Delta Conveyance Project: Environmental Review Update

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Environmental Review Process

Identify, analyze and disclose the potential significant adverse environmental impacts of a proposed project, and provide feasible mitigation measures and alternatives to avoid or reduce such effects.

1. Initial Outreach
   - NOP
   - Scoping Meetings
   - Scoping Summary Report
   - Agency Outreach Plan

2. Project Definition
   - Alternatives Analysis
   - Project Definition
   - Technical Reports
   - Impact/Mitigation Analysis

3. Draft EIR
   - Administrative Draft EIR
   - Draft EIR
   - Public Circulation of Draft EIR
   - Public Hearings

4. Final EIR
   - Response to Comments
   - Final EIR
   - NOD

Delta Conveyance Project | www.water.ca.gov/deltaconveyance
Delta Conveyance Project: Purpose and Objectives

**Purpose:** Develop new diversion and conveyance facilities in the Delta necessary to restore and protect the reliability of 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
The Draft EIR will look at a reasonable range of potentially feasible alternatives that can achieve the project objectives and avoid or reduce potential significant environmental impacts, consistent with the requirements of CEQA.

- DWR is currently screening alternatives for consideration in the EIR.
- July 22 SEC meeting – overview of alternative screening process and alternatives currently under consideration.
Proposed Project Facilities

- Intake facilities on the Sacramento River
- Tunnel reaches and tunnel shafts
- Forebay
- Pumping plant
- South Delta conveyance facilities

Options:
- A single tunnel is proposed to follow one of two corridors in the central or eastern portion of the Delta.
93-day public comment period: January 15, 2020 – April 17, 2020
8 public meetings: 735 total attendees combined
Approximately 850 comment letters received
Over 3,500 individual comments
Current Activities

- **Draft Scoping Summary Report:** report captures scoping-related information including comments received and scoping meeting transcripts (released on July 10, 2020)

- **Section 404/Section 10 Application:** DWR submitted Department of the Army permit application pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act

- **Draft Environmental Impact Report:** work continues on initial steps for development of the EIR

- **Soil Investigation IS/MND:** DWR has approved the IS/MND for the soil investigations project and released a NOD on July 9, 2020
Application includes a project description, an assessment of impacts to wetlands and waters, and avoidance and minimization measures.

Timing: DWR submitted the application now to initiate selection of NEPA lead agency. No permit will be issued until after CEQA, NEPA, and other permitting are complete.

Project description: the application includes only one alignment because USACE requested that DWR identify one corridor for purposes of preparing a complete application under Section 404/Section 10. This does not constitute a decision; no decision will be made until after environmental process is complete.
DWR formally engaged the Corps to allow federal agencies to determine the NEPA lead.

- Flood management: requires initiation letter from the local sponsor to initiate the Section 408 process.
- Wetlands and waters: Section 404 application.
- The Corps has indicated that they will prepare an EIS for NEPA compliance.
- DWR anticipates that the USACE will initiate the EIS process and release an NOI later this summer.
EIR and EIS Planning and Schedule

- DWR is currently working with the Corps to determine the needs for the EIS process
- DWR would like to line up the planning efforts for the EIR and the EIS, including schedule
- DWR anticipates releasing the Draft EIR concurrent with the Draft EIS
Ways to Stay Informed

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