



INFORMATION ITEM

Department of Water Resources Delta Conveyance Project 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 the DCP, including in January, April, July, and November of 2023 and February, June, and September of 2024. Today's presentation will address ongoing and upcoming steps related to the DCP's planning and permitting efforts.

Background

The DCP is a project proposed by DWR to construct new State Water Project infrastructure to export water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta).

DWR certified the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the DCP and approved the Bethany Reservoir Alignment in December 2023. The Council received an update on this phase in February 2024. On May 16, 2024, DWR released a benefit-cost analysis for the DCP. The Council received an update on the benefit-cost analysis in June 2024. In September 2024, the Council received an update on the proposed Community Benefits Program, permitting updates (California Endangered Species Act, federal Endangered Species Act, water rights, and Delta Plan consistency), and an overview of the 2024-2026 Proposed Geotechnical Activities (Proposed Geotech) Certification of Consistency.

The Council voted 6-0 at its January 23, 2025, meeting to approve a resolution adopting a draft Determination (Decision D20242) dismissing the four appeals of Certification No. C20242 submitted by DWR for the Proposed Geotech. The Council found that the Proposed Geotech is not a covered action, and, therefore, dismissed the appeals for lack of jurisdiction. The Determination did not make any findings with respect to either the DCP or geotechnical activities that are not the subject of the Proposed Geotech and did not constitute the approval or rejection of the DCP.

Except as expressly provided in the Determination, DWR must file a certification of consistency for the DCP.

Relationship to the Delta Plan

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 (Wat. Code, § 85000 et seq.; 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, 85225.10, 85225.15, 85225.20, 85225.25.) An agency undertaking a covered action is required to certify to the Council that its action is consistent with the Delta Plan. As described in the FEIR, the DCP is a covered action. The Council anticipates receiving a certification of consistency from DWR in late 2025. That certification of consistency would be appealable pursuant to the Delta Reform Act.

Delta Conveyance Project Update

Carrie Buckman, DWR’s Environmental Program Manager for Delta Conveyance, will provide an update on ongoing DCP planning and permitting efforts.

Fiscal Information

Not applicable.

List of Attachments

No attachments.

Contact

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