

CALIFORNIA WATERFIX: SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS

California WaterFix is the state's plan to upgrade outdated infrastructure in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) to secure California's water supplies and improve the Delta's ecosystem. Over the last ten years the project has made significant progress, with 2016 marking completion of the environmental review documents.

An unprecedented level of public review, comment, and scientific input has helped refine and improve the proposed project. Below is a snapshot of major WaterFix milestones.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT & INPUT



3

Public review environmental documents



OVER 650

Working group meetings, stakeholder presentations / Q&As, and public meetings



FINAL EIR/EIS

1

Notice and review of final environmental document



OVER 10k

Fact sheets, executive summaries, DVDs, comment cards, etc. distributed to the public



341

Days of public comment

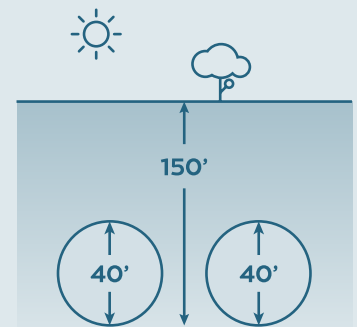
A full suite of online information – videos, animations, webinars, frequently asked questions, multilingual materials, toll-free hotline, and brochures – available at

www.californiawaterfix.com

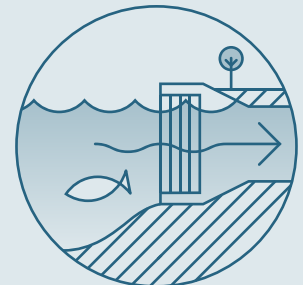
and

www.baydeltaconservationplan.com

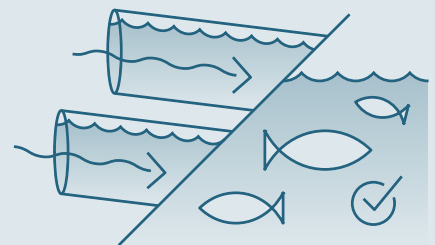
WATER DELIVERY UPGRADE



Two tunnels up to 150' below ground designed to protect California's water supplies from sea level rise, earthquakes, floods and levee failure.



Three new intakes located farther upstream closer to higher quality water and away from endangered species habitats.



Gravity-fed tunnels to move water naturally and more efficiently with reduced harm to fish



2017

JANUARY

2017

Aquatic Science Peer Review Phase 2B conducted by the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Science Program, representing an independent scientific evaluation of draft sections of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinions on California WaterFix for all federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed aquatic species and their critical habitat

[More Information on the Aquatic Science Peer Review Phase 2B](#)

2016

DECEMBER

2016

California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) release Final Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS). The documents describe and analyze alternatives, including the preferred alternative, discuss potential environmental impacts, identify mitigation measures that would help avoid or minimize impacts, and provide responses to all substantive comments received on the draft environmental review documents.

[Press Release](#)

[Fact Sheet: Moving Toward Environmental Review Process Completion](#)

Aquatic Science Peer Review Phase 2A conducted by the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Science Program, representing an independent scientific evaluation of the Adaptive Management Framework and use of best available scientific information in the 2081(b) permit application analyses

[More Information on the Aquatic Science Peer Review Phase 2A](#)

Publication of map depicting areas dependent on water imported through the Delta

[Delta Dependency Map](#)



OCTOBER

2016

DWR submits incidental take permit application to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) pursuant to Section 2081(b) of the California Endangered Species Act

[Incidental Take Permit Application](#)

Op-ed by DWR Director on the need to operate as "one state" to find water solutions together

[Op-ed: Unity Needed for Statewide Water Solutions](#)

Op-ed by California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) Secretary on the anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake as a reminder that California needs to safeguard it's water supplies against eventual future disasters

[Op-ed: Loma Prieta Memories Should Remind of Delta's Peril](#)





AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2016

DWR and Reclamation submit the biological assessment to USFWS and NMFS, which is required to obtain incidental take authorization under the federal ESA

Biological Assessment **Adaptive Management Framework**

Publication of fact sheet outlining how much water could have been captured and stored in early 2016 if WaterFix were in place

Fact Sheet: How Much Water Could We Have Stored?



