

September 16, 2021

# Delta Conveyance Project

## *Environmental Justice*

**Carrie Buckman**  
Environmental Program Manager  
DWR


**Matty Evoy-Mount**  
Senior Environmental Planner  
ICF




**Juliana Birkhoff**  
Facilitator  
Ag Innovations

**Genevieve Taylor**  
Facilitator  
Ag Innovations



# Choose a Language Channel

 English and Spanish interpretation available!

 Record    Interpretation    Reactions

Off  
English  
Spanish

---

Mute Original Audio

 Interpretation



# Spanish Resources

## Call-in Information:

- Número de Teléfono: (602) 580-9659
- Código de Acceso: 8833787, seguido por el signo de tecla (#)

## View or download the translated presentation:

- <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project/Delta-Conveyance/DCP-Informational-Webinars>



The screenshot shows the website for the California Department of Water Resources. The page is titled "Informational Webinars" and features a main heading, a sub-heading, and a list of topics. A blue arrow points from the text above to the "La Justicia Ambiental" link in the list. The page also includes a "Contact Us" section, a "Stay Connected" section with a "Subscribe for Project Updates" button, and a "Tags" section with "State Water Project ..." and "Delta Conveyance" tags.

Share:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Water Basics What We Do Programs Work with Us News Library Search

### Informational Webinars

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is hosting four informational webinars between July and September 2021 to provide background information related to preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

While not a requirement of the California Environmental Quality Act, DWR is planning the webinars to keep the public and interested stakeholders informed about the current progress related to preparation of the Draft EIR. Each webinar will feature presentations from technical staff about the approaches, methodologies and assumptions to be utilized in conducting impact analyses in the Draft EIR. Information about impact findings and specific mitigation measures is not expected to be available but will be included in future outreach efforts following publication of the Draft EIR.

For any questions on the content covered before or after each webinar, please email [DeltaConveyance@water.ca.gov](mailto:DeltaConveyance@water.ca.gov).

- + [Topics, Schedule and Registration](#)
- + [Format and Participation Accommodations](#)
- + [Informational Resources](#)
- [Información en Español](#)

El Departamento de Recursos Hídricos (DWR, por sus siglas en inglés) está organizando cuatro videoconferencias informativas entre julio y septiembre del 2021 para proporcionar información básica relacionada con la preparación del Borrador del Informe de Impacto Ambiental (EIR, por sus siglas en inglés).

- **La Justicia Ambiental**  
Jueves 16 de septiembre del 2021 | 6:00pm - 8:00pm | [REGISTRAR AQUÍ](#)

### Contact Us

Questions and More Information:  
1-866-924-9955 | [deltaconveyance@water.ca.gov](mailto:deltaconveyance@water.ca.gov)

Media Inquiries:  
Lisa Lien-Mager (916) 653-9402  
[Lisa.LienMager@resources.ca.gov](mailto:Lisa.LienMager@resources.ca.gov)  
Ryan Endean (916) 798-1701  
[Ryan.Endean@water.ca.gov](mailto:Ryan.Endean@water.ca.gov)

### Stay Connected

[Subscribe for Project Updates](#)

### Tags

[State Water Project ...](#)  
[Delta Conveyance](#)



# Closed Captioning



To turn on closed captions, click on the “cc” icon on the on the bottom of your screen and choose the “enable” option.





# Access the Presentation

View or download the translated presentation:

- <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project/Delta-Conveyance/DCP-Informational-Webinars>
  - Topics, Schedule and Registration
  - Environmental Justice



## Informational Webinars



A drone provides a view of the Harvey O. Banks Delta Pumping Plant, the first major plant designed and constructed within the California State Water Project.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is hosting four informational webinars between July and September 2021 to provide background information related to preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

While not a requirement of the California Environmental Quality Act, DWR is planning the webinars to keep the public and interested stakeholders informed about the current progress related to preparation of the Draft EIR. Each webinar will feature presentations from technical staff about the approaches, methodologies and assumptions to be utilized in conducting impact analyses in the Draft EIR. Information about impact findings and specific mitigation measures is not expected to be available but will be included in future outreach efforts following publication of the Draft EIR.

For any questions on the content covered before or after each webinar, please email [DeltaConveyance@water.ca.gov](mailto:DeltaConveyance@water.ca.gov).

[— Topics, Schedule and Registration](#)

- **Environmental Justice**

Thursday, September 16, 2021 | 6:00pm – 8:00pm | [REGISTER HERE](#)

## Contact Us

Questions and More Information:  
1-866-924-9955 | [deltaconveyance@water.ca.gov](mailto:deltaconveyance@water.ca.gov)

### Media Inquiries:

Lisa Lien-Mager (916) 653-9402  
[Lisa.LienMager@resources.ca.gov](mailto:Lisa.LienMager@resources.ca.gov)

Ryan Endean (916) 798-1701  
[Ryan.Endean@water.ca.gov](mailto:Ryan.Endean@water.ca.gov)

## Stay Connected

[Subscribe for Project Updates](#)

## Tags

[State Water Project ...](#)

[Delta Conveyance](#)





# Webinar Overview

## Presentation

- Environmental Justice (EJ) Overview
- EJ Survey Report and Lessons Learned
- EJ in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

## Question/Answer session

- Via Zoom: Use **Q&A** and **Raise Hand** features in Zoom
- Via Phone: Press **\*9** to raise hand and ask question



# How to Ask Written Questions in Zoom



To ask a question, click on the “**Q&A**” icon on the bottom of your screen and type your question into the box during the presentation portions of the webinar.







# How to ask Verbal Questions in Zoom



To ask a verbal question, click on the **“Raise Hand”** icon on the bottom of your screen. When you are called on, unmute your mic and you will have two minutes to ask your question.







# Delta Conveyance Project

## Purpose

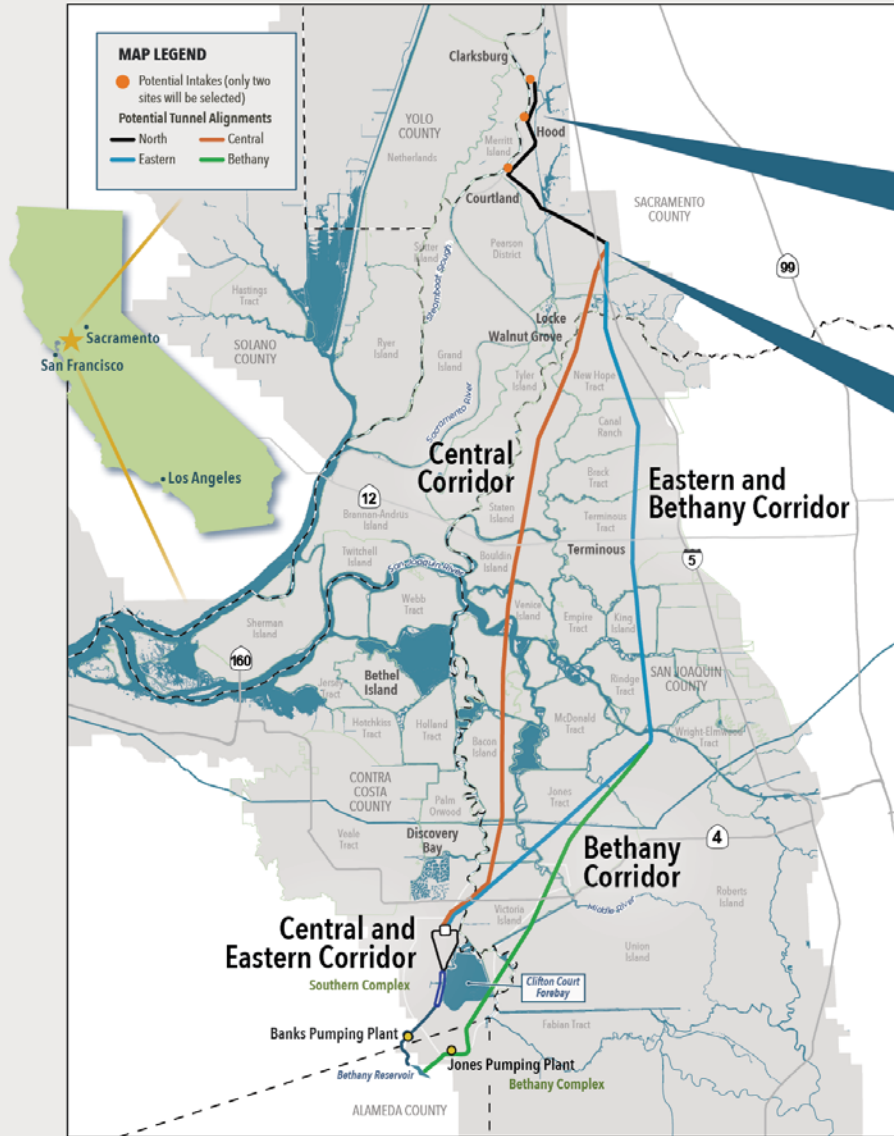
Modernize the aging State Water Project (SWP) infrastructure in the Delta to restore and protect the reliability of SWP water deliveries in a cost-effective manner, consistent with the State's Water Resilience Portfolio.

