



INFORMATION ITEM

Presentation by the Department of Water Resources' Proposed West False River Salinity Barrier Project

Summary

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) will provide an update on the planning and implementation of the proposed West False River Salinity Barrier Project, which is a potential covered action under the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009. (Wat. Code, § 85000 et seq.)

Background

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta), as a part of the San Francisco Estuary, is influenced by twice daily tides, bringing saltwater into its waterways and sloughs. The outflow from the rivers entering the Delta, augmented by managed reservoir releases, keeps saltwater from degrading water quality for local municipal supplies, Delta agriculture, and the environment in addition to water supplies exported from the Delta. The State Water Project and the Central Valley Project manage Delta outflow, via reservoir releases and other strategies, to keep saltwater from intruding into the Delta. Due to severe droughts, DWR took emergency action in 1977, 2015, and 2021 to preserve Delta water quality by constructing emergency rock drought barriers. These strategically placed barriers prevented the intrusion of high salinity water in the Central Delta to maintain water quality for several Delta beneficial uses, including municipal and agricultural water supplies. With severe droughts occurring more frequently, DWR is currently proposing a process to proactively deploy the next drought salinity barrier as needed.

DWR has requested to provide the Council with an update on the planning and implementation of the proposed West False River Salinity Barrier Project, which consists of the installation of a temporary drought salinity barrier up to two times over 10 years, with each installation remaining in place for up to 20 months over two consecutive calendar years. The footprint of the project is approximately three

acres, the barrier would be constructed no sooner than April 1, and the barrier would be removed by November 30 of either the same or the subsequent year when it is determined to no longer be needed. The West False River Salinity Barrier Project is a potential covered action, and DWR plans to file a certification of consistency for the project in coming weeks.

Fiscal Information

None

List of Attachments

None

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