



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; February, June, and September of 2024; and April of 2025. Today's presentation will address ongoing and upcoming steps related to DWR's planning and permitting efforts for the DCP.

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 as well as permitting updates.

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 file a certification of consistency with the Council that its covered action is consistent with the Delta Plan. The DCP is a covered action. The Council anticipates

receiving a certification of consistency from DWR. 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. Among other updates, Buckman will discuss the Accountability Action Plan. DWR has made numerous commitments to address effects within the local community during the construction of the DCP. These commitments include an Ombudsman office, regulatory mitigation, Community Benefits Program, Community Advisory Groups, and overall project communications. To describe, memorialize, track, and fulfill these commitments, DWR has established an Accountability Action Plan that, according to DWR, seeks to facilitate awareness of the numerous available programs and commitments made and will aim to foster assurance and trust among interested parties.

Fiscal Information

Not applicable.

List of Attachments

No attachments.

Contact

Jeff Henderson
Deputy Executive Officer
Delta Stewardship Council
jeff.henderson@deltacouncil.ca.gov