Delta Conveyance Project

Modernizing California's Water Infrastructure | **Last Updated Jan 8, 2026**

Adapting to Climate Change:

Catching and Moving Water from Big Storms

Climate change models indicate that precipitation will fall more as rain and less as snow. This creates more runoff and river flows in the winter. The Delta Conveyance Project–a water infrastructure modernization project–will help capture and move excess water and still meet fishery and water quality protections.

The chart below shows diversions made by the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project (SWP) from the Delta in the 2026 water year, beginning in October 2025. It also shows the theoretical diversions that could have been made to capture excess water by the Delta Conveyance Project.

Diversions for Water Year 2026 *(Estimates from October 1, 2025 through January 15, 2026)*

Month	State Water Project Exports (Acre-Feet)	Central Valley Project Exports[1] (Acre-Feet)	Theoretical Additional DCP Diversion[2] (Acre-Feet)	Surplus DCP Capacity Available for Direct Delivery (Acre-Feet)	South Delta Export Limiting Factors (days in month)
October	203,000	152,000	0	0	WQ (1–31)
November	211,000	211,000	0	0	WQ (1–30)
December	185,000	127,000	93,000	0	WQ(1-20) E/I(21-23) OMRI-5.0K(24,26-28) OMRI-3.5K(25) OMRI-5.0k_SR-3.5K(29-31)
January (1–15)	74,000	109,000	9,000	165,000	OMRI-5.0k_SR-3.5K(1-2, 13-15) OMRI-3.5K(3) OMRI-5.0K(4-12)
February					
March					
April					
May					
June					
July					
August					
September					
Total	**673,000**	**599,000**	**102,000**	**165,000**	

-Assumes 6,000 cfs DCP diversion capacity
-Estimate based on available water above D-1641 requirements and allowable DCP diversion under the proposed bypass criteria
-Estimates are preliminary and subject to change
-The ITP for the Delta Conveyance Project includes regular risk assessments to consider monitoring data and potential effects to sensitive aquatic species. The water diverted could be more or less than this estimate depending on real-time fish presence and behavior and biological criteria.

[1]Diversions from the south Delta [2]Additional DCP Diversions for SWP Participants

All numbers rounded up to the nearest whole number

Limiting Factors Key

WQ: Water Quality (D1641)
E/I: Export to Inflow Ratio (D1641)
I/E: Export to Inflow Ratio (ITP)
NDOI: Net Delta Outflow Index (D1641)
NDOI_X2: Net Delta Outflow Index for X2 (D1641)
NDOI_44.5K: Net Delta Outflow Index (ITP)
WQ(Fall X2): Summer/Fall Action (BiOps and ITP)
Capacity: Available Facility Capacity
OMRI-5k: Old and Middle River Index (OMRI) of-5,000 cfs (BiOps and ITP)
OMRI-5k_SR-3.5K: OMRI of-5,000 cfs (BiOps) with SWP Exports Restricted to OMRI of-3,500 cfs (ITP)
OMRI-2.0k: OMRI of-2,000 cfs (BiOps and ITP)
OMRI-2.5K: OMRI of-2,500 cfs
OMRI-3.5K: OMRI of-3,500 cfs (ITP)
OMRI-1.5K: OMRI of-1500 cfs
OMRI-0.5K: OMRI of-500 cfs
FFA: First Flush Action (BiOps and ITP)
QWest 1.5K: 7d avg QWest above 1500 cfs
STF: Storm Flex (BiOps and ITP)

Definitions

BiOps: Biological Opinions issued in 2019 by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/National Marine Fisheries Service
ITP: Incidental Take Permit issued in 2025 by California Department of Fish and Wildlife
D-1641: State Water Board Delta flow and water quality requirements

MISSED OPPORTUNITY

If the DCP was operational October 1, 2025 through January 15, 2026
we could have moved **267,000 acre-feet of water**

267,000 acre-feet of water = enough water to supply:

Nearly **3 MILLION** people for one year

OR

Nearly **975,000** households for one year