JULY 2016

DWR and Reclamation begin presenting their case in chief during Part 1A of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) WaterFix Water Right Change Petition hearings. The public hearings are focused on DWR's request to add three new points of diversion to the State Water Project, with coordinated operations for the Central Valley Project

16 DAYS OF DIRECT TESTIMONY AND CROSS EXAMINATION

16 EXPERT WITNESSES

Updates on the State Water Board Change Petition Hearing **California Natural Resources Agency Press Release** **Intake Construction Sequence Animation**

Op-ed by DWR Director discusses critical need to strategically plan for California's water future, including upgrading outdated infrastructure

Op-ed: Planning for California's Water Future



JUNE 2016

Release of fact sheet covering project details and outlining critical importance to California

Fact Sheet: Fast Facts





MAY **2016**

DWR and Reclamation submit testimony and evidence to the SWRCB for the Water Right hearings

[Exhibit List](#)



APRIL **2016**

Op-ed by CNRA Secretary highlights the state's significant reliance on water from the Delta, and the integral role it plays in implementing local water projects

[Op-ed: California Lifestyle Relies on Delta Water](#)



MARCH **2016**

Aquatic Science Peer Review conducted by the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Science Program, representing an independent scientific evaluation of the methods and approaches (including the working draft biological assessment) for developing the joint Biological Opinion requirements and analyses prepared for the CDFW 2081(b) Incidental Take Permit application

[More Information on the Aquatic Science Peer Review](#)

Publication of new fact sheet discussing Delta water quality and associated project impacts

[Fact Sheet: Water Quality](#)



FEBRUARY **2016**

Op-ed by CNRA Secretary covers the importance of improving the current system to allow for the capture of high flows when available, including specific details on missed opportunities to capture and store a significant amount of water this winter

[Op-ed: To Make the Most of Rain, State Needs Delta Tunnels](#)



JANUARY - FEBRUARY **2016**

DWR and Public Water Agencies release tentative agreement that seeks to ensure accountability, transparency, and safe, timely, cost-effective and efficient project completion

[Tentative Design and Construction Enterprise Agreement](#)

DWR and Reclamation release a working draft biological assessment for California WaterFix

[Working Draft Biological Assessment](#)

[Biological Assessment Modeling Data](#)





Below is an update on the status of the regulatory and permitting actions associated with California WaterFix.

REGULATORY PROCESSES AND PERMITS		STATUS
1	CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT / NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (CEQA/NEPA)	
CURRENT	Final EIR/ EIS released on December 22, 2016	
	Reclamation issued NEPA required 30-day Notice of Availability for the Final EIR/EIS on December 30, 2016	
NEXT STEPS	Reclamation issues Record of Decision (ROD), which will also include consideration of final biological opinions issued under ESA Section 7	EXPECTED SPRING 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ DWR certifies the Final EIR/EIS, including that it is in compliance with CEQA ▶ If DWR chooses to approve a project, it will adopt "CEQA Findings," an MMRP, and if appropriate, a Statement of Overriding Considerations as part of project approval ▶ DWR issues a Notice of Determination (NOD) 	EXPECTED SPRING 2017
2	ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA) SECTION 7 CONSULTATION	
CURRENT	Biological assessment submitted to USFWS and NMFS and engaged in formal consultation	
NEXT STEPS	USFWS and NMFS issue final Biological Opinion	EXPECTED SPRING 2017
3	NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT (NHPA) SECTION 106 COMPLIANCE	
CURRENT	Final Programmatic Agreement completed and signed	EXPECTED FEBRUARY 2017
NEXT STEPS	Develop Draft Programmatic Historic Properties Treatment Plan	EXPECTED SPRING 2017
4	CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE (CDFW) 2081(B) PERMIT	
CURRENT	Incidental take permit application submitted to CDFW on October 5, 2016	
NEXT STEPS	CDFW determines whether to issue permit	EXPECTED SPRING 2017
5	SECTION 401 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT – WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION	
CURRENT	Application for Water Quality Certification submitted to SWRCB on September 24, 2015	
NEXT STEPS	SWRCB determines whether to issue certification	EXPECTED LATE 2017
6	CDFW LAKE AND STREAMBED ALTERATION AGREEMENT, SECTION 1602	
CURRENT	DWR preparing permit application for submittal to CDFW	EXPECTED SPRING 2017
NEXT STEPS	CDFW determines whether to issue permit	EXPECTED SUMMER 2017





