

CALIFORNIA WATERFIX:

Delta Stewardship Council Public Hearing on the Department of Water Resources' Certification of Consistency

The Delta Stewardship Council will hold an important hearing in October to rule on appeals that challenge the ability of the California WaterFix project to move forward and begin construction. Your participation in this hearing and support of the project is critical to its future.

Key Dates

October 15: Deadline to submit written comments

October 15: Council encourages those planning to testify at the hearing coordinate statements and presentations with other similarly-aligned parties, and submit materials by this date.

October 24-25: The Delta Protection Commission and each appellant group will have 30 minutes for oral presentation. The Department of Water Resources will be allowed a total of 60 minutes for oral presentation, to be split between opening and closing presentations as it desires.

October 26: Public testimony, up to three minutes per presenter, beginning at 9 a.m.

November 1: Draft determination by Council anticipated to be issued

November 15-16: Council may hold a public hearing to receive comments on draft determination

December 20-21: Regular monthly meeting. Council anticipates it will consider final determination during a hearing to be conducted at this meeting

How to Provide Input

- Submit letters to the Delta Stewardship Council no later than **Monday, October 15** to waterfixcert@deltacouncil.ca.gov.

- Testify at the Delta Stewardship Council hearing in West Sacramento on **Friday, October 26** beginning at **9 a.m.**
Ramada Inn West Sacramento – Conference Center
1250 Halyard Drive | West Sacramento, CA 95691

Background

In July, the Department of Water Resources submitted documents to the Delta Stewardship Council finding that California WaterFix is consistent with the coequal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem.

Nine appeals were filed by 26 individuals, counties, agencies and organizations alleging the project is inconsistent with the Delta Plan and will have an adverse impact on one or both of the coequal goals.

On October 24-26, the Delta Stewardship Council will hold a public hearing to consider whether substantial evidence in DWR's administrative record supports DWR's certification of consistency with the Delta Plan.

The Council is required to make its decision within 60 days of the hearing.

Delta Stewardship Council Issues

The Delta Stewardship Council will consider whether substantial evidence in the Department of Water Resource's administrative record supports its certification that the proposed California WaterFix project is consistent with the Delta Plan.

Some key policies of the Act that relate to the California WaterFix consistency certification are consistency with the coequal goals, mitigation measures at least as effective as those in the Delta Plan, actions supported by best available science, consistency with Delta flow objectives, use of Department of Fish & Wildlife habitat restoration guidelines, consistency with the Delta Plan's reduced reliance through regional self-reliance policy, and respect for local land use when siting facilities.

[Delta Stewardship Council webpage on WaterFix appeals](#)

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California supports the California Department of Water Resources' certification that California WaterFix is consistent with the Delta Plan and encourages agencies, organizations, businesses and stakeholders that support WaterFix to communicate their support to the Delta Stewardship Council.

The following are suggested message points for written correspondence and public testimony.

Key Message Points

The Department of Water Resources determined that California WaterFix is consistent with the Delta Plan.

California WaterFix advances both of the coequal goals.

California WaterFix will modernize the State Water Project. Upgrading our aging water delivery infrastructure is the most cost-effective way to secure reliable water supplies while helping improve the Delta ecosystem.

A Reliable Water Supply for California

- More than 30 percent of Southern California's water supply comes from the Sierra Nevadas. The improved reliability California WaterFix will provide is vital for our economy, job creation and quality of life.
- California WaterFix provides flexibility to deal with droughts and climate change, and guard against disruptions from earthquakes or levee failures in the Delta.

Economic Benefits for Families, Businesses

- Even with a major new investment in California WaterFix, State Water Project supplies remain one of the most affordable supplies of water for families and businesses in Southern California.
- California WaterFix will help provide good jobs and quality of life for millions of people.

Reduced Reliance/Increased Regional Self Sufficiency

Agencies and organizations should provide local examples to support local self-reliance, such as conservation programs and new local water supplies.

OTHER KEY MESSAGES:

- Southern Californians are leaders in water conservation and continue to support local projects including recycling, groundwater and stormwater projects.
- Water agencies in our region continue to invest in local and regional self-reliance, as demonstrated in their Urban Water Management Plans which support DWR's certification. Nevertheless, State Water Project supplies will continue to be an essential and cost-effective source for our communities.
- To advance local groundwater and recycling projects, we need reliable, high-quality water to replenish basins and support new projects.

Support for Co-Equal Goals and Science-based solutions

If your agency supported the creation of the Delta Stewardship Council in 2009 along with Metropolitan, say why and reinforce your support of both restoring the Delta and providing reliable water.

OTHER KEY MESSAGES:

- Restoring the Delta is equally as important as providing a reliable water supply for our state.
- Metropolitan has made major investments in Delta science and investments in ecosystem restoration in the Delta and the Delta watershed.
- California WaterFix has been the subject of more than a decade of detailed analysis and extensive environmental review, evidence of our commitment

ABOUT METROPOLITAN

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a state-established cooperative that along with its 26 member agencies and retail suppliers serves nearly 19 million people in six counties. Metropolitan imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies and helps its members develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource management programs.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is to provide its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way.



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