## Objectives

- **Address** sea level rise and climate change
- **Minimize** water supply disruption due to seismic risk
- **Protect** water supply reliability
- **Provide** operational flexibility to improve aquatic conditions



## PROJECT DETAILS



### Proposed Facilities\*

Two new intakes in the north Delta, each with 3,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) capacity, for the proposed project. Alternatives could include one, two, or three intakes.

One below ground tunnel, following an eastern, central, or Bethany corridor, designed to protect California's water supplies from sea level rise, earthquakes, subsidence and levee failure.

### Operational Flexibility

 A new diversion facility would be operated together with existing South Delta pumping facilities

 Operations would increase DWR's ability to capture water during high flow events

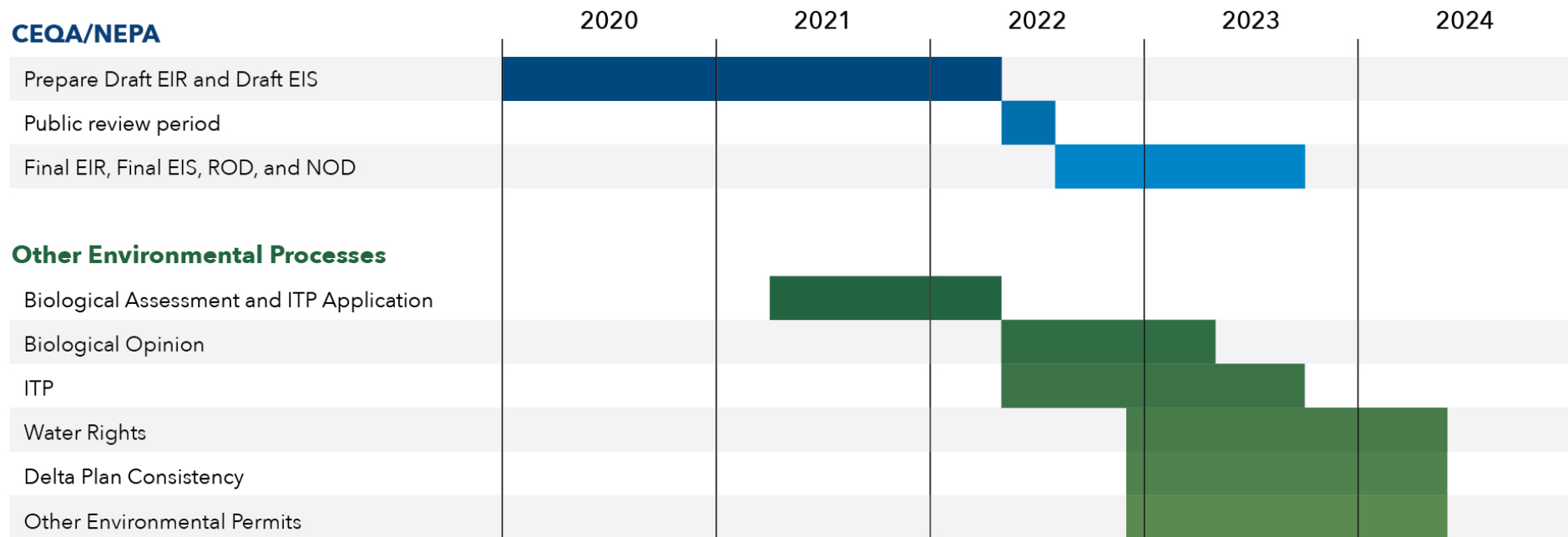
*\*All proposed project details are subject to refinement. No final decisions will be made until the conclusion of the environmental review process.*





# Current Project Schedule

## Delta Conveyance Project Schedule





# Overview of the CEQA Process







# Objectives of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

- Disclose:** Potential significant environmental effects
- Identify:** Ways to avoid or reduce significant environmental impacts
- Prevent:** Environmental damage, if feasible, by requiring implementation of alternatives or mitigation measures
- Foster:** Interagency coordination and public participation
- Show:** That the agency is considering environmental implications of actions prior to making decisions





# Environmental Impact Report Purpose

- Inform:** About a project's potential significant environmental impacts and ways to avoid, minimize, reduce, or compensate for them
- Demonstrate:** That environment is being considered prior to approving the project and that the agency has considered the environmental implications of its actions
- Ensure:** Prevention of environmental damage, if feasible, by requiring implementation of feasible alternatives or mitigation measures