REGULATORY PROCESSES AND PERMITS		STATUS
7	U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE) SECTION 404 PERMIT	
CURRENT	Section 404 Permit application submitted on September 9, 2015	
	Compensatory Mitigation Strategy completed Fall 2016	
NEXT STEPS	Finalize alternatives analysis	EXPECTED SUMMER 2017
	USACE determines whether to issue permit	EXPECTED LATE 2017
8	STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD (SWRCB) CHANGE PETITION	
CURRENT	Presentation of Part 1B cases-in-chief concluded on December 14, 2016	
NEXT STEPS	Conduct rebuttal for Part 1 cases-in-chief, and then conduct Part 2 of the Water Right hearing addressing the effects of the project on fish and wildlife	ANTICIPATED START IN SPRING - FALL 2017
9	DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL	
NEXT STEPS	DWR may determine that California WaterFix is a covered action consistent with the Delta Plan and regulations, and in such event, would file a certification of consistency with the Council. The Council would have appellate authority over DWR's consistency determination	ANTICIPATED SUMMER 2017
10	DESIGN & ENGINEERING	
CURRENT	Completion of the initial design phase, which includes 10 percent design and preliminary work	
NEXT STEPS	Once the ROD/NOD has been issued, engineering and design work progresses toward construction	EXPECTED SPRING 2017
11	CONSTRUCTION	
NEXT STEPS	Groundbreaking activities	EXPECTED 2018
12	USACE SECTION 408 PERMIT	
NEXT STEPS	Prior to work commencing on a jurisdictional levee, DWR will prepare and submit a permit application to USACE	Application developed in conjunction with continued facility design





Progress made from 2012 to 2015 is outlined below:

2015

OCTOBER		2015
Close of Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/SDEIS) Public Review Period	OVER 6,200	UNIQUE COMMENT LETTERS RECEIVED



SEPTEMBER		2015
DWR submits Section 404 Permit application to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	More Info on Section 404 Permit	
New fact sheet outlines how the proposed California WaterFix would benefit the Delta's native fish	Securing Solutions for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta's Native Fish Fact Sheet	



AUGUST		2015
DWR and Reclamation submit change petition to SWRCB	SWRCB Fact Sheet	
DWR releases revised information regarding parcels potentially impacted by the project; reduced number of permanent and surface impacts	Facts about Parcels Potentially Impacted by California WaterFix	



JULY		2015
DWR and Reclamation hold two public open house meetings in Sacramento and Walnut Grove to collect comments on the RDEIR/SDEIS and answer questions	370	PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE
Publication of new Conceptual Engineering Report (CER) with engineering and design details for redesigned Modified Pipeline Tunnel Option - Clifton Court Forebay Pumping Plant	CER	





JULY 2015

Visual animations depicting proposed design changes and Delta flows released

- Delta Flow Animation
- Intakes Animation
- Clifton Court Forebay Animation

RDEIR/SDEIS Public Comment Period extended 60 days

- Press Release

RDEIR/SDEIS available for public review and comment

- RDEIR/SDEIS Fast Facts
- RDEIR/SDEIS Frequently Asked Questions



APRIL 2015

Governor Brown announces California WaterFix as joint state and federal preferred alternative and unveils plans to accelerate restoration of the Delta's ecosystem through California EcoRestore



