Delta Conveyance Project Operations Fact Sheet

Introduction

The Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) will allow California to safely maximize water deliveries to recover water lost due to climate change, sea level rise and earthquakes. The modernized infrastructure creates essential operational flexibility to safely take advantage of excess water created by extreme weather events and under the right conditions.

What Are "Operations"?

"Operations" refers to the timing, quantity and location of the movement of water to ensure adequate supplies to meet regulatory requirements. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) develops, plans and implements the operation of the State Water Project (SWP) in coordination with regulatory agencies to meet fish, water quality and environmental requirements, and provide water supply to 27 million Californians.

How Are Operations Governed?

There are several regulatory agencies involved in the permitting and oversight of operations:

- State Water Resources Control Board – Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan
- CA Department of Fish and Wildlife – Incidental Take Permit
- National Marine Fisheries Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service – Biological Opinions
- US Army Corps of Engineers – Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act

How Will the Delta Conveyance Project Be Operated?

The new North Delta intakes of the Delta Conveyance Project will be integrated into overall operations of the SWP. Operations will be consistent with permit conditions and regulatory requirements to maintain protections of fisheries and water quality, including:

- Existing applicable water right permits
- Any applicable laws or regulatory obligations and any subsequent updates
- Any permit issued for the project

The Project will not change operational criteria associated with upstream reservoirs and DWR is committed to not changing upstream reservoir operations to move additional stored water through the new north Delta intakes consistent with the Operations Plan.

In the winter and spring, the new intakes will prioritize diversions at south Delta intakes up to their available physical and permitted capacity. When there is excess flow in the system, the new intakes will opportunistically capture excess flow on top of permitted diversions at south Delta intakes. DWR will not release more stored water to divert at the DCP and will instead focus on diverting available excess flow. The total south Delta and north Delta SWP diversions must stay within the SWP Delta water rights parameters because the upper limits would not change with the Delta Conveyance Project.

In the late spring, summer and fall, when the SWP is typically operating to meet State Water Board D-1641 salinity requirements in the Delta, the new intakes will help to efficiently manage Delta water quality requirements. DWR may shift a portion of SWP diversions from the south Delta to the north Delta if it improves water quality management. Shifting could occur under a variety of conditions but typically would occur when San Joaquin River salinity is substantially higher than Sacramento River salinity. In July through September, shifting could only occur if the total SWP and Central Valley Project south Delta exports stay above 3,000 cfs to help maintain upstream storage and manage water quality in the Delta.

Once the DCP is operational, DWR will coordinate operations with appropriate local agencies and provide projections of tidal reverse flows and anticipated diversions from the north Delta intakes.

What Affects Operational Decisions?

Water quality and fish migration patterns are dynamic depending on many factors and water operators must take these conditions, and permit requirements, into account when making operational decisions. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Incidental Take Permit includes operational criteria that vary throughout the year to protect fish.

Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Winter			**Spring**			**Summer and Fall**					
Bypass Flow Restrictions Focused on Listed Fish Protection			Enhanced Bypass Flow Restrictions with Continued Focus on Listed Fish Protection			Transitional fishery restrictions as listed fish become less present in the Delta + restrictions focused on water quality protection					

It includes ranges for operations based on "risk assessments" of real-time fish conditions. Bypass flow restrictions identify a percentage that must 'bypass' the facility, with the spring months having a higher restriction. These criteria adjust operations to best avoid impacts to fish. Risk assessments include a number of factors, including hydrologic conditions and fish monitoring data.

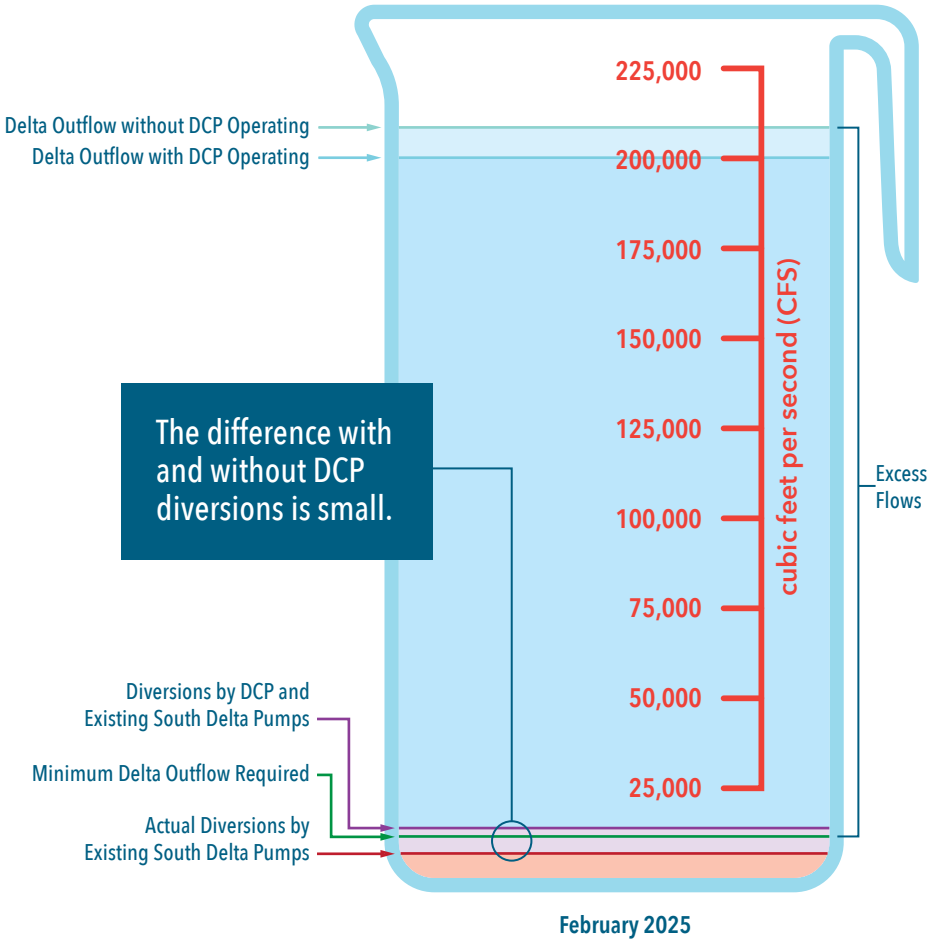
The Right Conditions:

There are primarily two types of conditions that support SWP diversions through the DCP:

1. During the winter and spring when there are excess flows
2. During the late spring, summer, and fall, when the DCP allows for the SWP to meet State Water Board D-1641 salinity requirements in the Delta efficiently.

The Delta Conveyance Project will have long stretches where no water is moving through the tunnel when above conditions do not exist or regulatory requirement cannot be met.

How the DCP Would Have Operated in February 2025



How the DCP Would have Operated in the 2025 Water Year