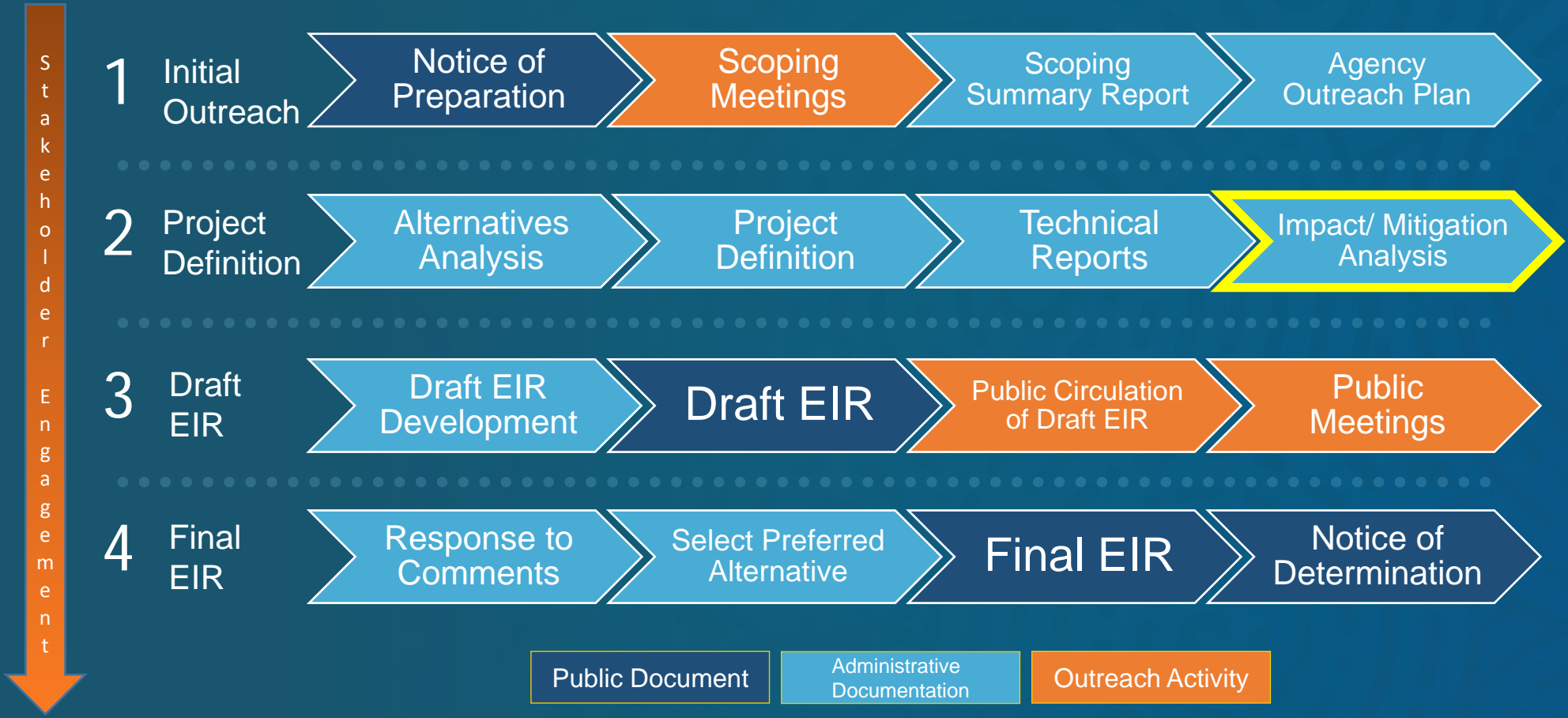
# Key Contents of an EIR

- Project description
- Environmental setting / baseline
- Discussion of significant environmental impacts
  - *Direct, indirect and cumulative*
- Mitigation measures
- Growth-inducing impacts
- Alternatives (reasonable range compared in meaningful detail)
- Organizations / persons consulted



# Delta Conveyance Project CEQA Process

DWR will identify, analyze and disclose the potential significant adverse environmental impacts of the project, and assess feasible mitigation measures and alternatives to avoid or reduce such effects.





# What is Environmental Justice?



# Environmental Justice Definition

***“The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins, with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”***

*(California Public Resources Code (Pub. Resources Code) Sections 71110–71118  
and Government Code Section 65040.12.*

*Government Code Section 65040.12(e)(1))*



# Environmental Justice – California Policy

## California Natural Resources Agency

Established an environmental justice policy applicable to “all Departments, Boards, Commissions, Conservancies and Special Programs of the Resources Agency.”



***“Environmental justice communities are commonly identified as those where residents are predominantly minorities or low-income; where residents have been excluded from the environmental policy setting or decision-making process; where they are subject to a disproportionate impact from one or more environmental hazards; and where residents experience disparate implementation of environmental regulations, requirements, practices and activities in their communities.”***



# Environmental Justice and CEQA

## State CEQA Guidelines

- Lead agencies typically do not include Environmental Justice analysis in CEQA documents
- CEQA requires public agencies to inform decision makers and the public about the **potential significant environmental effects of proposed activities**
- CEQA Guidelines define the environment as the “physical conditions which exist within the area which will be affected by a proposed project including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance.”
- **Economic or social changes by themselves are not considered a significant effect on the environment**





# Environmental Justice and Delta Conveyance

- CEQA does not require an analysis of environmental justice BUT **State legislation, executive orders, and policies do instruct state agencies to consider the impacts of their actions on environmental justice communities**
- DWR is **preparing** an Environmental Justice chapter in the Draft EIR to document consideration of environmental justice concerns and disclose potential effects of the Delta Conveyance Project on environmental justice communities.
- Because the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a regulatory agency for major aspects of the proposed project and is the lead agency for preparation of an EIS in compliance with NEPA, DWR will prepare an environmental justice analysis, that aims to achieve the federal environmental justice directives, into this chapter.



# Environmental Justice – Federal Policy

## **1994 Executive Order (EO) 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (59 Federal Register [FR] 7629)**

Requires federal agencies to develop environmental justice plans to analyze federal actions that have the potential to result in disproportionately high and adverse environmental effects (including human health, economic, and social effects) on minority and low-income populations, including Tribal populations.

## **2021 Presidential EO 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad**

Ordered integration of environmental justice with climate resiliency efforts  
Established a policy “to secure environmental justice and spur economic opportunity for disadvantaged communities that have been historically marginalized and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment in housing, transportation, water and wastewater infrastructure, and health care.”



# Questions



# **Your Delta, Your Voice**

# **Environmental Justice Community Survey**





# Goal of “Your Delta, Your Voice” Survey Fall 2020

1. Gather information from disadvantaged communities in Delta region, including low income, about how they work, live, recreate, and experience the Delta
2. Understand how the community values and uses natural, economic, and social resources

Information was gathered to:

- Inform proposed Delta Conveyance environmental review and planning process, particularly the environmental justice chapter of the CEQA Environmental Impact Report
- Increase awareness of proposed Delta Conveyance Project
- Increase Delta region disadvantaged community members interests’ in participating in public engagement activities
- Focus on historically burdened, underrepresented, people of color, and low-income communities, including indigenous and Tribal members



# Survey Questions

## Welcome and Overview questions

- Purpose
- Project background

## Priorities

- What is important to you
- Suggest your own priorities

## Special Places Using Map

- Designate Special Places
- Businesses
- Gathering Spots
- Historic and cultural sites (some confidential)

## Delta Community Needs

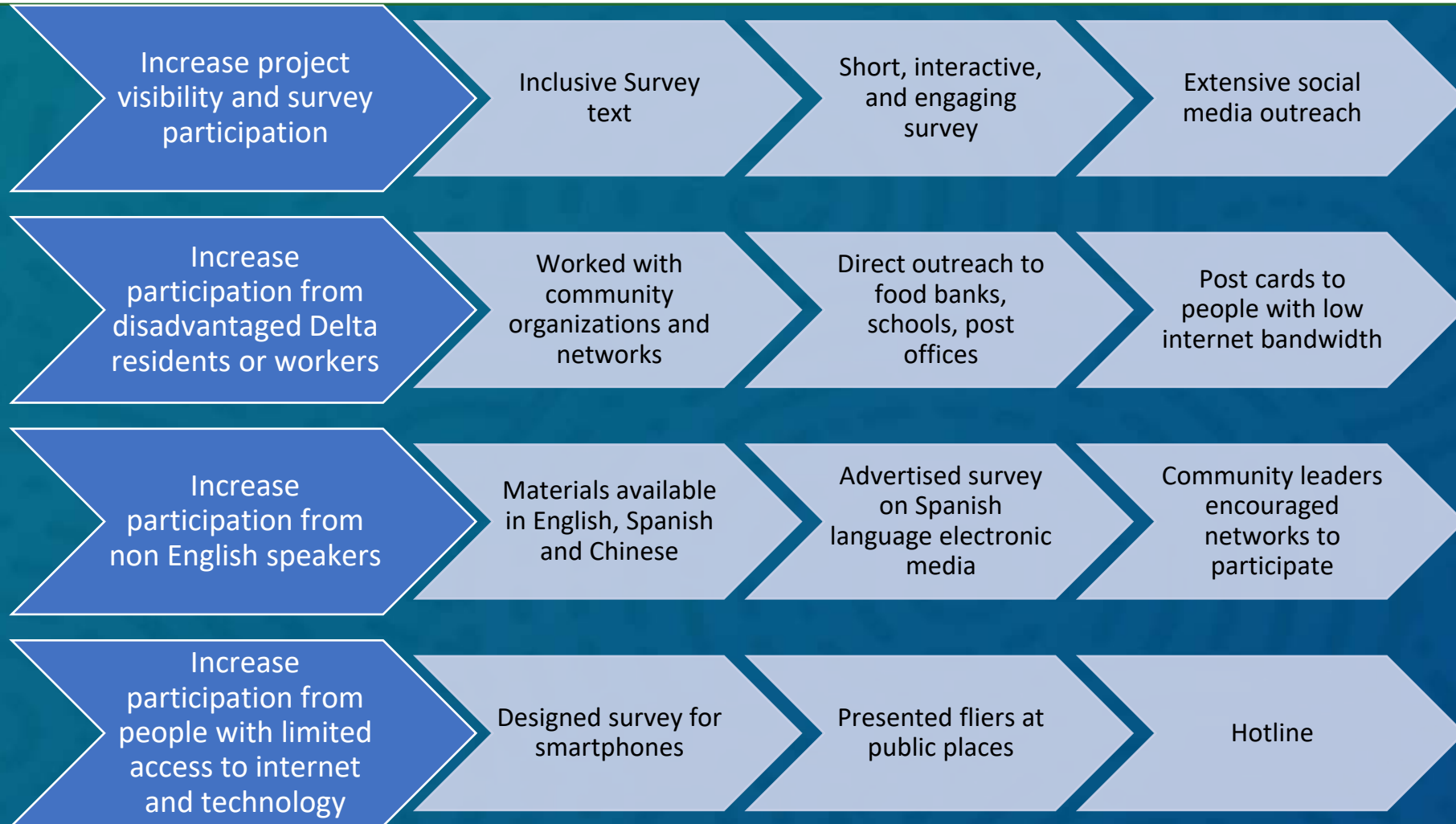
- Like best about Delta and Delta concerns
- Economic wellbeing and identify social services
- Experiences in nature
- Opinions and concerns Delta Conveyance Project