- Protecting Water Supplies Protecting Fish Fact Sheet
- State of the Art Solution Fact Sheet
- Refined Tunnel Option & Intake Fact Sheet
- California EcoRestore Fact Sheet
- California WaterFix Website
- California WaterFix / California EcoRestore FAQs

2014

DECEMBER 2014

Further refinements made to conveyance facilities to reduce impacts. Proposed changes include eliminating pumping plants at north Delta intakes and consolidating at Clifton Court Forebay; reduced construction impacts to Delta communities; improved tunnel reliability and operation

- NEWSLETTER: Additional Refinements to Proposed Water Delivery Facility Reduce Impacts
- Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP): Expanding Greater Sandhill Crane Habitat Fact Sheet
- Modified Tunnel Option Fact Sheet





OCTOBER

2014

DWR landowner liaisons begin communication with all impacted landowners regarding the right-of-way process as it relates to field studies (for the environmental impact analysis) and temporary easements needed for geotechnical drilling

SEPTEMBER

2014

A series of meetings conducted between September 2014 and February 2015 with over 75 local residents, elected officials, Cooperating and Responsible agencies, and other interested parties to gather input and feedback on proposed facility design changes and how to minimize potential impacts from the proposed design optimization

VISUAL SIMULATION:
Modified Intake #3

VISUAL SIMULATION: Modified Clifton
Court Pumping Facility

AUGUST

2014

Agency review of public comments, project refinements

Newsletter:
Planning for Climate Change

Blog: Refinements Warrant
Additional Public Review

Lead agencies announce Partial Recirculation of Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/ Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address project changes

JULY

2014

Close of the 228-day Public Review and Comment Period on Draft BDCP and Associated Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Impact Statement

OVER 10,000 UNIQUE COMMENT
LETTERS RECEIVED

JUNE

2014

BDCP could create and protect
1,135,812 California jobs

Infographic:
Job Creation & Protection

eNewsletter:
How Many Jobs Will BDCP Create?

eNewsletter:
Reliable Water for About \$5 / mo

Episode:
Jobs & Local Economic Benefits

Informational video featuring visual simulations of water conveyance facility

Visual Animation & Presentation:
Water Conveyance Facility



MAY 2014		
<p>Evaluation concludes BDCP is affordable for urban ratepayers: costs as low as \$2-3 per month for some water users</p> <p>Report: LA Office of Public Accountability</p>	<p>BDCP proponents agree on draft implementation strategy, open for 60-day public review period</p> <p>News: Agreement & Comment Extension</p>	<p>DWR establishes the "BDCP Office" to guide BDCP implementation</p> <p>Blog: Principles for Sharing Design and Construction Oversight</p>



FEBRUARY 2014	
Public Review and Comment Period Extension	News: Draft BDCP & Comment Extension



JANUARY 2014	
<p>Final California Water Action Plan released</p> <p>Website: State Water Action Plan</p>	<p>Governor Brown declares Drought State of Emergency</p> <p>News: Declaration Press Release</p>
<p>BDCP holds 12 public open house meetings throughout the state to collect comments on the draft documents and answer questions</p>	<p>Distribution of highlights, DVDs and response tweets to #whereinBDCP</p>

2013

DECEMBER 2013

DWR and Reclamation release public draft BDCP and EIR/EIS for review and comment		
Press Release	Draft EIR/EIS Highlights	BDCP Highlights



OCTOBER 2013

Publication of video reiterating BDCP would not take more water and would modernize our current system	Video: How Much Water?
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AUGUST 2013

DWR announces changes to BDCP that would reduce the project footprint by one-half and reduce local impacts

News: Changes to BDCP Would Reduce Impacts to Landowners and Residents

BDCP Refinements Respond to Community and Statewide Needs



MAY 2013

BDCP Administrative Draft EIR/EIS available for public review



MARCH 2013

Preliminary Draft BDCP available for public review

2012

JULY 2012

Governor Brown outlines revisions to the BDCP: Intake capacity reduced from 15,000 cubic feet per-second (cfs) to 9,000 cfs

California's Water Future Framework Brochure

