



Final Environmental Impact Report and Next Steps in Environmental Review

The Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Delta Conveyance Project was prepared by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) as the lead agency to comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed project identified in the EIR would modernize the state's water infrastructure in the Delta to protect the reliability of this important water supply for 27 million Californians and 750,000 acres of farmland from earthquakes and climate-driven weather extremes. Specifically, the proposed project would update the water transport infrastructure in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) by adding new facilities in the north Delta to divert water and upgrading the current system to include a tunnel for the movement of State Water Project (SWP) water supplies.

The EIR is presented in two volumes. Volume 1 includes Chapters 1 through 39 of the EIR, which are the impact analyses and associated appendices. Minor changes were made to the EIR since the Draft EIR to address substantive comments by agencies, organizations, or members of the public. Volume 2 includes all comments received on the Draft EIR and responses to substantive comments. DWR received approximately 700 comment letters that contained over 7,000 comments on the Draft EIR. To address similar substantive comments, DWR has included 15 Common Response that are a part of Volume 2. The Final EIR can be viewed at www.deltaconveyanceproject.com.

Following the release of the Final EIR, DWR may take the following steps in the CEQA process to move the proposed project forward.

- **Determine:**
 1. If the Final EIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA.
 2. Whether to certify that the Final EIR reflects DWR's independent judgment and analysis.
- **Approval:**

Approve the proposed project, an alternative or no project. In addition, if DWR approves the proposed project or an alternative, it would adopt "CEQA Findings," a Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), and a Statement of Overriding Considerations if impacts cannot be mitigated to "less than significant."
- **Notice of Determination Issuance:**

Issue a Notice of Determination if the proposed project or project alternative is approved.

ABOUT THE PROPOSED PROJECT

DWR selected the Bethany Reservoir Alignment, which is presented as Alternative 5 in the EIR, as the proposed project because of engineering feasibility, conceptual design, constructability, and the potential to reduce key environmental impacts on cultural resources, wetlands and other waters of the United States, wildlife habitat, transportation, air quality, noise, and impacts to Delta communities. The proposed project consists of the construction, operation, and maintenance of new SWP water diversion and conveyance facilities in the Delta that would be operated in coordination with the existing SWP facilities. The new water conveyance facilities would divert up to a combined 6,000 cubic feet per second of water from two new north Delta intakes with state-of-the-art fish screens and convey it through a single tunnel directly to a new pumping plant and aqueduct complex in the south Delta, discharging it to the Bethany Reservoir for delivery through existing SWP export facilities.