## Demographics

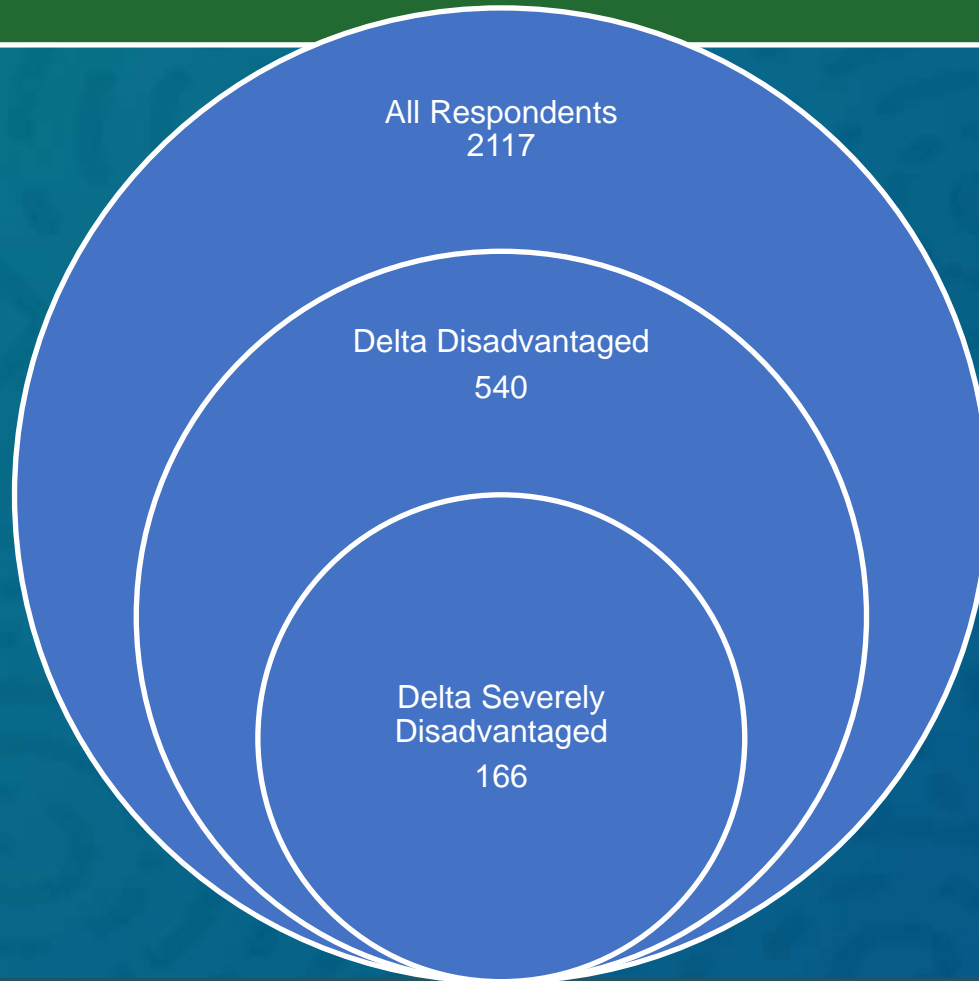
- Zip codes
- Ethnicity
- Language
- Income
- Email optional



# Survey Objectives and Outreach Approaches



# Respondents Economic and Demographic Characteristics



Of all respondents, who lives and/or works in the Delta?	
Live and Work in Delta	238
Only Lives in Delta	741
Only Works in Delta	120





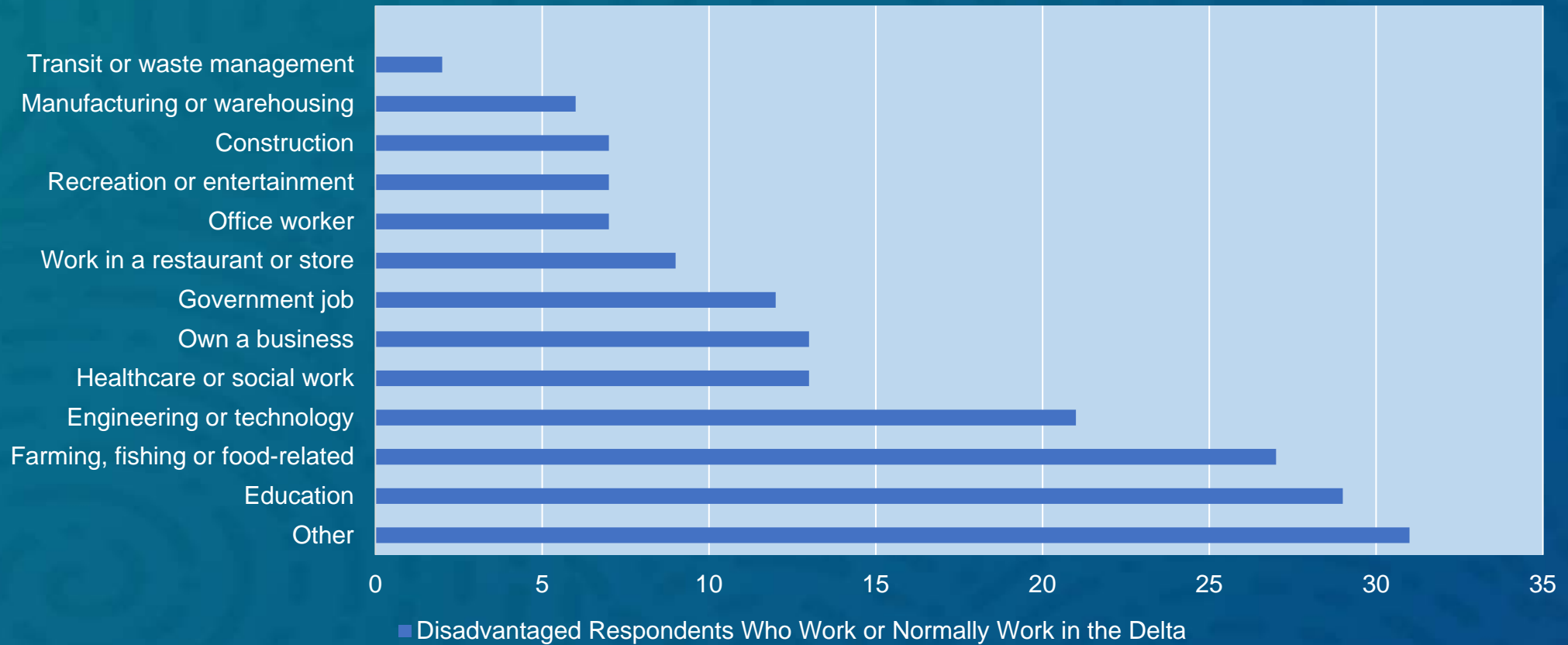
# Delta Disadvantaged Community Respondent Characteristics

