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Delta Conveyance Project: *Environmental Review Update*

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3 of 5 Californians Depend on Water that Flows Through the Delta

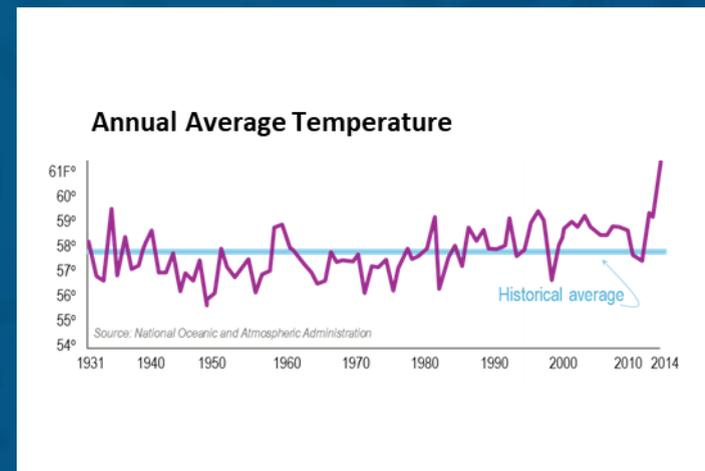
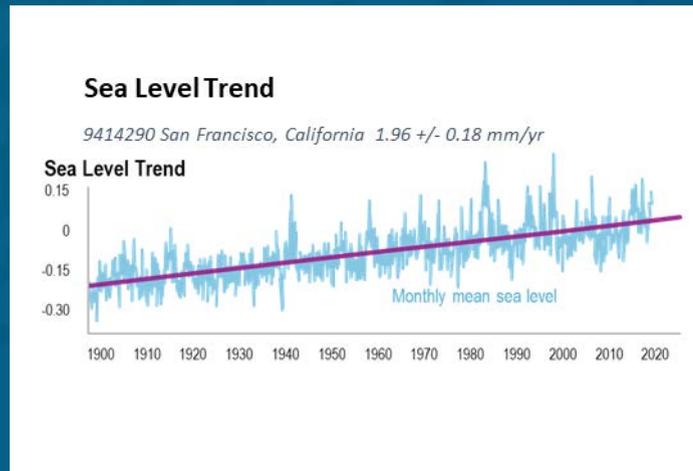
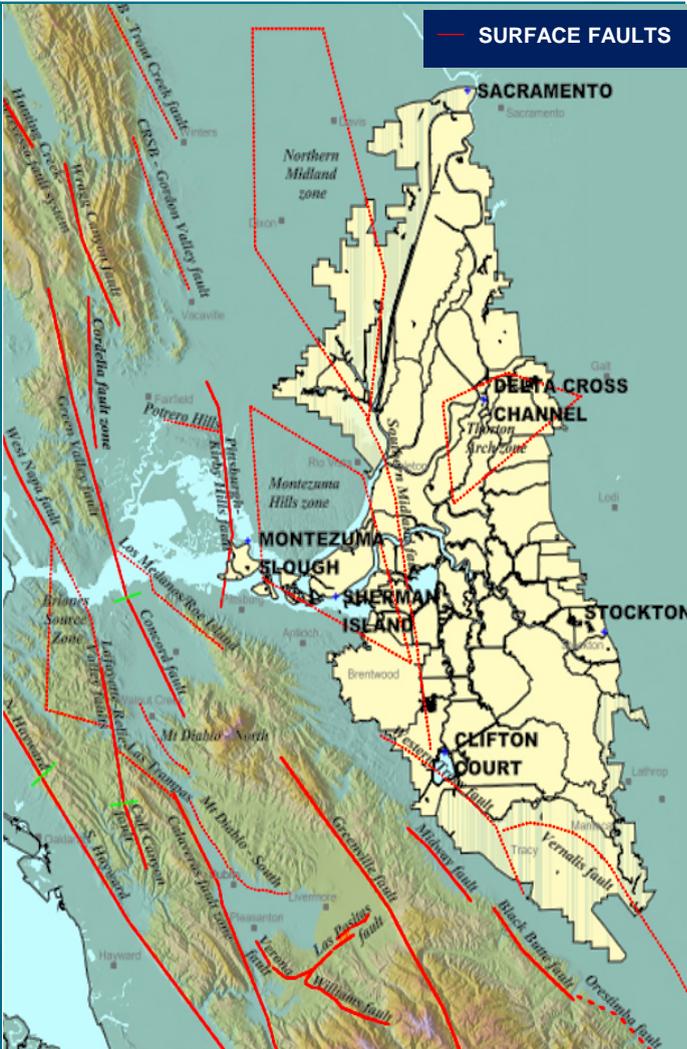
Two-thirds of California's water originates in the Sierra Nevada Mountains as snowpack, eventually flowing through the Delta, where it is ultimately delivered to more than 27 million Californians and 750,000 acres of farmland through the State Water Project (SWP).





