



Board of Water Commissioners

November 10, 2022

CHRISTOPHER J. GARNER, General Manager

Subject

Recommendation to receive and file an update from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) on the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Delta Conveyance Project.

Executive Summary

In January 2020, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released a Notice of Preparation for a proposed project to modernize the water delivery system in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This project addresses aging infrastructure critical to conveying water from northern California to southern California.

In December 2020, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) Board of Directors voted unanimously to fund MWD's share of the environmental planning and pre-construction costs up to \$161 million for a project that focuses on one tunnel with a total capacity of 6,000 cubic feet per second with two intakes at 3,000 cubic feet per second each. Project objectives included climate resiliency, seismic resiliency, water supply reliability, and operational resiliency. As an MWD agency, Long Beach has been following this project closely.

After two-and-a-half years of work, DWR released the Draft Environmental Impact Report (draft EIR) on July 27, 2022. The document is currently in a 143-day Public Comment period and presents potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and its alternatives as well as mitigation for potentially significant impacts. MWD continues to be supportive of the project planning – particularly because the proposed project is designed to provide much needed reliability for a critical water supply source that is needed in the southern California region.

While the Delta region is only one part of the overall State Water Project, it is a keystone portion of the route connecting State water supplies from the Sacramento-San Joaquin region to southern California. Nearly 70 percent of Californians rely on water from this conveyance system.

Recommendation

Recommendation to receive and file an update from the Southern California Metropolitan Water District on the Delta Conveyance Project.

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommendation.

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