Ethnicity	# Respondents
African American	20
Asian or Pacific Islander	106
Latino/Hispanic	86
Mixed Heritage	68
Native American	19
Other	51
White	182
Did not provide ethnicity	8
Total	540

Languages	# Respondents
English	433
Chinese	66
Spanish	18
Tagalog	4
Other	14
Did not provide primary spoken language	5
Total	540

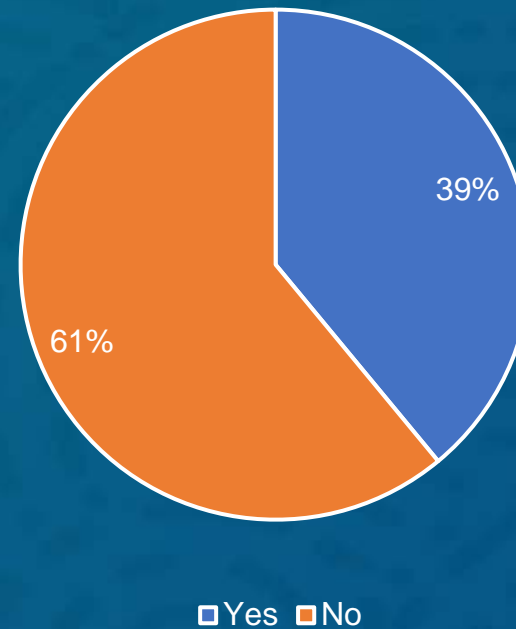


# Respondents Work In Education, Farming, Fishing, Food Production, Engineering and Technology



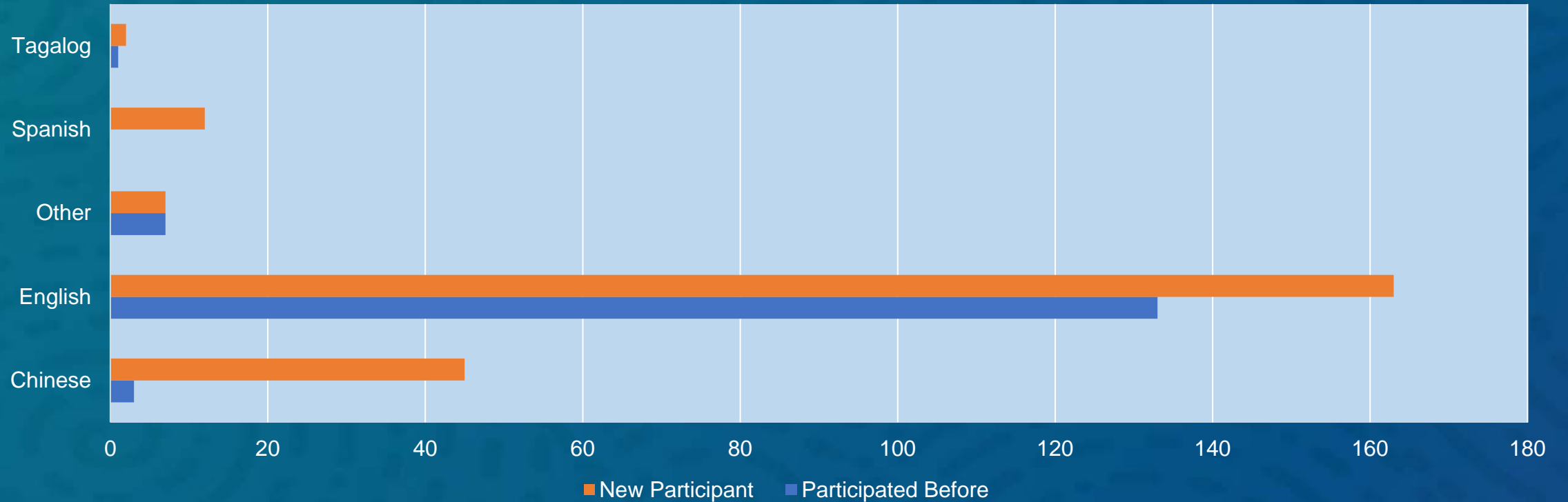
# Survey Reached Disadvantaged Communities Who Had Never Participated in Delta Conveyance Public Input Process

Of the 375 disadvantaged community members who responded, 145 said no, they had never participated in a public process related to a Delta tunnel proposal.



# Survey Reached Participants Who Had Never Participated in Delta Conveyance Input Process

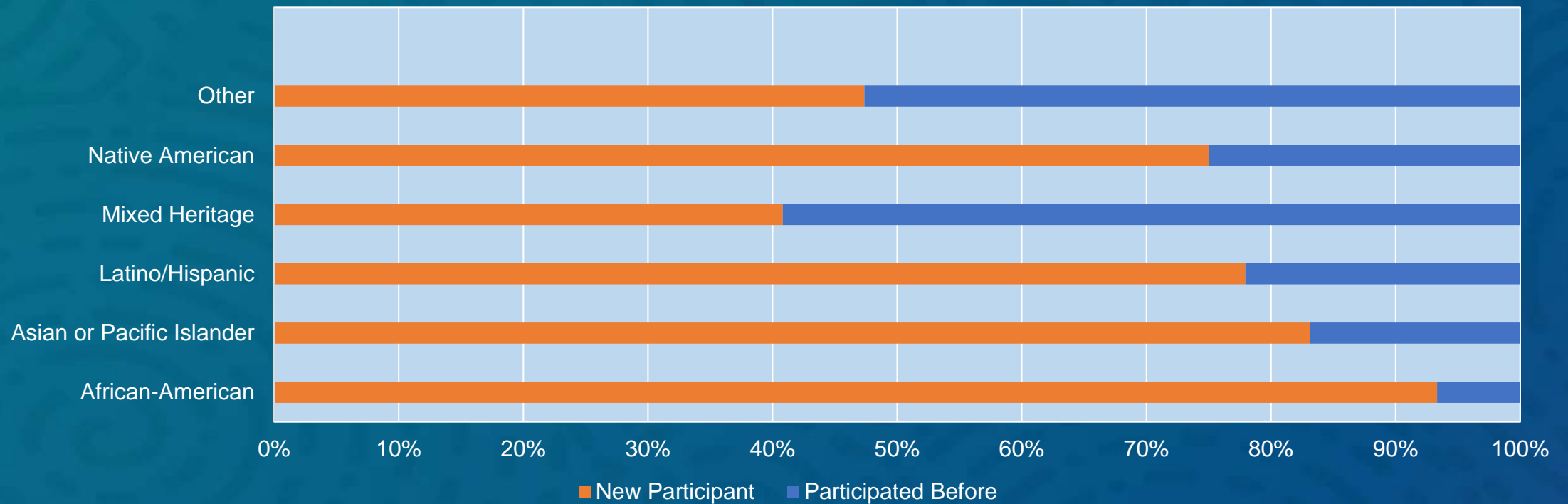
Have you ever participated in a public process related to a Delta tunnel proposal?  
370 Delta Disadvantaged Community members responded