Risks Are Mounting

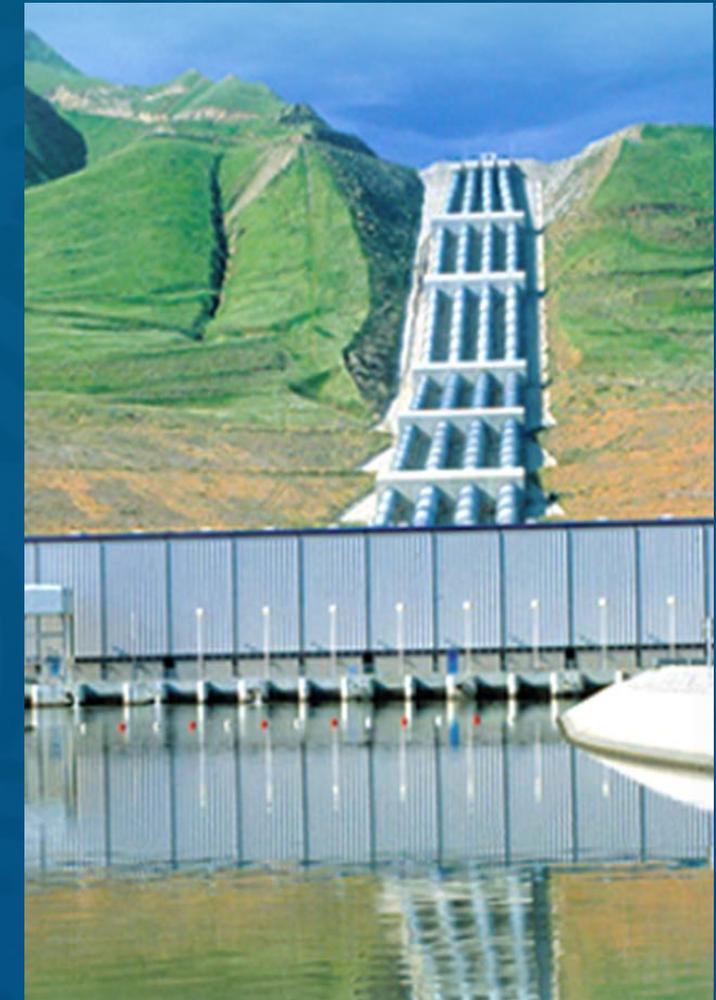
The proposed Delta Conveyance Project is intended to protect and preserve this vital water supply resource by guarding against disruptions caused by sea level rise, the hydrologic effects of climate change, and seismic threats.





Time to Modernize Now

The project would develop new infrastructure facilities in the Delta necessary to move water as part of the SWP.





Past Delta Conveyance Planning Efforts



- 2006-2015: Bay Delta Conservation Plan
- 2016-2018: California WaterFix (CWF)
- July 2017: CEQA approval of CWF
- 2018: CWF refinements
- May 2019: DWR withdrew CWF approvals





Delta Conveyance Project

- Project to investigate diversion and conveyance facilities for the State Water Project (SWP) in the Delta
- Project started with Notice of Preparation (NOP) in January 2020





