

DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

January 2023



US Army Corps
of Engineers®





MEETING OVERVIEW



Overview Presentation

- U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' role in the Delta Conveyance Project
- National Environmental Policy Act / Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Verbal Public Comment

- Overview
- Comments



USACE ROLE AND AUTHORITY



- Environmental review is limited to actions under USACE authority:
 - Section 408 authority covers alterations to the Sacramento River Flood Control Project.
 - Section 10 applies to work in or under navigable waters of the United States.
 - Section 404 applies to the discharge of dredged or fill material into Waters of the United States.
 - A real estate outgrant is required to cross under the Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel pursuant to Army Regulation (AR) 405-80 6 Management of Title and Granting Use of Real Property.
- The USACE scope is **limited to the construction of the proposed project** and maintenance of the modifications to the Sacramento River Flood Control Project.
- Operation of the completed project falls under the operation of the State Water Project and **is not** subject to USACE authority.



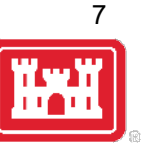
PERMIT REVIEW



- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a Regulatory Agency.
 - USACE is not a project proponent or opponent.
- The USACE conducts an Independent Review of an Application received from an agency or the public.
 - The California Department of Water Resources is the Applicant (Sec 10/404) or Requestor (Sec 408).
- USACE will also complete a public interest review and evaluation under the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines to make a permit decision.



DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



- Prepared to comply with requirements of NEPA.
- Evaluates a reasonable range of feasible alternatives, as well as a No Action Alternative.
- Available for public review and comment through March 16, 2023.
- Different Scope from the Environmental Impact Report that is being completed by the California Department of Water Resources.
 - Briefly and qualitatively discusses project operations and maintenance.
- All comments submitted on the Draft EIS will be considered by USACE, and all substantive comments will be responded to in the Final EIS and will help inform decision makers.



PROJECT OVERVIEW



- The California Department of Water Resources is proposing to construct new water-conveyance facilities in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta.
- As the lead agency for the review of the Delta Conveyance Project (project or *proposed action*) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Sacramento District has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the construction of the proposed action.
- The analyses in the Draft EIS are intended to support a NEPA Record of Decision and USACE decisions on a Section 408 permission request under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, an application for a real estate outgrant, and a Department of the Army permit application under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.



PURPOSE, NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT



Purpose

- Improve diversion and conveyance facilities in the Delta to ensure the reliability of State Water Project (SWP) water deliveries south of the Delta.