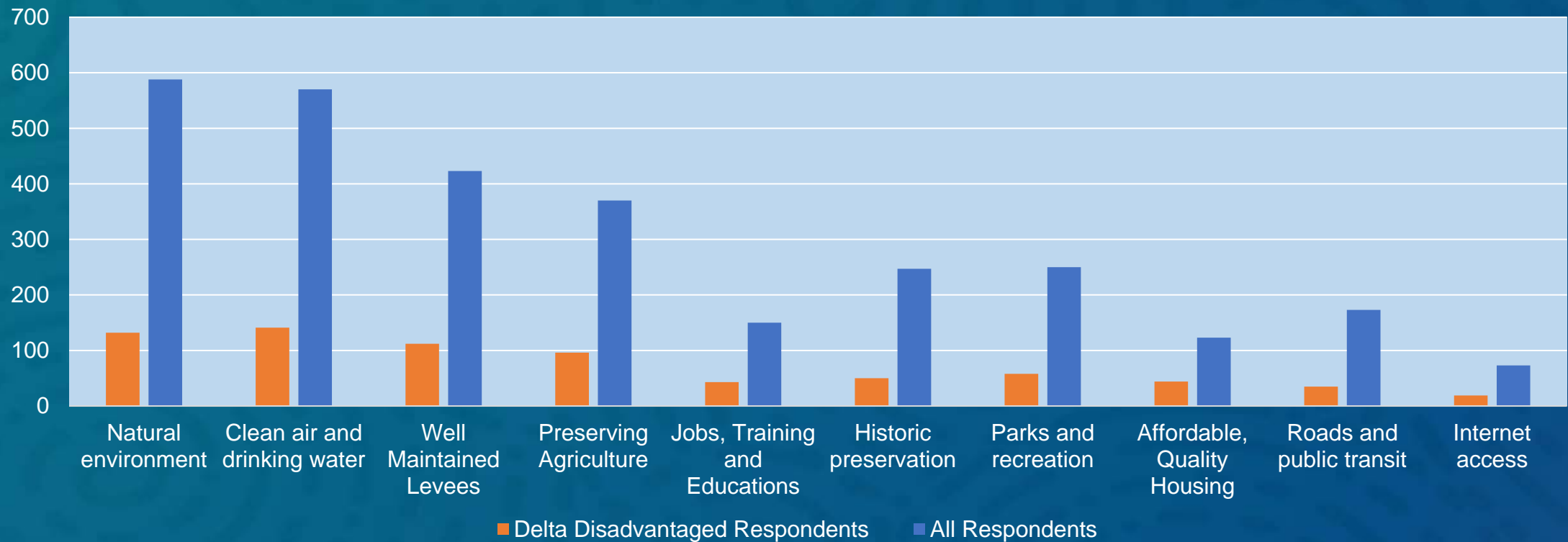
# Survey Reached New Hispanic, Native American Asian/Pacific Islander and African American Participants

New Participation by Ethnicity  
375 Delta Disadvantaged Community members responded



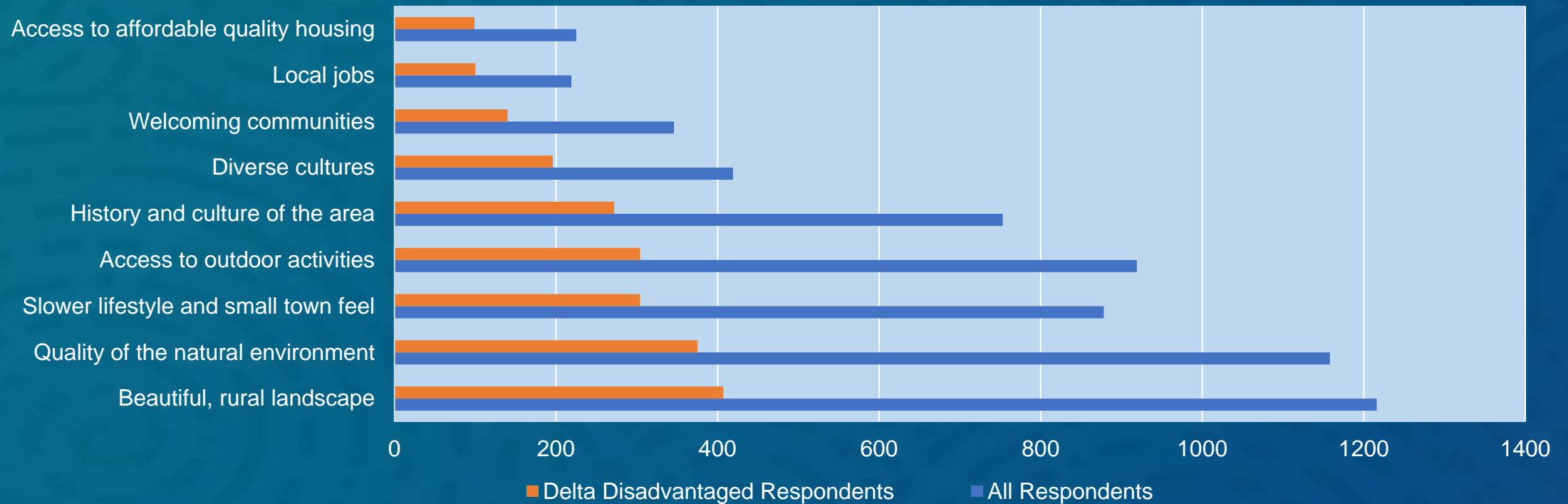
# Respondents Ranked Natural Environment, Clean Air and Drinking Water, Wildlife, Fish and Bird Habitat Very Highly

What Is Most Important to You?



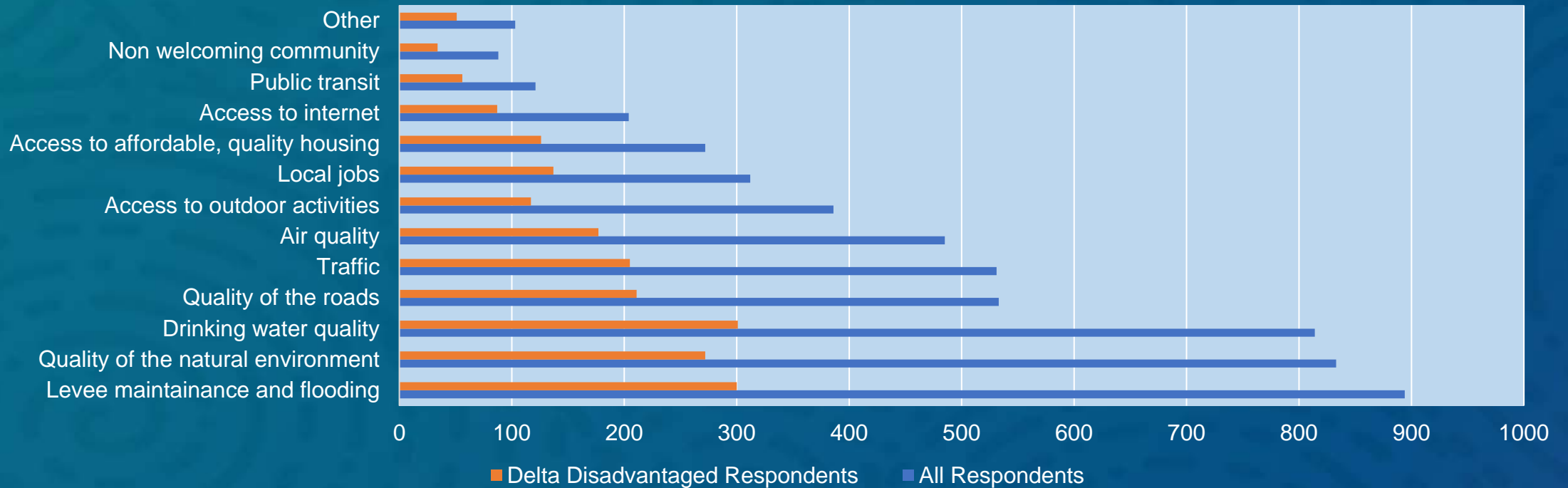
# Respondents Value Beautiful Rural Landscape, Natural Environment, Access to Outdoor Activities, Slower Lifestyle, and Small Town Feel

What do you like best about the Delta? All Respondents and Delta Disadvantaged Respondents Gave Same Top 5 Responses



# Respondents Worry About Drinking Water Quality, Levee Maintenance and Flooding, and the Quality of the Natural Environment

1427 People Responded With Concerns, including 512 Delta Disadvantaged Respondents





# Respondents Identified Outdoor Activities, Fishing Spots, Historic and Cultural Sites As Special Places on Map

- 90% eat fish 4 or more times per week (of those who responded)
- 96% Delta Disadvantaged respondents marked Historic & Cultural sites which need improvement
- Locke was marked in 41% of Historic and cultural sites
- Combined marinas and restaurants – or restaurants otherwise on the water – were marked as popular destinations for gathering and marked as appreciated local businesses.