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

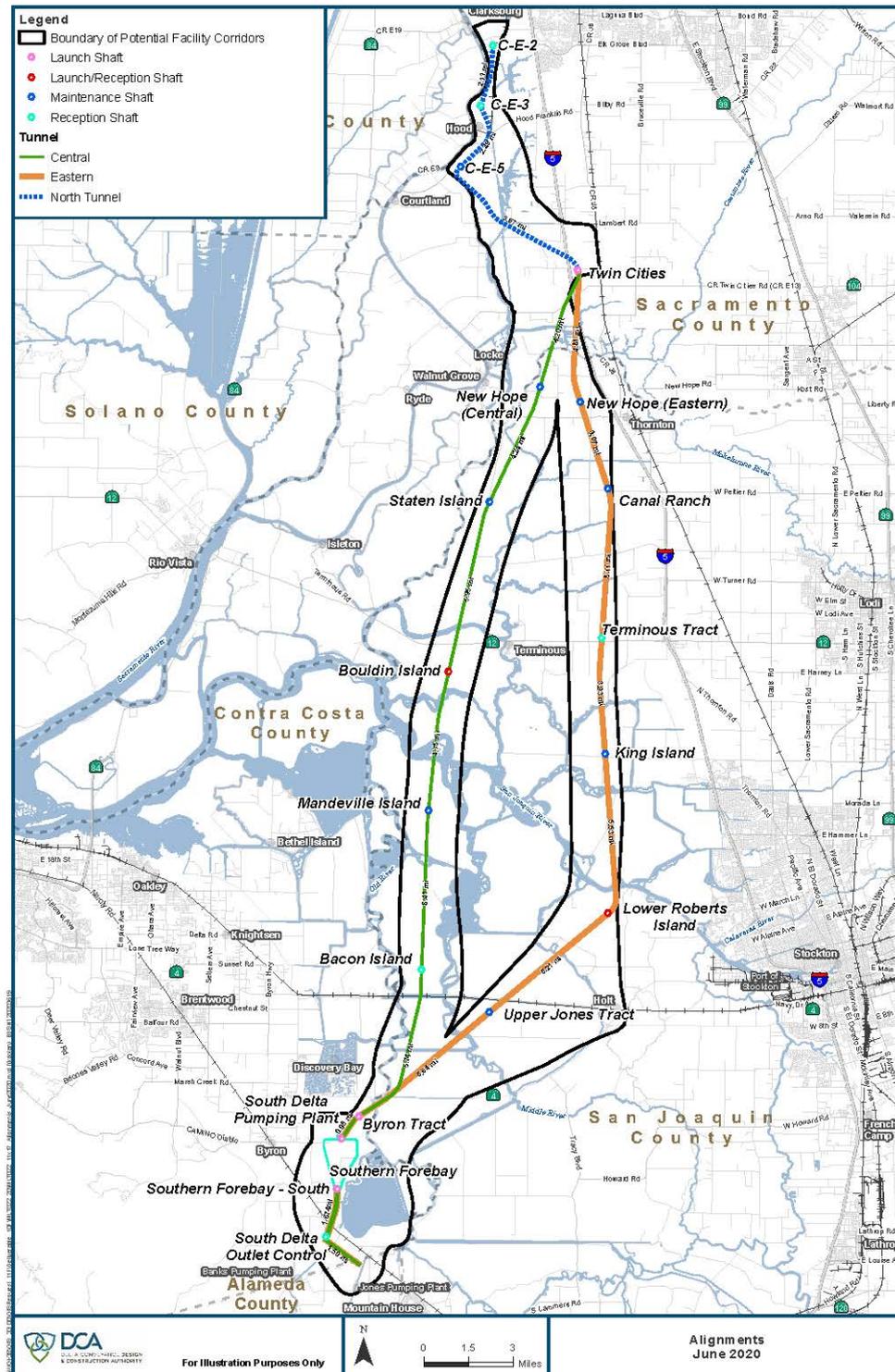


Proposed Project Facilities

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

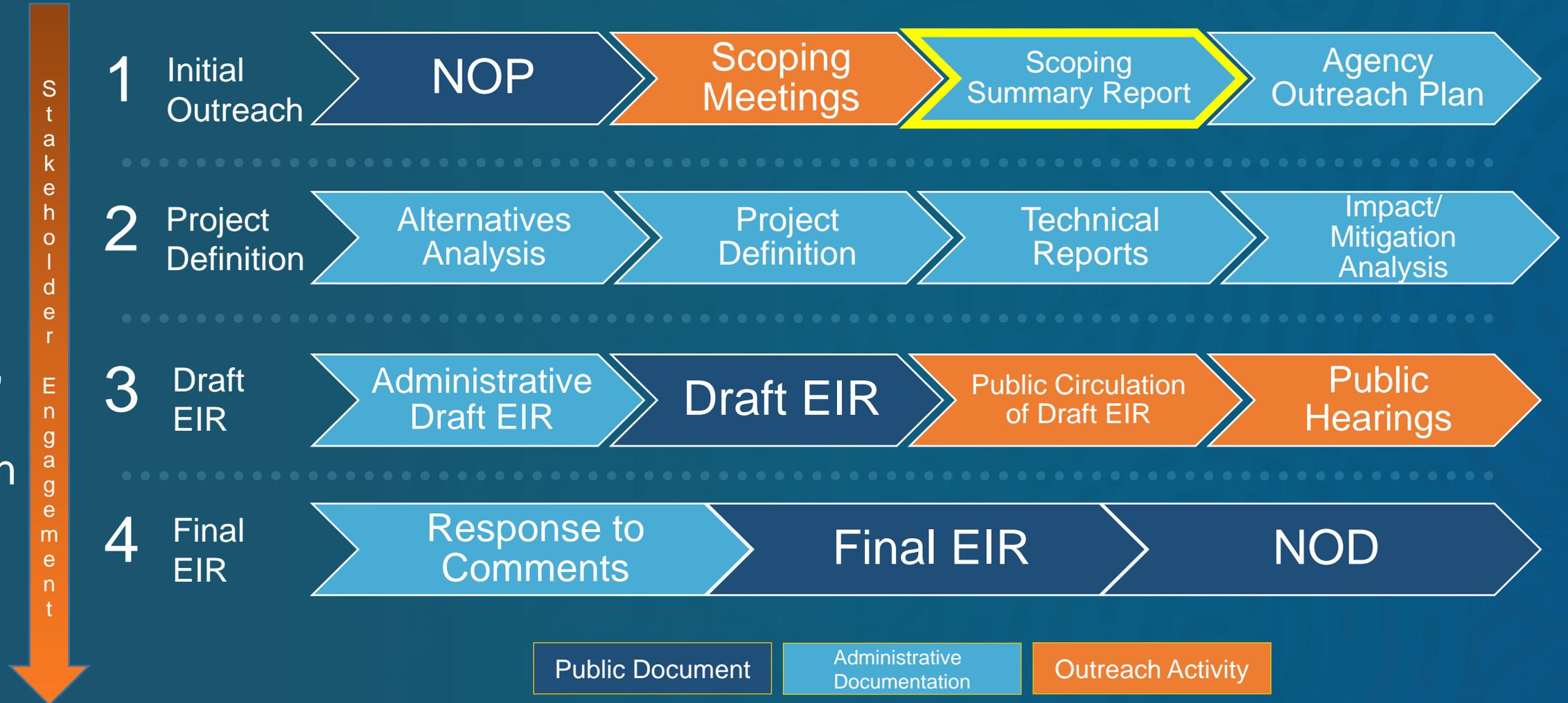
Options:

- A single tunnel is proposed to follow one of two corridors in the central or eastern portion of the Delta.



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.





BCDC Scoping Comments

- Evaluate potential for downstream impacts in BCDC jurisdiction related to flow standards, cumulative impacts, toxic algal blooms, and sediment transport.
 - CEQA analysis is currently in preliminary stages but will evaluate the potential for downstream impacts.





BCDC Scoping Comments

- Consider if additional project elements might fall within BCDC jurisdiction
- Mitigation for operations should be established prior to the project becoming operational and should include contingencies if not fulfilling the desired outcome
 - DWR will evaluate potential mitigation strategies to consider after impact analyses are developed.



BCDC Scoping Comments

- Operations won't be final until regulatory processes are completed
 - The Draft EIR will analyze operations developed through early consultation with applicable regulatory agencies.
 - Regulatory parameters on operations will not be final until permits are issued. If those parameter vary significantly from what is analyzed in the EIR, subsequent CEQA documentation may be necessary.



Current Status and Next Steps

- DWR will also work to obtain all required state and federal approvals, including but not limited to CEQA, NEPA, Endangered Species Act compliance, water rights and Delta Plan consistency.
- There will be several opportunities for public participation throughout the course of the environmental review and planning process.



Environmental Planning Update

Process	Status
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scoping Summary Report published• Draft Environmental Impact Report in process
National Environmental Policy Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to prepare Environmental Impact Statement• Notice of Intent and scoping expected late summer
Soil Investigations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CEQA documentation required for soil investigations adopted• Work will begin on publicly-owned sites this fall
USACE Section 404 Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Permit application submitted to USACE



Ways to Stay Informed



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Project Hotline

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