



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT *Delta Conveyance*

Q: What is the Delta Conveyance project?

A: The Delta Conveyance project is a vital water infrastructure project for California's future. It will modernize and upgrade a key section of the State Water Project, which serves as the state's primary water delivery system, by constructing a tunnel to move water supplies underneath the fragile Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem rather than through it. The project will improve the state's aging water infrastructure, making the system more reliable and efficient.

Q: Why does California need the Delta Conveyance project?

A: The proposed Delta Conveyance project is a landmark investment in the modernization of California's aging water infrastructure. It is critical to the quality of life for nearly 27 million residents and the economic vitality of our state, ensuring California has clean, reliable and affordable water for generations to come. Modernized Delta Conveyance will make the state's primary water delivery system more safe, reliable and efficient while simultaneously restoring the Delta ecosystem. In addition, it will protect our water supply from the effects of climate change, such as recurring droughts, making our system more flexible. This is the best and most cost-effective long-term solution to addressing statewide water supply needs.

Q: What is the current status of the project?

A: A two-tunnel project called California WaterFix was downsized to a single tunnel by Governor Newsom in 2019. A new environmental review and planning process for the revised Delta Conveyance project began in January 2020.

Q: Who supports modernizing Delta conveyance?

A: More than 300 of California's most respected statewide and regional organizations stand in strong support of Delta Conveyance as part of our coalition. Representing vastly diverse and prominent constituencies from labor and business to public agencies, nonprofits and agriculture, our coalition supporters include State Building & Construction Trades Council of California, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Laborers International Union of North America (LiUNA), the California Chamber of Commerce, and many more. Our broad-based coalition recognizes the critical need to modernize and upgrade the state's water delivery system for the benefit of all Californians.

Q: Is there public support for the Delta Conveyance project?

A: Yes. There is resounding public support for the Delta Conveyance project up and down the state. A 2018 poll by the Public Policy Institute of California measuring public views on the Delta Conveyance project forerunner called California WaterFix found 78% of Californians said the project was important for the future quality of life and economic vitality of the state. That same poll found that 86% of Los Angeles area residents said it was important for the future quality of life and economic vitality of the state. Supporters understand that maintaining the status quo and ignoring the need to update our primary water delivery system would be extremely short-sighted. California needs modernized Delta conveyance to survive and thrive.

Q: Who benefits from modernizing Delta conveyance?

A: The Delta Conveyance project will provide significant benefits to communities across the California. Much of California's water supply —30 to 80 percent depending on the region — comes from the Sierra Nevada mountains through the State Water Project. Melted snow from these mountains provides the backbone supply for approximately 27 million Californians, 750,000 acres of farmland and a robust economy. Modernized Delta conveyance will protect this affordable, high quality water supply, which serves two-thirds of the state. Southern Californians expect a clean and reliable water supply for generations to come, and are backing the Delta Conveyance project to ensure a bright future for their children and grandchildren.



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Q: Can we implement local water supply projects like desalination and recycling instead of building the Delta Conveyance project?

A: While local supply projects like recycling, desalination or stormwater capture are important for reducing our reliance on our State Water Project supply, they are not a cost-effective replacement for our primary source of water. Alternative water supplies cost more than the Delta Conveyance project and produce significantly less water. This project will be the cornerstone investment for ratepayers statewide. Through the project, ratepayers will protect their most affordable source of water and the billions of dollars they've already invested in the State Water Project to date.

Q: How does modernized Delta Conveyance protect water supplies from climate change impacts?

A: Climate change is a real threat to California's water reliability — and our quality of life. We must protect our water supply and deliveries from the effects of climate change. For Southern California, this project represents a forward-looking water management solution that helps prepare for and minimize the impacts of recurring droughts, which are likely to worsen in the future, and rising sea levels. Modernizing our water delivery system will make it more flexible and efficient, so we are better able to capture more water during wet years and store it for use during dry years.

Q: Will the public have an opportunity to review and comment on the project?

A: Yes. There are many opportunities for the public to weigh in on the environmental review and planning process now underway. It's also important to note that previous versions of Delta Conveyance, such as WaterFix, have already received an unprecedented level of public review, comment and scientific input. Over more than a decade, more than 600 public meetings, workshops, working groups and stakeholder briefings have been held to gather community feedback on the project, and more than 31,000 public comment letters have been received and responded to during several environmental review periods.

Q: How can I stay informed and get involved to show my support?

A: Visit www.socalwater.org or follow our progress on Twitter @SoCalWaterComm.