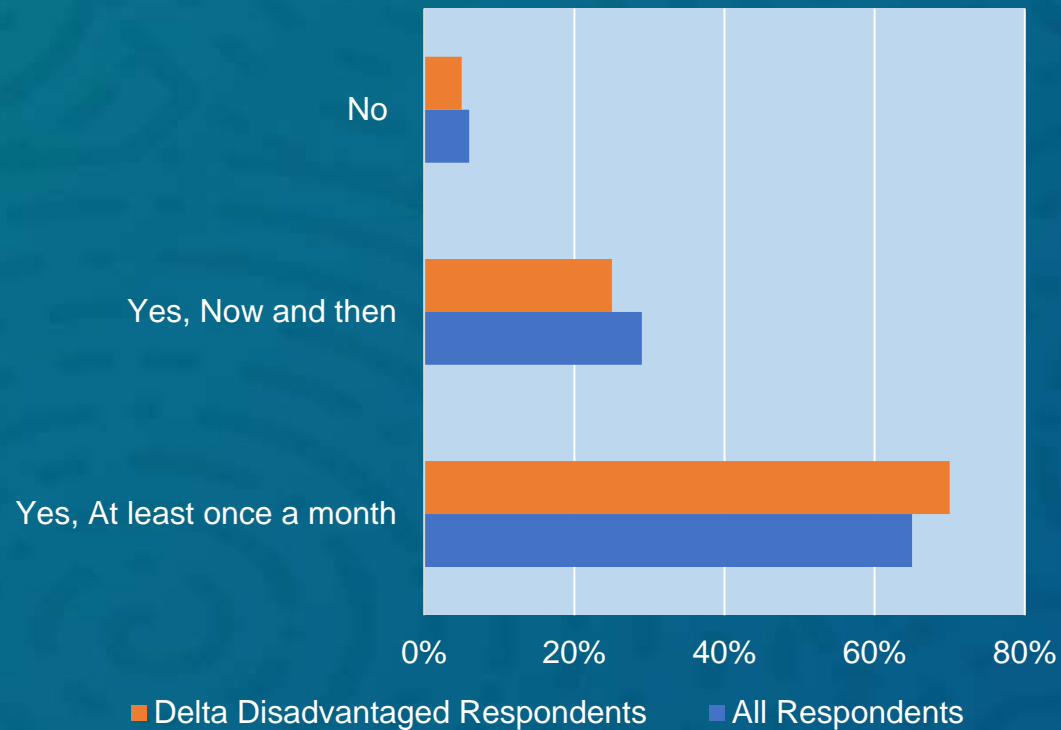
## Of all map markers:

- Outdoor Activities: 28%
- Fishing Spots: 18%
- Historic & Cultural Sites: 17%
- Gathering Places: 15%
- Businesses & Services: 12%

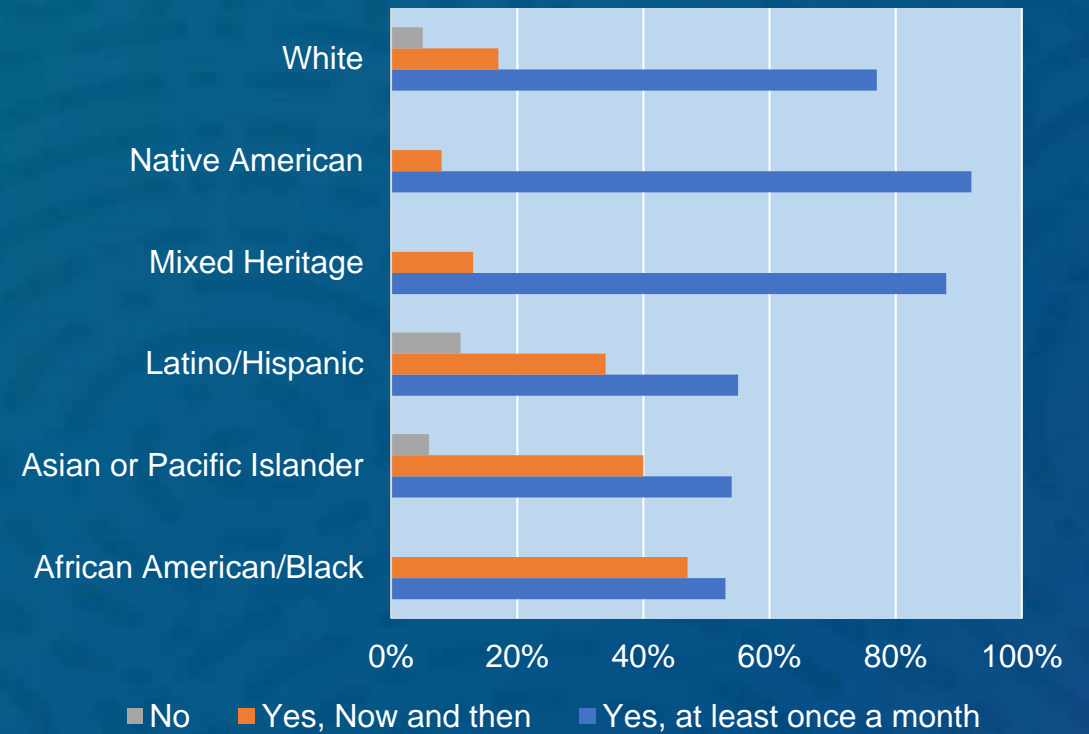


# Respondents Frequently Spend Time on Delta Waterways and Natural Areas

## All Respondents and Disadvantaged Respondents

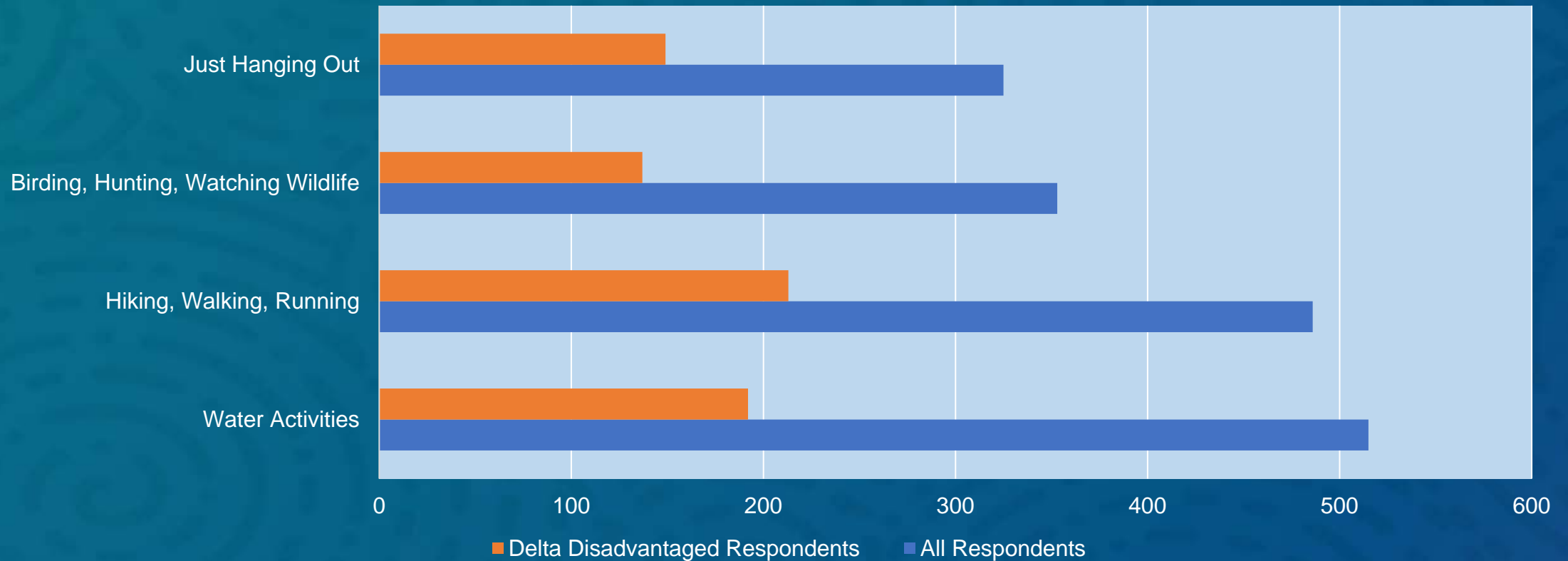


## Delta Disadvantaged Respondents By Ethnicity



# Respondents Spend Their Time in the Delta in Water Activities, Hiking, Walking, Running, Watching Wildlife, and Just Hanging Out

Recreation Activities



# Respondents Said the Delta Needs...

- Social Services
- Homeless services
- Affordable quality housing
- Children and teen programs
- Outdoor recreation





# Respondents Say They Do Not Know Enough to Have a Strong Opinion About the Delta Conveyance Project

- 95% of Delta Disadvantaged Respondents said they did not know enough to have a strong opinion at this time.
- Throughout the survey, respondents expressed their opposition to the project, including 71% of Delta Disadvantaged Respondents who commented that there are no benefits from the project.
- 11% of Delta Disadvantaged Respondents who commented thought the Delta Conveyance Project might provide training opportunities and could improve the natural environment.



