



Delta Conveyance

What is Delta conveyance?

Delta conveyance refers to State Water Project (SWP) infrastructure in the vast network of waterways comprising the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) that collects and moves fresh affordable water to homes, farms and businesses throughout major regions of the state from the Bay Area to southern California. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is the owner and operator of the SWP and is responsible for all associated upgrades and maintenance, including the proposed Delta Conveyance Project that will modernize SWP conveyance.

Why is Delta conveyance important?

The Delta is the hub for much of the state's water supply. Two-thirds of California's water originates in the Sierra Nevada Mountains as snowpack, eventually flowing through the Delta, where, consistent with water rights, including applicable water quality requirements, it is delivered to more than 27 million Californians and 750,000 acres of farmland. The infrastructure that enables conveyance for California's primary water supply is critical to the health of local communities and the success of our state's economy.

Why is this project needed?

Because the SWP relies on the Delta's natural channels to convey water, it is vulnerable to earthquake and sea level rise. According to the United States Geological Survey, there's a 72% chance of a 6.7 or greater magnitude earthquake occurring in the Bay Area by 2043 that could cause levees in the Delta to fail, crippling the state's ability to deliver fresh water. As sea levels continue to rise, the Delta will be faced with increasing saltwater intrusion, which threatens fresh water supplies flowing through the Delta. Climate change is also expected to affect the type and timing of precipitation. Certain pumping restrictions in the south Delta can prevent the SWP from reliably capturing water when it is available, especially from storm events. The Project would add new diversions in the north Delta to promote a more resilient and flexible SWP in the face of unstable future conditions.

The best available science demonstrates that these are real, serious threats to California's primary water supply. We need to take action now to upgrade Delta infrastructure, recognizing that this process will take years to complete improvements. Recent events have also underscored the need to protect public health and safety by taking the appropriate steps now before it's too late.

View more [frequently asked questions](#) related to the Delta Conveyance Project.

Delta Conveyance Updates

[Delta Conveyance Project August Update](#)

View the Delta Conveyance Project update for August 2020.

Published: Aug 21, 2020

[DWR Submits Delta Conveyance Project Section 404 Permit Application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)

DWR has submitted a (revised) Department of the Army permit application pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section

10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (Section 404 permit application) to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to request authorization for the proposed Delta Conveyance Project activities in waters of the United States. ...

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Next Steps for Delta Conveyance

DWR continues to advance the Delta Conveyance Project, which is being planned to maintain reliability of the state's water system in decades to come.

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April Delta Conveyance Project Update

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping period concluded on April 17, 2020 after an extended 93-day public comment period. DWR is reviewing all submitted comments and will publish a scoping report summarizing the information this summer.

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