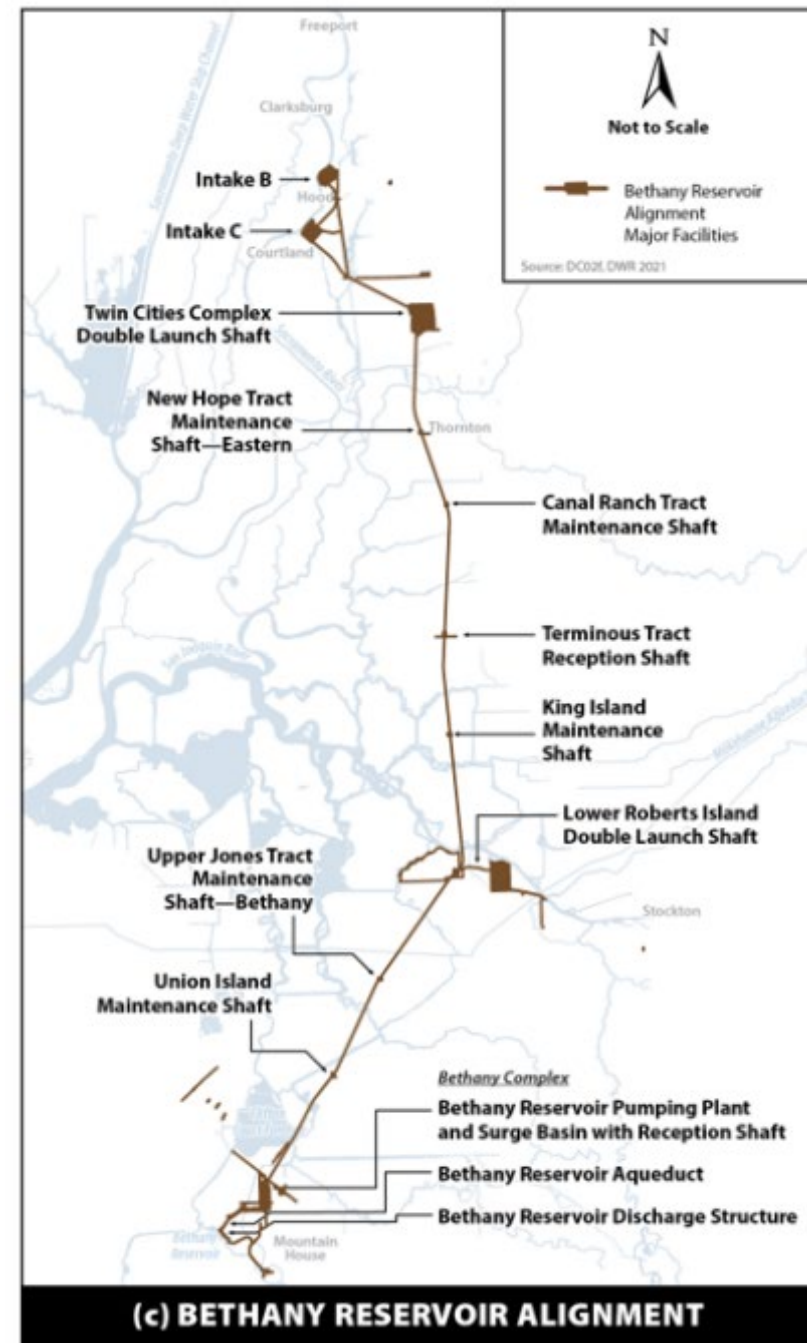
Needs and Objectives

- To help address anticipated rising sea levels and other reasonably foreseeable consequences of climate change and extreme weather events.
- To minimize the potential for public health and safety effects from reduced quantity and quality of SWP water deliveries south of the Delta as a result of a major earthquake that could cause breaching of Delta levees and the inundation of brackish water into the areas where existing SWP and CVP pumping plants operate in the southern Delta.
- To protect the ability of the SWP to deliver water when hydrologic conditions result in the availability of sufficient amounts, consistent with the requirements of state and federal law, including the California and federal Endangered Species Acts and the Delta Reform Act, as well as the terms and conditions of water delivery contracts and other existing applicable agreements.
- To provide operational flexibility for improving aquatic conditions in the Delta and better manage risks of further regulatory constraints on project operations.



PROPOSED ACTION

- Construction of new SWP water diversion and conveyance facilities in the Delta.
- The USACE scope of analysis does not include operations of the SWP after project completion.
- Under the proposed action, the new water-conveyance facilities would divert water from two new intakes along the Sacramento River between Freeport and the confluence with Sutter Slough.
- The water would travel through a single tunnel on the Bethany Reservoir alignment, which follows an eastern alignment from intakes to Lower Roberts Island, then extends to a new Bethany Reservoir Pumping Plant in the south Delta along Byron Highway for conveyance via a pipeline aqueduct to the Bethany Reservoir.





TIPS FOR COMMENTING



Provide comments to:

- Help refine the analysis.
- Make the lead agency aware of concerns related to the environmental analysis and to identify additional information that was not considered.
- Address concerns related to any potential direct or indirect impacts to the physical environment.

Effective comments

- **Are concise**, focusing on the environmental analysis in the Draft EIS.
- **Relate** to the project's potential for impacts on the physical environment.
- **Identify** the specific part of the Draft EIS at issue.
- **Include** supporting evidence/facts, such as references or citations to specific websites.



ADDITIONAL WAYS TO COMMENT



Email

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Mail

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Comments must be received by March 16, 2023