# We Learned Important EJ Outreach Lessons

- Translating Survey into Chinese and Spanish was helpful for survey participation, particularly in Chinese. Many of these respondents had never participated in any Delta outreach.
- Developing relationships with community leaders and community organizations was crucial to outreach. We believe that community leaders increased response rate because their networks trusted their message that the survey was important.
- Thinking about where EJ respondents would be, and reaching out to them in those places also dramatically increased participation.
- Using a platform, Metroquest, that could be accessed on cell phones and on the internet increased participation.



# Where Can I Find More Information in the Report?

If you want to use the data for other analyses, remember the survey and mapping focused only on environmental justice issues in the Delta, particularly focusing on Delta Disadvantaged respondents. DWR is working on the data now to remove any sensitive or confidential personal information. They will release the survey data soon.

## Q. Did you protect confidentiality of people and protected places in the survey?

**A:** Yes, we took that very seriously. While we collected emails, that information was collected separately from survey information. Likewise, we protected confidentiality of historic and cultural sites, as guided by state and federal legislation. That is being carefully examined as DWR prepares to release the survey data.

## Q. What if I want to know more about a specific ethnic or racial group?

**A:** On most questions we included a breakdown by ethnic and racial groups, and so analysis is included throughout the report. For more details on outreach in general or to specific audiences, see Appendix 2, which has more detail on our outreach approach and lessons learned.

## Q. Why did you choose to only analyze Delta Disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities, in addition to all respondents?

**A:** This survey had thousands of pieces of data that was shared by each respondent. This analysis helped us focus on information needed to understand environmental justice issues in the Delta communities to support questions posed by the Delta Conveyance Project.

## Q. What does the survey tell you about water quality, fish health and habitat, and salinity?

**A:** There were extensive comments on this throughout, and survey questions that asked about these concerns directly are found in chapters 5 and 7.

## Q. What does the survey tell you about agriculture, levee maintenance, or protecting the Delta heritage, communities and infrastructure.

**A:** There were extensive comments on this throughout, and survey questions that asked about these concerns directly are found in chapters 3 and 7.

## Q. Can I find out information about what respondents from a certain town or city said?

**A:** No, that is not included in the report, as we asked only for zip code.



# Questions



# Overview of the CEQA Environmental Justice Analysis





# Purpose and use of Environmental Justice Analysis

- **Environmental Justice is not a topic required to be analyzed in a CEQA document**
- **The EJ analysis will draw on CEQA analyses of environmental impacts on other resource topics**
- **Environmental effects are considered disproportionate if they are adverse and occur in:**
  - Census block groups with greater than 50% total minority populations
  - Census block groups where low-income households (i.e., below the defined threshold) constitute greater than 20% of the total population
- **This is consistent with the definition of “disadvantaged communities” in the 2020 Environmental Justice Community Survey**





# Identification of Environmental Justice Populations

## Minority Populations

- Where the minority population of the affected area exceeds 50%.

## Low-Income Populations

- The population percentage below the poverty level in the affected area is equal to or exceeds 20%.











# Methods for Analysis

## Consider these factors to determine whether environmental effects are disproportionately high and adverse:

- Whether there is or would be an effect on the natural or physical environment that adversely affects a minority population, or low-income population. Such effects may include ecological, cultural, human health, economic, or social effects on minority communities, low-income communities, or Indian tribes when those effects are interrelated to effects on the natural or physical environment.
- Whether the environmental effects may have an adverse effect on minority populations, or low-income populations, which appreciably exceeds or is likely to appreciably exceed those on the general population or other appropriate comparison group.
- Whether the environmental effects occur or would occur in a minority population or low-income population affected by cumulative or multiple adverse exposures from environmental hazards that appreciably exceed the cumulative or adverse exposure of the population at large.
- The qualitative information supplied through the Environmental Justice Survey identified topics and resources of concern to EJ communities. For purposes of this analysis, where any of these identified resources are found to be impacted by construction or operation of the project alternatives, further evaluation will be undertaken to determine if the impact to that resource results in a disproportionate effect on EJ communities, since the resource has been specifically identified as being important to these communities.



# Methods for Analysis (Continued)

- Mapping shows entire project footprint affects environmental justice populations
- A resource that has no impact or a less-than-significant impact prior to mitigation under CEQA will be assumed to not have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on an environmental justice population.
- Where DWR determines that the project will have a significant impact on a specific resource under CEQA, DWR will perform additional analyses to determine if the physical change would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on an environmental justice population
  - Significant impacts identified under CEQA that do not have the potential to have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on an environmental justice population would not be further analyzed.
- Mitigation measures could have their own impacts on Environmental Justice populations
- The Community Benefits Program is not considered environmental mitigation.

*Under NEPA, when there are minority and low-income populations in the study area that may be **adversely impacted**, the agency must determine whether there is a disproportionately high and adverse impact on the population. For the purposes of the EIR analysis, we are using **significance** (under CEQA) as a proxy for adverse effects.*



# Use of other EIR chapters and analysis in EJ chapter

## The following related topics will be addressed in other chapters:

- The **Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases** chapter will address air quality effects on sensitive receptors and conduct a health risk assessment
- The **Land Use** chapter will address physical division of existing communities
- The **Socioeconomics** chapter will address social and economic characteristics, community character, population, employment, and housing
- The **Public Involvement, Consultation, and Coordination** chapter will describe public outreach efforts and coordination for the project, including tribal coordination and consultation



# Use of Environmental Justice Survey Results in Draft EIR Analysis

- Review survey responses to understand how certain environmental changes might need to be evaluated for a disproportionate effect on an environmental justice population in the study area
- Gain insights on priorities, preferences, activities, and concerns of Delta-area environmental justice populations
- Summarize key themes regarding:
  - Community Priorities
  - Preferences and Concerns
  - Community Economic Wellbeing
  - Experiencing the Delta
  - Places that Matter
  - Outdoor Activities
  - Fishing
  - Historic and Cultural Resources
  - Business Services and Gatherings
  - Other Special Places



# Ongoing Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Community Outreach

**Outreach and engagement will continue with disadvantaged and environmental justice communities across all aspects of the project**

- Further understand potential project-related impacts and benefits
- Encourage input during formal review periods, such as the Draft EIR
- Engagement with community leaders and members through a variety of formats, such as workshops and community events
- Enhance and increase participation in an effort to address specific needs and concerns





# Questions



# QUESTIONS



Via Zoom: Use Raise Hand feature



Via Phone: Press **\*9** to **raise hand** and **\*6** to **unmute**



# QUESTIONS

00:02:00



# Thank You for Attending



# Ways to Stay Informed



[water.ca.gov](http://water.ca.gov)

- Programs
  - State Water Project
    - Delta Conveyance



Project Hotline

866.924.9955



Twitter

@CA\_DWR



Project Email

DeltaConveyance@water.ca.gov

