



DELTA CONVEYANCE DESIGN
& CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT
COMMITTEE (SEC)

Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC)

Abridged Presentation: DWR - CEQA Process

Presented at the December 11, 2019 SEC Meeting

December 2019

Delta Conveyance Environmental Review Update

Carrie Buckman

Environmental Program Manager

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES



What is CEQA?

- California Environmental Quality Act – 1970 statute enacted by the state legislature
 - Provides for protection of the environment through adoption of feasible mitigation
 - Decision-making with environmental consequences in mind
 - Public participation is essential
 - Does not require that projects with significant impacts be denied. Approval must be justified.
- More restrictive than the federal National Environmental Policy Act





CEQA Objectives

- Provide information to the public and decision- makers about potential significant environmental impacts of a proposed project
- Identify ways to avoid or reduce significant impact(s)
- Minimize and avoid significant impacts to the environment by using feasible alternatives and mitigation
- Disclose to the public the reasons a project is approved even if it will have some significant adverse impacts



Who is Responsible?

- DWR (CEQA Lead Agency)
 - Leads the environmental review and planning effort
 - Will comply with CEQA as lead agency and likely prepare and Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
 - Will prepare EIR that also complies with National Environmental Policy Act should federal agencies initiate environmental compliance process
 - Leads CEQA's required public and agency outreach, public participation and stakeholder engagement activities
- Responsible agencies
- Trustee agencies
- Federal agencies





Key Acronyms

- CEQA - California Environmental Quality Act
- NOP - Notice of Preparation
- EIR - Environmental Impact Report
- NOD - Notice of Determination



An aerial photograph of a river winding through a landscape. In the upper left, there are green agricultural fields and a small building. A truss bridge crosses the river in the middle left. Further down, a smaller bridge is visible. The river is bordered by trees and some residential or commercial buildings. The sky is not visible.

