water quality and species protections



Missed Opportunities

Winter 2021-22

236,000 acre-feet of water = enough water to supply:



or



January 2023

228,000 acre-feet of water = enough water to supply:



or





Status and Next Steps

- CEQA: Completion Expected End of 2023
- NEPA: Completion Expected Early 2024
- California and Federal Endangered Species Acts
- Community Benefits Program
- Financial (revised cost estimate and benefit-cost analysis)
- Public Outreach and Engagement



What to expect with a Final EIR, if approved

- Revisions made to the Draft EIR
- Comments received (complete contents of letter copied into tables to support document accessibility)
- Common Responses
- Responses to substantive comments organized by letter



What to
expect with a
Final EIR, if
approved

- Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
- Decision Document
- Statement of Findings
- Statement of Overriding Considerations
- Notice of Determination (within 5 days of decision)



Comparison to Final EIS, if approved

- Revisions to the Draft EIS
- Comments received
- Responses to any substantive comments
- Published for a minimum of 30 days
- Filed with EPA
- Record of Decision (including monitoring program for required mitigation)



Soil Investigations for Data Collection in the Delta

Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) July 9, 2020

- February 2021 and June 2022 Addenda
- 223 Soil Borings
- 103 Cone Penetration Tests

To inform the development of the proposed Delta Conveyance Project's Environmental Impact Report and increase the understanding of subsurface conditions Delta-wide.



Soil Borings

- 4-8 inches in diameter
- 50-300 feet deep
- Soil collected at select depths
 - Recorded by geologist
 - Sent to lab for additional testing





Cone Penetration Tests

- ~1.5 inch diameter cone-tipped rod
- Pushed as deep as 200 feet
- Descending cone detects changes in friction and pressure
- No soil collected





Soil Investigations for Data Collection in the Delta

- Under the IS/MND (2020 through June 2023)
 - 79 borings
 - 59 CPTs
- Between May 1 and June 16, 2023, eleven borings were completed on State Highway 160
- Anticipated Summer/Fall 2023
 - 20 Borings
 - 14 Cone Penetration Tests



Soil Investigations for Data Collection in the Delta

- In general, there are more competent soils along the eastern/Bethany alignment alternatives as compared to the central alignment alternatives.
- Overall, the field data has confirmed preliminary design criteria and construction assumptions made in the conceptual design of the Engineering Project Report.



Soil Investigations for Data Collection in the Delta

As described in the DCP DEIR, additional geological and geotechnical investigations would be conducted during the design phase of the project to further develop design criteria, provide geotechnical design parameters for proposed facilities structural foundations and subsurface structural elements such as shafts and tunnels.

Questions?