



INFORMATION ITEM

California Department of Water Resources' Delta Conveyance Update

Summary

Staff from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) will provide an update on the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP). DWR has previously provided updates to the Council on DCP, including in January, April, and July of this year. Today's presentation will include updates on the status of the DCP Environmental Impact Report, next steps related to the project's planning and permitting efforts, an overview of the proposed Community Benefits program, and an opportunity for Councilmembers to ask questions of DWR staff.

Background

The Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) is a project proposed by DWR to construct new State Water Project infrastructure used to export water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta). A stated purpose of the project is to develop new diversion and conveyance facilities in the Delta.

DWR released a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the DCP in July 2022. The proposed project identified in the DEIR is known as the Bethany Reservoir Alignment. Under this alternative, DCP would include two new 3,000 cubic feet per second intake structures in the North Delta along the Sacramento River, and a connection to storage and export infrastructure in the South Delta. The Council submitted comments on the DCP DEIR in December 2022 (available here: <https://bit.ly/3snQLkx>). Responses to these comments are expected as part of the DCP Final EIR later this year.

Relationship to the Delta Plan

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 (Delta Reform Act) charges the Council with implementing the Delta Plan (Wat. Code, § 85204) and gives the Council appellate authority over certain actions in the Delta, defined as "covered

actions," to ensure that covered actions in the Delta are consistent with Delta Plan regulatory policies (Wat. Code, § 85225, et seq.) An agency undertaking a covered action must certify to the Council that its action is consistent with the Delta Plan. As described in the DEIR, the Delta Conveyance Project is a covered action. The Council anticipates receiving a certification of consistency from DWR at a future date. That certification of consistency would be appealable pursuant to the Delta Reform Act.

Delta Conveyance Project Update

The DCP is approaching a major milestone with the projected completion of the Final Environmental Impact Report before the end of the year. Carrie Buckman, DWR's Environmental Program Manager for Delta Conveyance, will provide an update on DCP status and next steps related to planning and permitting efforts. Additionally, DWR will discuss the process to further develop the Community Benefits Program (CBP). According to DWR, the CBP would identify and implement certain commitments, if the Delta Conveyance Project is approved, and be developed and eventually administered through a grassroots and collaborative process with the local community.

Fiscal Information

Not applicable.

List of Attachments

No attachments.

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