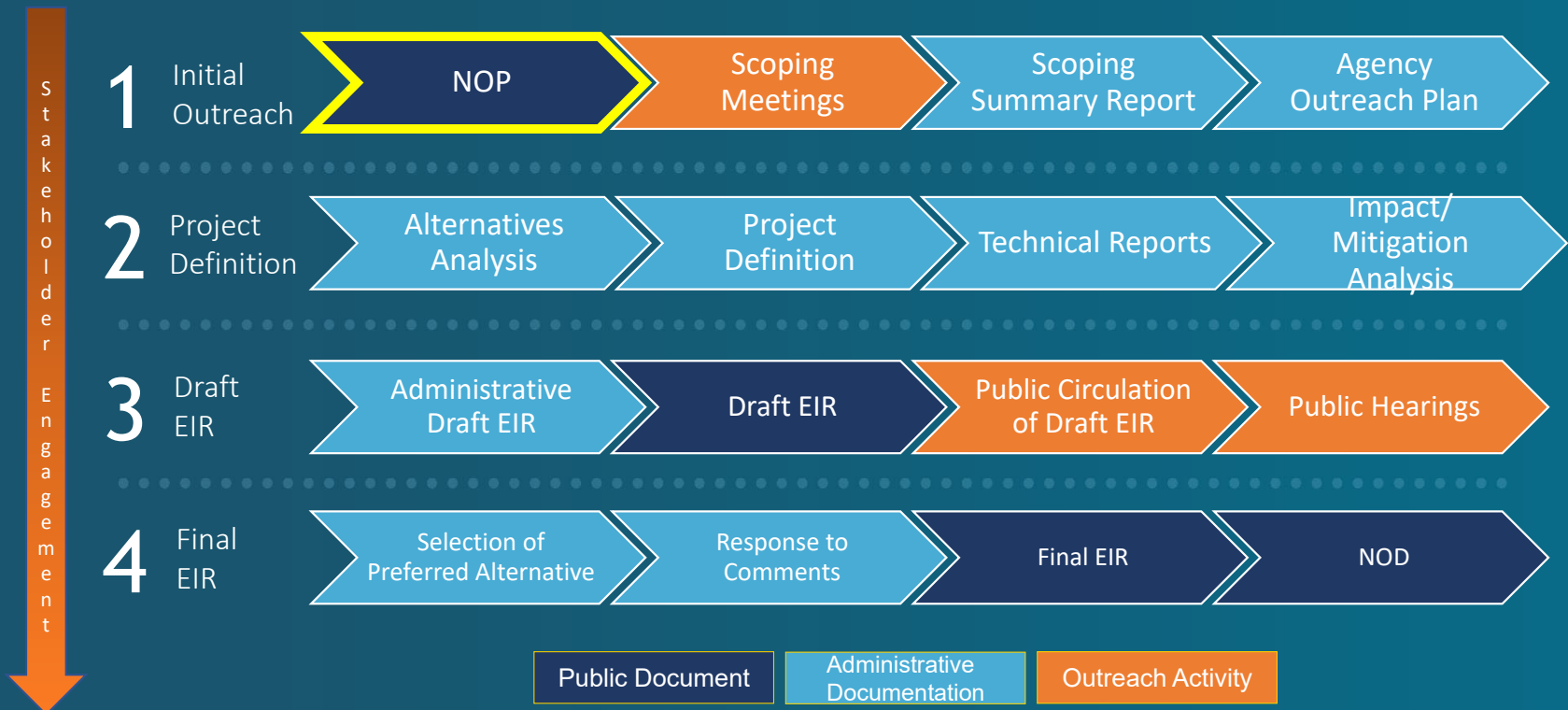
Process

- Action proposed
- Decide if action is a project
- Decide if the project is subject to CEQA
- Decide if the project is exempt
- If not exempt, may prepare an Initial Study
- Determine environmental document required for agency decision (ND, MND, or EIR)
- Prepare appropriate environmental document
- Public review
- Certify EIR/adopt ND or MND, project approval, findings
- Notice of Determination



Delta Conveyance Environmental Review

Identify, analyze and disclose the potential significant adverse environmental impacts of a proposed project, and provide feasible mitigation measures and alternatives to avoid or reduce such effects.





DCA Stakeholder Engagement Committee

Develop Understanding of Delta
Conveyance Components and
Siting Drivers

Review material on facility layouts, site selections, and efforts to address
construction effects such as traffic volume, noise, site run-off and air
emissions and provide advice to the DCA

DCA Engineering Team

Studies to Support
Identification of
Proposed Project

Initiate Concept
Engineering Work on
Proposed Project as
Described in NOP

Finalize Concept Engineering
Work on All Proposed
Alternatives Identified by DWR

DWR Planning Team

NOP Preparation

Identify Proposed Project
that will be Studied in
Environmental Impact
Report (EIR)

Notice of
Preparation
(NOP)

Scoping

Seek Public Comment
on the NOP; Based on
Feedback, Identify
Alternatives for
Further Study

Alternatives
Identified

Environmental Impact Assessment

Comprehensive assess-
ment of the impacts
associated with each
of the defined
alternatives

Draft EIR
for Public
Comment

General Public

Attend Scoping Meetings and Provide
Comment on NOP Including Project
Description and List of Potential
Environmental Impacts to be Assessed

Provide Comment on
Entire Content of Draft EIR



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES



Permitting Requirements

- Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Consultation
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Compliance
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) 2081(B) Incidental Take Permit
- SWRCB Section 401 of the Clean Water Act - Water Quality Certification
- CDFW Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, Section 1602
- USACE Section 404/10 Permit
- SWRCB Change in Point of Diversion Petition
- Delta Stewardship Council Delta Plan Consistency
- USACE Section 408 Permit





Notice of Preparation

Documents the Intent to Develop an EIR
for proposed Delta conveyance project:

- Triggers Start of Scoping –
Receive input on the scope and content of the EIR
- Public Comment Period
- Public Meetings

The NOP will include:

- Description of Proposed Project
- Proposed Project Objectives
- Proposed Project Area
- Proposed Project Facilities



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES



Environmental Impacts Analyzed

Under CEQA, the adverse effects of proposed Delta conveyance project on the physical, human and natural environment will be evaluated.

- Resources Studied:

- Water Supply
- Surface Water
- Groundwater
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Geology and Soils
- Fish and Aquatic Resources
- Terrestrial Biological Resources
- Land Use
- Agricultural Resources
- Recreation
- Socioeconomics
- Aesthetics
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Transportation
- Public Services and Utilities
- Energy
- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas
- Noise
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Public Health
- Mineral Resources
- Paleontological Resources
- Climate Change
- Growth Inducement and Other Indirect Effects





How Does this Committee Intersect with the CEQA Process?

- Discussions during the SEC are intended to provide critical input to the design and engineering that will be considered as part of the environmental review process, including identifying potential engineering and design strategies to avoid and/or minimize community effects

Construction Effects Considered:



Logistics



Noise



Roadways



Air Quality



Dual Benefit
Facilities



Transportation



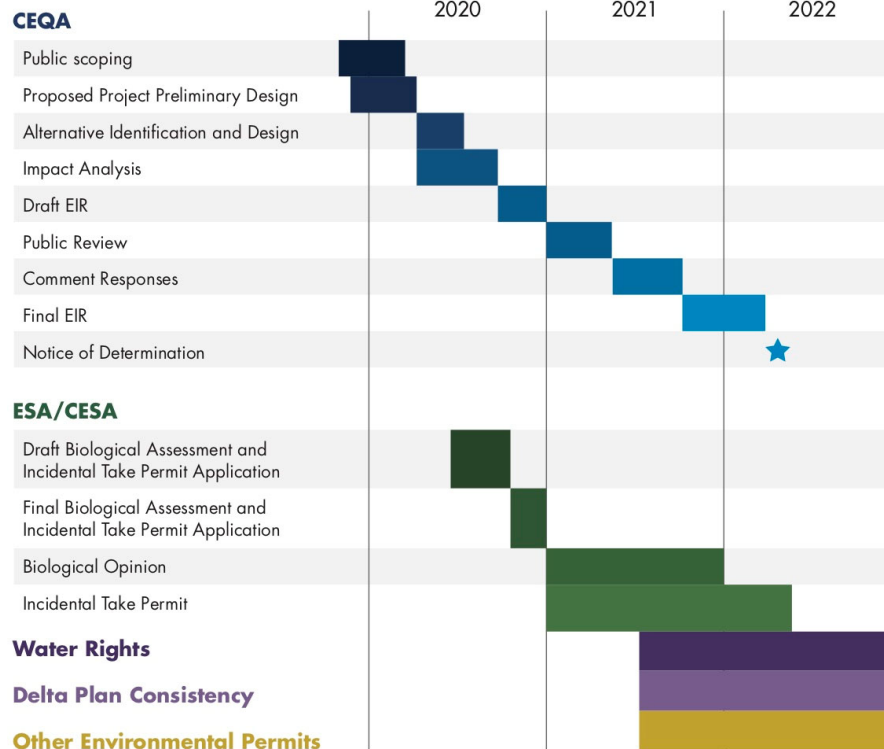
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES



Key Milestones

Delta Conveyance CEQA Milestones

Environmental Compliance Schedule



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES



Future Proposed Soil Investigations

Additional CEQA Activities

Initial Study/proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration available for public review and comment through January 15, 2020.

DWR is proposing to gather data to inform and evaluate alternatives for Delta conveyance over an approximate 36-month period including:

- Soil borings (on-land and overwater)
- Cone Penetration Tests
- Geophysical surveys



Ways to Stay Informed

Learn more on the DWR website and stay up to date with news and other information on social media.



DWR Website

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project/Delta-Conveyance>



Project Hotline

866.924.9955



Twitter

@CA_DWR



Project Hotline

DeltaConveyance@water.ca.gov



December 2019

Questions?

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES