DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT
SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

BDCP	Bay Delta Conservation Plan
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
CVP	Central Valley Project
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOP	Notice of Preparation
SWP	State Water Project

Chapter 1
Introduction

This document is the Scoping Summary Report for the Delta Conveyance Project (project). The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is undertaking an environmental review process to evaluate impacts of the project as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed project would construct and operate new conveyance facilities in the Delta that would add to the existing State Water Project (SWP) infrastructure. New intake facilities as points of diversion would be located in the north Delta along the Sacramento River between Freeport and the confluence with Sutter Slough. The new conveyance facilities would include a tunnel to convey water from the new intakes to the existing Banks Pumping Plant and potentially the federal Jones Pumping Plant in the south Delta.

The project underwent a public scoping period of 93 days from January 15, 2020 to April 17, 2020, where DWR accepted public comments on the scope of issues to be considered in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that will be prepared for the project. Eight scoping meetings were held throughout the state to provide information on the project and gather comments. The scoping period was originally scheduled for a period of 65 days ending on March 20, 2020 but was extended for an additional 28 days in response to stakeholder requests and to accommodate unprecedented circumstances related to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. During this period, the public was invited to participate in the earliest phase of the environmental review process and DWR accepted public comments on the proposed project.

This Scoping Summary Report provides background on the project, summarizes the environmental review process, describes the purpose of scoping, and discusses specific activities and public outreach efforts undertaken during the public scoping period. It also summarizes comments received during the scoping period and discusses how the scoping comments will be considered during the development of the EIR. Copies of notifications and materials developed during the scoping period are included as appendices to this report, as are copies of all comments received during the scoping process. Supplemental material attached to comment letters is not provided in the appendices but is available upon request.

1.1 Environmental Review Process

DWR is the lead state agency preparing an EIR to examine the potential environmental effects of the project in compliance with CEQA.

DWR previously studied two similar projects, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and California WaterFix. This project is a new project and is not supplemental to BDCP or California WaterFix and is not tiered from previous environmental compliance documents. Nevertheless, based on prior experience, the project's EIR will include the suite of resource categories contained in Appendix G of CEQA Guidelines, thus, an initial study would be superfluous.

An EIR is required under CEQA because the project may result in significant effects to some resource areas. The EIR will analyze environmental resources that could be affected by the project as outlined in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. DWR will also evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives that

are potentially feasible and meet most of the project objectives, and would avoid or reduce one or more potentially significant impacts of the proposed project. In addition, the EIR will also include an analysis of the No Project Alternative.

DWR released a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the project on January 15, 2020 pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, which was provided to federal agencies and other potential responsible and trustee agencies (Appendix A).

The NOP stated that the project will also involve federal agencies that must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), likely requiring the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS). The NOP identified that the Federal agencies with roles with respect to the project may include approvals or permits issued by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and United States Army Corps of Engineers. However, as of the writing of this report, no federal lead agency has been established.

1.2 Purpose of Scoping

Scoping is the earliest phase of the environmental review process in which the public is invited to participate. Scoping is also the beginning stage of developing an environmental document under CEQA; it is an opportunity for stakeholders, agencies and the general public to provide comments about what the lead agency should consider when preparing the EIR. The information gathered during scoping is used to help identify the range of project alternatives to be studied, potentially affected geographical areas, resources that may be affected by the project, and the extent of impact assessments, along with recommended mitigation, minimization and avoidance measures.

1.2.1 CEQA Scoping Requirements

1.2.1.1 How Scoping Begins

Scoping begins with the state lead agency (in this case, DWR) filing an NOP with both the California Office of Planning and Research and with the county clerk in each county where the project would be located or where a possible effect could occur as a result of the proposed project. The state lead agency must provide an NOP to Responsible and Trustee Agencies and to involved federal agencies per CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a). In addition to the required noticing, DWR provided notice of the scoping period to the public in the following ways: publishing the NOP in a newspaper of general circulation, posting the NOP both onsite, offsite, and near the area where the project will be located, and directly mailing to property owners and occupants in or adjacent to the project area.

Required Meeting Notices

Per CEQA Section 21083.9(a)(2) and Guidelines Section 15082(c)(1), the lead agency must hold at least one meeting to address scope and content of the EIR for projects of statewide, region-wide or area-wide significance.

Per PRC 21083.9 (b), the lead agency must also provide notice of a scoping meeting (or meetings) to the following groups.

- Any county or city that borders on a county or city where the project will be located, unless otherwise designated annually by agreement between the state lead agency and the county or city
- Any responsible agency
- Any public agency that has jurisdiction by law with respect to the project
- A transportation planning agency or public agency required to be consulted pursuant to CEQA Section 21092.4.
- Any public agency, organization or individual who has filed a written request for the notice

1.2.1.2 Benefits of Early Scoping Consultation

CEQA encourages lead agencies to conduct early public consultation prior to completing a draft EIR. These requirements apply to all projects undertaken or funded, or those projects requiring issuance of a permit by a public agency.

CEQA's basic purpose is to inform governmental decision-makers and the public about the potential environmental effects of a project, or about actions they can take regarding those potential effects, as described below.

- Potential significant environmental effects of proposed project activities
- To require changes in projects through adoption of feasible alternatives that would avoid or significantly reduced environmental impacts
- To identify mitigation measures to avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant impacts
- To publicly disclose the reasons why a project was approved if significant and unavoidable environmental impacts may occur

Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, a state lead agency must consult early with federal agencies having jurisdictional authority over the project, with responsible agencies, and with trustee agencies responsible for resources that may be affected by the project. Within 30 days of receiving a project NOP, responsible and trustee agencies must provide comments to the state lead agency with specific information about scope and the content of environmental information related to their respective areas of statutory authority.

Agencies may also consult early with anyone the agency believes will have concerns about the environmental impacts of a project. This early consultation is also called scoping. The CEQA Guidelines state that early scoping "has been helpful to agencies in identifying the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant effects to be analyzed in depth in an EIR and eliminating from detailed study issues found not to be important."

CEQA Guidelines Section 15083 further states that "[s]coping has been found to be an effective way to bring together and resolve the concerns of affected federal, state, and local agencies, and proponents of the action, and other interested persons including those who might not be in accord with the action on environmental grounds."

1.3 Project Overview

This section describes the project, including the purpose and project objectives. It also describes proposed project facilities.

1.3.1 Purpose and Project Objectives

The purpose of the project is to develop new diversion and conveyance facilities in the Delta necessary to restore and protect the reliability of SWP water deliveries and, potentially, Central Valley Project (CVP) water deliveries south of the Delta consistent with the State's Water Resilience Portfolio in a cost-effective manner.

The objectives of the project are:

- To address anticipated rising sea levels and other reasonably foreseeable consequences of climate change and extreme weather events.
- To minimize the potential for public health and safety impacts from reduced quantity and quality of SWP water deliveries, and potentially CVP water deliveries, south of the Delta resulting from a major earthquake that causes breaching of Delta levees and the inundation of brackish water into the areas in which the existing SWP and CVP pumping plants operate in the southern Delta.
- To protect the ability of the SWP, and potentially the CVP, to deliver water when hydrologic conditions result in the availability of sufficient amounts, consistent with the requirements of state and federal law, including the California and federal Endangered Species Acts and Delta Reform Act, as well as the terms and conditions of water delivery contracts and other existing applicable agreements.
- To provide operational flexibility to improve aquatic conditions in the Delta and better manage risks of further regulatory constraints on SWP operations.

1.3.2 Description of Proposed Project Facilities

The existing SWP Delta water conveyance facilities, which include Clifton Court Forebay and the Banks Pumping Plant in the south Delta, enable DWR to divert water and lift it into the California Aqueduct. The proposed project would construct and operate new conveyance facilities in the Delta that would add to the existing SWP infrastructure. New intake facilities as points of diversion would be located in the north Delta along the Sacramento River between Freeport and the confluence with Sutter Slough. The new conveyance facilities would include a tunnel to convey water from the new intakes to the existing Banks Pumping Plant and potentially the federal Jones Pumping Plant in the south Delta. The new facilities would provide an alternate location for diversion of water from the Delta and would be operated in coordination with the existing south Delta pumping facilities, resulting in a system also known as "dual conveyance" because there would be two complementary methods to divert and convey water. New facilities proposed for the project include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Intake facilities on the Sacramento River
- Tunnel reaches and tunnel shafts
- Forebays

- Pumping plant
- South Delta Conveyance Facilities

Figure 1 shows the areas under consideration for these facilities. Other ancillary facilities may be constructed to support construction of the conveyance facilities including, but not limited to, access roads, barge unloading facilities, concrete batch plants, fuel stations, mitigation areas, and power transmission and/or distribution lines.

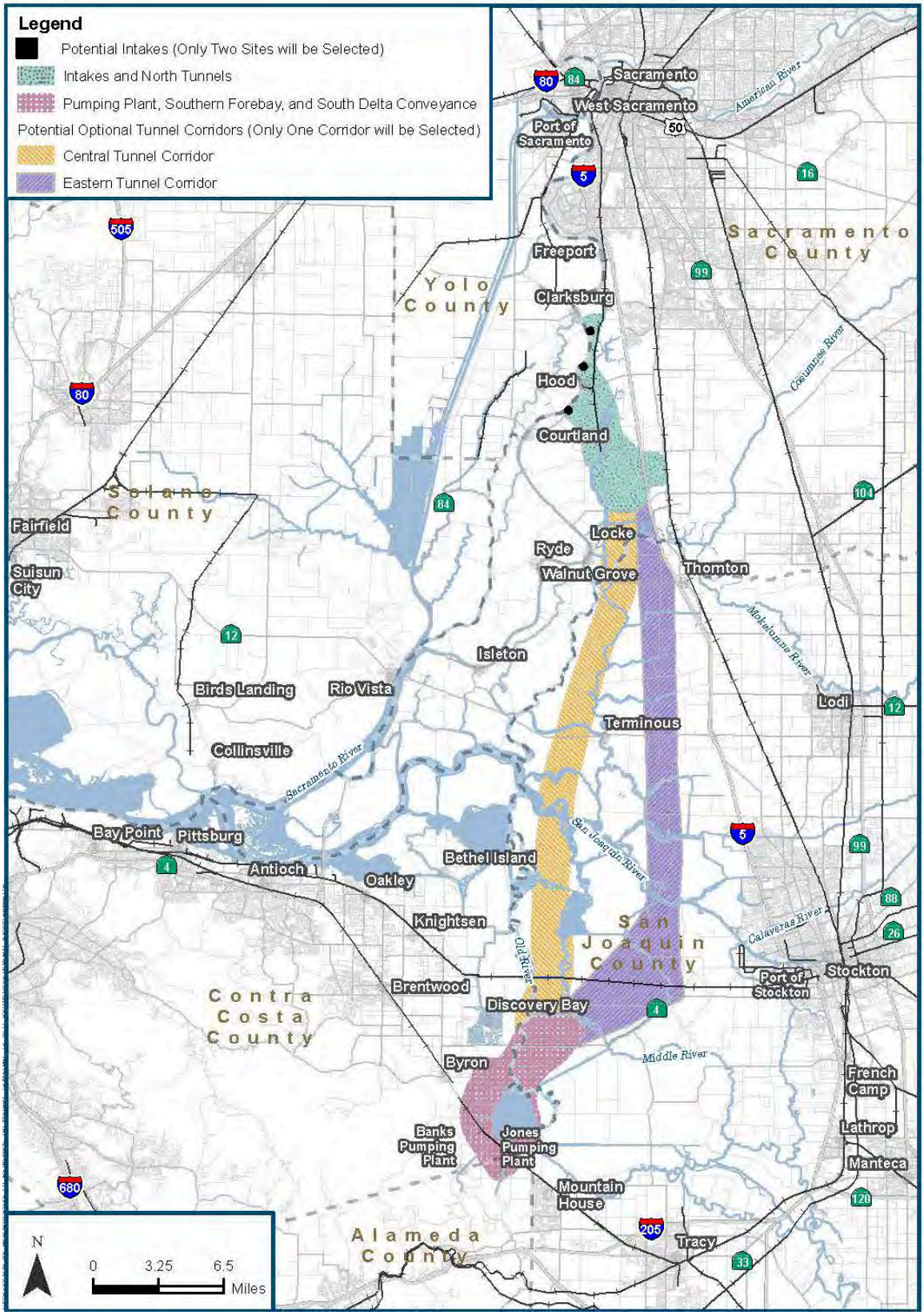

Figure 1. Proposed Project Facility Corridor Options

Under the proposed project, the new north Delta facilities would be sized to convey up to 6,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water from the Sacramento River to the SWP facilities in the south Delta. DWR would operate the proposed north Delta facilities and the existing south Delta facilities in compliance with all state and federal regulatory requirements and would not reduce DWR's current ability to meet standards in the Delta to protect biological resources and water quality for beneficial uses. Operations of the conveyance facilities are proposed, among other reasons, to increase DWR's ability to capture water during high flow events. Although initial operating criteria of the proposed project would be formulated during the preparation of the upcoming Draft EIR in order to assess potential environmental impacts and mitigation, final project operations would be determined after completion of the CEQA process, completing the consultation and review requirements of the federal Endangered Species Act, compliance with the California Endangered Species Act. DWR will file a petition for a change of point of diversion and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) will hold a hearing to determine the impacts to public trust and other legal users of water that may occur from the Delta Conveyance Project. Construction and commissioning of the overall conveyance project, if approved, would take approximately 13 years, but the duration of construction at most locations would vary and would not extend for this full construction period.

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation closely coordinates CVP operations with DWR's SWP operations. Because of this, alternatives to the proposed project in the EIR may include connection to the existing Jones Pumping Plant in the south Delta, along with having a portion of the overall capacity dedicated for CVP use. In addition, some of the alternatives may accommodate CVP use of available capacity (when not used by SWP participants).

1.3.2.1 Intake Facilities

The proposed intake facilities would be located along the Sacramento River between Freeport and the confluence with Sutter Slough, as shown in Figure 1. The proposed project would include two intakes with a maximum diversion capacity of about 3,000 cfs each. The size of each intake location could range from 75 to 150 acres, depending upon fish screen selection, along the Sacramento River and include a state-of-the-art fish screen, sedimentation basins, tunnel shaft, and ancillary facilities. An additional 40 to 60 acres at each intake location would be temporarily disturbed for staging of construction facilities, materials storage, and a concrete batch plant, if needed.

1.3.2.2 Tunnel and Tunnel Shafts

The proposed project would construct up to two north connecting tunnel reaches to connect the intakes to an Intermediate Forebay (see "Forebays" section below), a single main tunnel from the Intermediate Forebay to a new Southern Forebay, and two connecting south tunnel reaches as part of the proposed project's South Delta Conveyance Facilities (see "South Delta Conveyance Facilities" section below) to connect to the existing SWP and, potentially CVP, facilities in the south Delta. The single main tunnel would follow one of two potential optional corridors as shown in Figure 1. The proposed single main tunnel and connecting tunnel reaches would be constructed underground with the bottom of the tunnel at approximately 190 feet below the ground surface. Construction for the tunnel would require a series of launch shafts and retrieval shafts. Each launch and retrieval shaft site would require a permanent area of about four acres. Launch sites would involve temporary use of up to about 400 acres for construction staging and material storage. Depending on the location, the shafts may also require flood protection facilities to extend up to about 45 feet above the existing ground surface to avoid water from entering the tunnel from the ground surface if the area was flooded. Earthen material would be removed from below the ground surface as tunnel

construction progresses; this reusable tunnel material could be reused for embankments or other purposes in the Delta or stored near the launch shaft locations.

1.3.2.3 Forebays

The proposed project would include an Intermediate Forebay and a Southern Forebay. The Intermediate Forebay would provide potential operational benefits and would be located along the tunnel corridor between the intakes and the pumping plant. The Southern Forebay would be located at the southern end of the single main tunnel and would facilitate conveyance to the existing SWP pumping facility and, potentially the CVP pumping facilities. The forebays would be constructed above the ground, and not within an existing water body. The size of the Intermediate Forebay would be approximately 100 acres with an additional 150 acres disturbed during construction for material and equipment storage, and reusable tunnel material storage. The embankments would be approximately 30 feet above the existing ground surface. Additional appurtenant structures, including a permanent crane, would extend up to 40 feet above the embankments. The Southern Forebay would be located near the existing Clifton Court Forebay and would be approximately 900 acres with an additional 200 acres disturbed during construction for material and equipment storage, potential loading and offloading facilities, and reusable tunnel material storage. The Southern Forebay embankments would be up to 30 feet above the existing ground surface.

1.3.2.4 Pumping Plant

The proposed project would include a pumping plant located at the new Southern Forebay and would receive the water through the single main tunnel for discharge in the Southern Forebay. The pumping plant would be approximately 25 acres along the side of the Southern Forebay and would include support structures, with a permanent crane for maintenance as the highest feature that would extend approximately 70 feet above the existing ground surface. The temporary and permanent disturbed area for the pumping plant is included in the Southern Forebay area, described above.

1.3.2.5 South Delta Conveyance Facilities

The proposed project would include South Delta Conveyance Facilities that would extend from the new Southern Forebay to the existing Banks Pumping Plant inlet channel. The connection to the existing Banks Pumping Plant would be via canals with two tunnels to cross under the Byron Highway. The canals and associated control structures would be located over approximately 125 to 150 acres. Approximately 40 to 60 additional acres would be disturbed temporarily during construction. These facilities could also be used to connect the Southern Forebay to the CVP's Jones Pumping Plant.

Chapter 2
Public Scoping Efforts

Project scoping took place from January 15, 2020, to April 17, 2020. The scoping period was originally scheduled for 65 days ending on March 20, 2020 but was extended for an additional 28 days per the request of stakeholders to allow for additional time to review project information, and to accommodate unprecedented circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic. During this period, the public was invited to participate in the scoping process, and DWR accepted public comments on the project.

2.1 Notice of Preparation

DWR initiated scoping for the project on January 15, 2020 by filing an NOP (Appendix A) with the California Office of Planning and Research via the State Clearinghouse. As described in Chapter 1, an NOP informs reviewers of the lead agency's intent to prepare an EIR per CEQA Guidelines Section 15082 and solicits their participation in determining the scope of the EIR.

2.2 Public Noticing

Project public noticing efforts and activities are listed and further described below.

- Distributing copies of the NOP to county clerks for posting
- Preparing and distributing notices in seven newspapers
- Distributing the NOP to numerous libraries throughout the state
- Mailing letters to federal, state and local agencies
- Mailing a postcard to the project mailing list
- Making fliers available at locations in and around the project area
- Maintaining a project website for stakeholders to review information
- Sending email notifications to the project email list
- Conducting outreach to Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities
- Providing a project-related email addresses to submit questions (i.e., deltaconveyance@water.ca.gov)
- Providing a project-related email address and toll-free phone number to submit comments (i.e., DeltaConveyanceScoping@water.ca.gov)
- Holding a series of public scoping meetings

Copies of public noticing documents are in Appendix B; copies of scoping meeting materials are in Appendix C.

2.2.1 County Clerks Notices

DWR distributed copies of the NOP to 34 county clerk offices in the project area and throughout the state. DWR asked counties to make the NOP available for public review during the scoping period. DWR provided county clerks with a copy of the NOP, a transmittal form, and a flier that contained information about the scoping period. DWR also provided counties with a self-addressed stamped envelope for returning a receipt of document arrival to DWR.

2.2.2 Newspaper Notices

DWR placed notices in seven newspapers of general circulation throughout the state to notify the public about the start of project scoping. The newspaper notices included information about publication of the NOP, the scoping period's comment deadline, and ways to comment via email and regular mail. The newspaper notices included a link to the project website where the public could obtain a copy of the NOP, along with additional materials and information about the public scoping meetings. The newspaper notices also included a telephone number and an email address for those seeking additional information or to requests hard copy materials.

2.2.3 Library Notices

DWR distributed the NOP and a project flier to 131 libraries around the state, requesting they post the two documents in a location designated for public notices so the general public could be made aware of the public review period.

2.2.4 Letters

DWR sent federal agencies, responsible and trustee agencies, and community groups from the project mailing list, a letter formally notifying them of NOP publication and the opportunity to provide scoping comments. The letter was sent to 45 state and federal agencies, and 155 disadvantaged community representatives. The letter described the project, gave the deadline for providing comments on the NOP, described the ways in which comments could be provided via email or regular mail, and gave the dates and locations of public meetings. A full copy of the NOP was enclosed with each letter.

Project notification letters were also sent to tribes inviting them to consult on the project and providing them with a copy of the NOP for information regarding the scoping process. These notification letters were sent to a total of 121 tribes using contact information provided by the Native American Heritage Commission for counties within the project area. The consultation process is different than the public scoping process and tribes can choose to provide comments publicly (through the scoping process) or through consultation with DWR.

2.2.5 Postcard

DWR mailed a postcard notice to more than 14,000 state agencies, landowners, state water contractors, public water agencies, and persons who had expressed interest in the project, or had previously expressed interest in California WaterFix. The postcard notice included information about publication of the NOP and a link to the project website for viewing the full NOP. The postcard

also gave the comment period deadline, information about how to provide comments via email or regular mail, and gave the dates and locations of the public scoping meetings.

2.2.6 Fliers

DWR distributed fliers to multiple locations in and around the project area to notify the public and stakeholders about the scoping process and the opportunity to provide comments. The flier announced publication of the NOP, gave the comment period deadline and information about ways to provide comments. The flier included the dates and time of the public scoping meetings and included a link to the project website where interested persons could find additional information and a full copy of the NOP.

2.2.7 Project Website

DWR posted information about scoping on the project website at https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project/Delta-Conveyance/Environmental-Planning. The website provided information regarding publication of the NOP, the ways in which comments could be provided, the comment deadlines and the dates and locations of the scoping meetings.

The website also includes the following information about the project.

- DWR press release announcing the publication of the NOP
- A complete copy of the NOP
- A map of the proposed Project Facility Corridor Options
- A list of commonly asked questions and answers (in English and Spanish)
- Delta Conveyance Environmental Review Notice of Preparation Overview Fact Sheet (in English and Spanish)
- A list of locations where hard copy documents was available
- A schedule of the scoping meetings
- Information presented at the scoping meetings
- Scoping meeting agendas
- Scoping meeting presentation
- Reference materials

2.2.8 Email Notices

DWR sent email notices to more than 7,320 members of the project email list, which included those who had previously expressed interest in California WaterFix. The email notice included information about publication of the NOP, gave the comment period deadline and described ways to provide comments. The email notice also included the dates and time of scoping meetings and a link to the project website where interested persons could find additional information about the project and a full copy of the NOP. Additional emails were distributed in late January to remind interested parties about the scoping meetings. An email notice was sent in February to inform people that an additional meeting was scheduled in Redding on March 2, 2020. In March, an email was distributed

to provide notice of the comment period extension. An additional email was distributed in April as a reminder of the comment period deadline.

2.2.9 Outreach to Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities

To best serve the environmental review process, DWR developed and executed a robust outreach program to ensure participation of disadvantaged communities and environmental justice organizations in the scoping process. Specific outreach activities included the following.

- Distributing three email notices about scoping participation and comment opportunities to over 500 Delta and Southern California environmental justice organizational contacts in February and March.
- Contacting over 15 Southern California organizations to remind them about the Los Angeles scoping meeting.
- Providing information to Contra Costa Supervisor Diane Burgis to alert her constituents/followers about the opportunity to submit comments.
- Attending the public scoping meetings and having an Environmental Justice table to provide guidance about the function of the scoping phase, assist participants in submitting comments, and engage them in future participation opportunities.
- Facilitating a comment workshop with Stockton-based Little Manila Rising's Environmental Justice Youth Advocates. They submitted a sign-on scoping letter based on the meeting proceedings.
- Facilitating a comment workshop with the GreenLA Water Committee that included representatives from Heal the Bay, Sierra Club of Los Angeles and Orange County, Deirdre Des Jardins from California Water Research, Environmental Water Caucus, Southern California Watershed Alliance, LA River Project, NRDC, LA WaterKeeper, and the South Bay Chapter of Surfrider.
- Emailing over 500 Delta and Southern California environmental justice organization contacts, calling 25 environmental justice or Delta-based community organizations and speaking with contacts at 14 organizations to solicit interest in having facilitated comment submission workshops and to identify participants.
- Conducting briefings with community leaders and representatives of environmental justice and Delta-based organizations, such as Restore the Delta, East Bay Regional Parks District, Fathers and Families of San Joaquin, The Freshwater Trust, Community Water Center, and others to inform them about the project.

2.3 Scoping Meetings

DWR held seven initial scoping meetings, which were held in February 2020 (Table 1). The Sacramento meeting location was selected to be accessible to state agency and non-governmental organization staff who wished to participate in the scoping process. The Walnut Grove, Clarksburg, and Brentwood meeting locations were selected to provide multiple opportunities for those living and working in close proximity to the project an opportunity to comment. The Los Angeles and San

Jose meeting locations were selected to provide an opportunity for state water contractors, public water agencies, their customers, and interested members of the public in the SWP service area an opportunity provide comments. In response to multiple requests, DWR held an additional scoping meeting in Redding, California to provide an opportunity for stakeholders and tribes in the northern portion of the Sacramento Valley to comment directly to the project team leading development of the EIR. More than 150 people attended that meeting. By the end of the scoping period, DWR held eight scoping meetings and hosted more than 700 total attendees.

Table 1. Project Public Scoping Meeting Locations and Attendance

Meeting Location	Date	Attendees
California Environmental Protection Agency Building 1001 I Street, Sacramento	Monday, February 3, 2020 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	106
Junipero Serra State Building 320 West Fourth Street, Los Angeles	Wednesday, February 5, 2020 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.	43
Jean Harvie Community Center 14273 River Road, Walnut Grove	Monday, February 10, 2020 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.	124
Santa Clara Valley Water District Board Room 5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose	Wednesday, February 12, 2020 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.	25
San Joaquin Council of Governments Board Room 555 Weber Avenue, Stockton	Thursday, February 13, 2020 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.	65
Clarksburg Middle School Auditorium 52870 Netherlands Road, Clarksburg	Wednesday, February 19, 2020 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.	104
Brentwood Community Center Conference Room 35 Oak Street, Brentwood	Thursday, February 20, 2020 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.	110
Sheraton Redding Hotel 820 Sundial Bridge Drive, Redding	Monday, March 2, 2020 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.	157

DWR designed the scoping meeting format to allow as much time as possible to hear public comments. There was a brief presentation about the project and the purpose of scoping, which was followed by a brief question and answer period. The question and answer period focused on providing clarification about the scoping process and the EIR process overall.

For all meetings, the presentation and question and answer portion accounted for roughly 10–15 minutes of the meeting. Those who wished to make oral comments were asked to fill out a speaker card. Speakers were called to speak in the order the cards were received. DWR made every effort to accommodate everyone who wanted to speak at the scoping meetings and reminded speakers they could submit written comments if they had additional comments they wished to make. Additionally, meeting attendees who wanted to submit comments could fill out a comment card and turn it in before leaving the meeting or mail it to DWR before the close of the scoping period.

DWR provided a Spanish language interpreter at all of the scoping meetings to provide interpretive services if needed. The interpreter introduced themselves at the start of each meeting and made meeting attendees aware that Spanish language interpretation was available.

2.4 Scoping Comment Submission

DWR provided multiple ways for the public, stakeholders, and agencies to provide comments during the scoping period. At the scoping meetings held in February and March 2020, attendees could submit oral comments to DWR and representatives of the project team; these comments were recorded by a court reporter. Attendees could also leave handwritten comments on a comment card. Comment cards could also be taken from the meeting and mailed to DWR before the close of the comment period. Attendees who wanted to submit comments via email were directed to the project's scoping comment email address (i.e., DeltaConveyanceScoping@water.ca.gov). Those who preferred to mail a letter could send it directly to the attention of Renee Rodriguez at DWR (PO Box 942836, Sacramento, CA 94236). Some commenters also submitted oral comments through the toll-free telephone hotline.

2.5 Comments Received After the Close of Scoping

Some commenters submitted letters after the close of the scoping period on April 17, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. All comments received after the close of the scoping period were reviewed by DWR and will be considered in the development of the EIR; however, comments received after the close of the comment period at 5:00 p.m. on April 17, 2020 are not summarized or otherwise included in this report.

Chapter 3
Scoping Comments Summary

3.1 Overview of Commenters

DWR received comments in the form of letters, emails, comment cards, and verbal comments that were transcribed by a court reporter during the eight public scoping meetings and via a toll-free phone line. In all, over 2,000 individuals, organizations and agencies submitted comments to DWR.

Commenters are listed below by category (i.e., federal agencies, tribes, state and local agencies, elected officials, special districts and water companies, and interest groups, organizations and businesses).

Federal Agencies

- Bureau of Reclamation
- Western Area Power Administration

Tribes

- Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians
- Hoopa Valley Tribe
- Nor Rel Muk Wintu Nation
- Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians
- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
- Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- Winnemem Wintu Tribe

State Agencies

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- California Department of Transportation
- California Department of Toxic Substances Control
- Central Valley Flood Protection Board
- Delta Protection Commission
- Delta Independent Science Board
- Delta Stewardship Council
- San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- State Lands Commission
- State Water Resources Control Board

Local Agencies

- Butte County
- City of Folsom
- City of Roseville
- City of Sacramento
- City of Shasta Lake
- City of Stockton
- Contra Costa County
- River Delta Unified School District
- Sacramento County
- Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District
- San Joaquin County
- San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
- Solano County
- Yolo County

Elected Officials

- Congressman John Garamendi
- Stockton City Councilmember Sol Jobrack
- Supervisor Diane Burgis, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
- Supervisor Jim Provenza, Yolo County – Delta Counties Coalition
- Supervisor Patrick Kennedy, Sacramento County – Delta Counties Coalition
- Supervisor Skip Thomson, Solano County – Delta Counties Coalition
- Supervisor Chuck Winn, San Joaquin County – Delta Counties Coalition
- Supervisor Karen Mitchoff, Contra Costa County – Delta Counties Coalition
- Supervisor Steve Lambert, Butte County
- Mayor Janice Powell, City of Shasta Lake
- Mayor Kevin Romick, City of Oakley

Special Districts and Water Companies

- Alameda County Water District
- Brannan-Andrus Levee Maintenance District
- Carmichael Water District
- Calleguas Municipal Water District
- Clarksburg Fire Protection District
- Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- Contra Costa Water District
- Central Delta Water Agency
- Cucamonga Valley Water District
- Diablo Water District

East Bay Municipal Utility District
East Bay Regional Park District
Eastern Municipal Water District
El Dorado Irrigation District
Foothill Municipal Water District
Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Irvine Ranch Water District
Las Virgenes Water District
Local Agencies of the North Delta
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Moulten Niguel Water District
Municipal Water District of Orange County
North Delta Water Agency
Placer County Water Agency
Rancho California Water District
Reclamation Districts 3, 150, 551 and 999
Reclamation Districts 548, 404, 684, 2023, 2024, 2027, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2065, 2072, 2113, 2117
Reclamation District 1002
Reclamation District 2060
Reclamation District 2067
Regional Water Authority
Sacramento County Water Agency
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
Sacramento River Settlement Contractors
Sacramento Suburban Water District
San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
San Juan Water District
San Luis- Delta Mendota Water Authority
Santa Clara Valley Water District
South Delta Water Agency
Tehama Colusa Canal Authority
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
Westlands Water District
Zone 7 Water Agency

Non-Governmental Organizations

Alliance for Resilient Communities
American Council of Engineering Companies
American River Water Agencies
AquAlliance
Association of California Cities–Orange County
Associated General Contractors of California
Audubon California
Bear Creek Watershed Group
Beverly Hills Hollywood NAACP
Big Break Visitors Center
BizFed
Building Industry Association of Southern California
California Alliance for Jobs
California Building Industry Association
California Business Properties Association
California Central Valley Flood Control Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Delta Chambers and Visitor's Bureau
California Farm Bureau Federation
California Indian Environmental Alliance
California Indian Water Commission
California Small Business Association
California Sport Fishing Protection Alliance
California State Conference of the NAACP
California State Laborers Council
California Striped Bass Association
California Small Business Association
California Teamsters Public Affairs Council
California Asian Chamber of Commerce
California-Nevada Conference Operating Engineers
California Water Research
California Water Impact Network
Californians for Water Security
Camarillo Chamber of Commerce
Center for Biological Diversity
Central City Association
Central City Association Los Angeles
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce
Clarksburg Community
Contra Costa County Farm Bureau
Construction Industry Coalition on Water Quality
Defenders of Wildlife
Delta Counties Coalition
Delta Defenders
Desert Valley Builders Association
El Monte/South El Monte Chamber of Commerce
El Segundo Chamber of Commerce
Engineering Contractors Association
Environmental Water Caucus
Environmental Council of Sacramento
Fathers and Families of San Joaquin
Fly Fishers International–Northern California
Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg School House
Friends of Clarksburg Services and Recreation
Friends of the Calaveras River
Friends of Stone Lakes Wildlife Refuge
Glendale Chamber of Commerce
Golden Gate Salmon Association
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce
Greater Ontario Business Council
Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce

Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice
Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce
Hesperia Chamber of Commerce
HUHS Water Protectors Club
Hood Community Council
IBEW Local 6
IBEW Local 47
IBEW Local 428
Inland Action
Inland Empire Economic Partnership
International Operating Engineers Local 3
Institute for Fisheries Resources
Kern, Inyo and Mono Counties Building Trades Council
Los Angeles/Orange County Building and Construction Trades Council
Laborers' International Union of North America
LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce
League of Women Voters of California – San Joaquin County
LGBT+Social Justice Initiative
Little Manila Foundation
Little Manila Rising
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Business Council
Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles County Business Federation
Mid Klamath Watershed Council
National Audubon Society, San Joaquin Chapter
Natural Resources Defense Council
North Coast Rivers Alliance
North Delta CARES
North Orange County Chamber
North State Water Alliance
Northern California Carpenters Regional Council
Northern California Water Association
Operating Engineers Local 3
Orange County Business Council
Oxnard Chamber of Commerce
Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Association
Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
Planning and Conservation League
Rancho Cucamonga Chamber of Commerce
Recreational Boaters of California
Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce
Restore the Delta
Rogue Climate
Sacramento County Farm Bureau
Sacramento Metro Chamber
Sacramento River Council
San Francisco Bay Keeper
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
San Francisco Crab Boat Owners Association
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
San Gabriel Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce
San Joaquin Audubon Society
San Joaquin County Climate Action Coalition
San Joaquin County Farm Bureau
San Joaquin Historical Museum
San Joaquin Pride Center
San Jose–Silicon Valley NAACP
Santa Clara and San Benito Counties Building and Construction Trade
Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce
Save California Salmon
Save the California Delta Alliance
Shasta Environmental Alliance
Sierra Club of California
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Silicon Valley NAACP
Silicon Valley MEPS
Solano County Farm Bureau
South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce
Southern California Contractors Association
Southern California Partnership for Jobs
Southern California Water Coalition
State Building and Construction Trades Council of California
Sustainable Burbank Commission
Sustainable Stockton
The Bay Institute
The Silicon Valley Organization
Third City Coalition
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce
Transmission Agency of Northern California
Tuolumne River Conservancy
UA Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union 114
UNITE HERE Local 30
United Contractors
Valley Industry and Commerce Association
Valley Land Alliance
Ventura County Coalition of Labor, Ag and Business
Ventura County Economic Development Association
Ventura County Taxpayers Association
Victor Valley Chamber of Commerce
Water4Fish
We Advocate Through Environmental Review
Westside Council Chambers of Commerce
With Our Words, Inc.
Wintu Audubon Society

Yolo County Farm Bureau

Businesses

Biofuelwatch
Clifton Court, L.P.
Double M Farms
Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.
John McCormack Co.
Snug Harbor Resorts, LLC
SolAgra Corporation
Steamboat Acres
Steamboat Resort
Substratum Systems
Terra Land Group
Wilbur-Ellis Company
Wilson Farm & Vineyards

Individuals

Approximately 550 individuals submitted written comments in the form of emails, comment cards, or letters, or provided verbal comments at public scoping meetings. Over 1,200 individuals submitted form letters or signed petitions.

3.2 Summary of Comments Received

The following sections summarize comments received; comments are presented by EIR resource section and topic.

DWR reviewed all comments received during the scoping period (i.e., January 15 through April 17, 2020) in detail to inform themselves and the project team about issues of concern related to the project, both in general and about specific items for consideration regarding the environmental review's scope. Comments relevant to the EIR will be considered during development of the document.

Appendix D contains a more detailed comment summary arranged by commenter and by category of resource sections that will be analyzed in the EIR. Not all comments in Appendix D are presented verbatim; they are summarized or rephrased as appropriate. Comments are categorized by resource topic to help DWR and the project team review comments relevant to specific topics or resource areas. All comment letters received during the scoping period are in Appendix E. Supplemental material attached to comment letters is not included in Appendix E but is available upon request.

3.2.1 Project Purpose and Objectives

Multiple commenters disagree that there is or should be a need to provide reliable SWP water supplies to the Central Valley and southern California. Some comments suggested that water should not be used for agriculture in an area that cannot provide its own sustainable local water sources. Other commenters stated that purpose and objectives of the project are erroneous because southern California could invest in developing local supplies or because there is already sufficient local water supplies to meet demand. Some commenters expressed concerns that the project purpose and objectives were written such that some alternatives would be excluded without sufficient consideration, and that the need was too narrowly focused on benefits to SWP users.

Multiple commenters agreed with the project purpose and objectives and stated that reliable fresh water from the SWP was critical to meeting demands and was necessary to make local water supply reliability projects continue to be effective.

Some commenters requested that the project purpose and objectives include ecosystem restoration and flood safety. Other commenters requested that the project objectives explicitly state a preference for using publicly owned land where possible. Comments also raised concerns about whether water transfers from willing sellers would be considered an objective of the project.

3.2.2 Description of Proposed Project Facilities

Multiple commenters requested a more detailed description of proposed project facilities. Comments suggested that the project description in the NOP was not sufficiently detailed. Commenters requested that the project description should include as much detail about proposed facilities as possible, (e.g., it should describe all facilities, including sizes, capacities, features, routing, etc.). Commenters also sought clarity regarding the inclusion of the islands owned by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California as part of the project.

Several commenters stated that the project description should include proposed operations. Specifically, commenters requested a detailed description of baseline operations compared to proposed operations and modeled operations. Commenters also requested that the project description include a description of how adaptive management might define future operations. Commenters also suggested the project description should include a role for Delta stakeholders in the adaptive management framework proposed as part of the project.

3.2.3 Alternatives

Commenters suggested a wide range of alternatives to be considered in the EIR. Some commenters made general requests for DWR to study alternatives that would reduce potential impacts to privately owned land, agricultural land, and communities. Some commenters expressed opposition to the central corridor, and others expressed opposition to the eastern corridor option. Some commenters expressed a preference for a 6,000-cfs facility. Suggestions for alternatives included are listed below.

- Consider a no tunnel alternative that focuses on the other elements of the California Water Resilience Portfolio such as water use efficiency, conservation, increased rainwater/stormwater capture and recycling, groundwater banking, and the following items.
    - Expanded use of gray water for urban landscaping
    - Incremental demand reduction measures such as water efficient agricultural policies
    - Mandatory conservation for urban users that would be less environmentally harmful and achieve acceptable water supply reliability goals and targets
    - Greater investment in desalination to meet Southern California water demands
- Consider brackish desalination that would treat brackish water from the Delta and then convey it south using the existing SWP.
- Consider covering the California Aqueduct to improve efficiency.
- Consider the West Delta Intakes Concept, which would relocate the principal point of diversion for exports from the South Delta to the West Delta. Surplus water during high flow events would be extracted through permeable embankments on Sherman Island that would be converted into a reservoir for capturing fresh water during high flows.
- Consider the alternative proposal submitted by Congressman Garamendi, which would make use of the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel and include a new 3,000-cfs capacity diversion in the western Delta to minimize impacts on productive agricultural land, reduce flood risk, and reduce impacts on the environment.
- Consider an alternative that seeks to address seismic and climate risks for SWP customer service areas.
- Consider an alternative that seeks to improve levees and reduce flood risk in the Delta.
- Consider an operational alternative that increases Delta outflow and reduces exports as compared to current conditions in the Delta.
- Consider an alternative that would include strengthening levees and reducing exports and provide more water through-Delta seaward to mitigate salt-water intrusion.

- Include a twin tunnel alternative such as California WaterFix as a point of comparison.
- Consider an alternative that includes construction of a dam in the Carquinez Strait or at the Golden Gate Bridge to prevent saltwater intrusion due to sea level rise.

3.2.4 Relationship to Other Processes, Plans, Programs or Policies

Multiple commenters raised concerns regarding the project's relationship with the 2009 Delta Reform Act and the act's requirements for consistency with the *Delta Plan* (Delta Stewardship Council 2019). Commenters also raised concerns regarding the project's ability to acquire the necessary approvals from the State Water Resources Control Board for a change in point of diversion. Other commenters raised concerns regarding potential changes to outflow requirements that are anticipated as a result of the State Water Resources Control Board's update to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary* (Bay-Delta Plan) (State Water Resources Control Board 2018). Many commenters requested clarification regarding the relationship between the project and the Water Resilience Portfolio. Some commenters raised concerns regarding coordinated long-term operations with the CVP considering current litigation between the State of California and the federal government. Commenters also requested clarification about the relationship between the project and the 2019 *Biological Opinion for the Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Operations of the Central Valley Water Project and the State Water Project* (National Marine Fisheries Service 2019 and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2019).

3.2.5 Water Supply and Surface Water Resources

Multiple commenters raised concerns regarding surface water supplies. Many commenters requested an analysis of water supply impacts to the Trinity and Klamath areas in the EIR. Many commenters requested a thorough evaluation of water supply impacts to Delta residents.

Multiple commenters raised concerns regarding surface water resources. Commenters requested studies of surface water resource impacts to the Trinity and Klamath river watersheds. Commenters requested analysis of potential effects from sea level rise in the Delta and subsequent flooding. Other commenters requested DWR address potential degradation of adjacent levees. Commenters also requested analysis of potential impacts to local or adjacent facilities in the EIR. Commenters suggested that analysis in the EIR focus on levee improvement and flood management.

3.2.6 Groundwater

Some Delta residents raised specific concerns regarding possible effects on groundwater supplies during dewatering of certain areas during construction of the proposed facilities. They also expressed concern about project impacts to residential wells and agricultural wells.

3.2.7 Water Quality

Multiple commenters raised concerns regarding the degradation of water quality in the Delta, and specifically the south Delta. Many commenters stated that water quality is already poor and suggested that the project would only exacerbate existing water quality challenges. Commenters

requested that DWR analyze the potential impacts of harmful algae blooms. Commenters also expressed concern over salinity in the Delta and impacts from reverse flows.

3.2.8 Geology and Seismicity

Commenters requested that DWR study the ability of tunnels to survive major earthquakes. Commenters questioned whether seismic risks were present in the project area. Some commenters requested that DWR consider how construction of the project could affect the long-term stability of other structures in the Delta with deep foundations through soil settlement, subsidence, undermining, lateral earth movement, and vibration-induced settlement. Commenters requested completing geotechnical investigations to assess ground conditions, especially where there might be right-of-way crossings with other structures. Commenters also provided mitigation and monitoring suggestions for reducing or avoiding potential impacts to ground stability.

3.2.9 Soils

Commenters raised concerns that construction activities from the project could affect soil engineering properties, drainage, and surface and subsurface hydrology, which could increase soil liquefaction. Other commenters questioned the removal of soil to construct new forebays and where the soil would be taken.

3.2.10 Fish and Aquatic Resources

Many commenters expressed concern over potential impacts to fish and aquatic resources. Commenters discussed concerns over impacts to Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and other fish species in the Klamath and Trinity River watersheds that they believe could be affected by the project. Other commenters expressed similar concerns about fish in the Sacramento, American and San Joaquin River watersheds. Commenters suggested that DWR should analyze entrainment and impingement risks that new intake facilities in the north Delta might have on fish species, and that DWR should define operating criteria and mitigation measures to avoid or reduce impacts to fish and aquatic resources.

3.2.11 Biological and Terrestrial Resources

Multiple commenters expressed concern that the project would have significant impacts on biological resources in the project area. Commenters requested analysis of impacts to wildlife and their habitat, including upland habitat, for publication in the EIR. Commenters also suggested analysis of impacts on wetlands.

3.2.12 Land Use

Delta residents commented that the EIR should analyze impacts on zoning and land uses authorized by law on residential parcels, and that the EIR should both describe land use conflicts and mitigate for those conflicts. Comments were made that the proposed reusable tunnel material is inconsistent with existing zoning designations and that the EIR should acknowledge those conflicts.

3.2.13 Agricultural Resources

Many commenters expressed concern about the impact the project would have on agricultural resources and the livelihood of farmers in the Delta. Commenters raised issues with farmland potentially being taken out of production and soil potentially being affected by saltwater intrusion in the Delta. Many Delta residents and other commenters stated the project could have significant impacts on agricultural resource production.

3.2.14 Recreation

Numerous commenters voiced concerns that the project could have significant impacts on movement through navigable waterways. Boating interests expressed opposition to project construction. Other recreationists stated the project would result in indirect impacts to marinas and small boating businesses.

3.2.15 Socioeconomics

Many Delta residents suggested the EIR should consider socioeconomic impacts to Delta residents and communities, including impacts to businesses, sense of place, and livelihoods as a result of project construction and operation. Other commenters suggested that recreation impacts resulting from the project would cause indirect socioeconomic impacts, such as reduced business at local marinas. Commenters requested analysis to be performed on the potential impacts the project could have related to loss of local revenue for business and agricultural production, and for mitigation or environmental commitments to be included to offset those losses. Additionally, commenters raised concerns regarding the loss of property values for residents in primary and secondary zones of the Delta.

3.2.16 Aesthetics and Visual Resources

Commenters requested that the EIR disclose any potential visual disturbances to residents near the intake locations and other facilities such as the forebay. Commenters also raised concerns about potential visual disturbances recreationists might experience when using the river or riverbank.

3.2.17 Cultural Resources

Commenters raised concerns about impacts to historic structures in the area, especially those that are visitor attractions. Other commenters emphasized the importance of designing a project that preserves and avoids impacts to cultural resources in the Delta, which include the historic communities of Hood, Locke, Clarksburg and Walnut Grove. Commenters also raised concerns about the potential impacts of construction and ground-disturbing activities on archaeological sites and asked that construction monitors be provided during construction to ensure cultural resources are protected.

3.2.18 Transportation

Commenters requested an analysis of traffic impacts along routes in the Delta during project construction. Local residents expressed concern that project construction could have impacts to emergency vehicle access and school routes, and that mitigation should be considered for those

impacts. Other commenters expressed concern that construction traffic could degrade existing levees; they sought commitments that improvements and repairs would be made to levees that experienced construction traffic impacts.

3.2.19 Public Services and Utilities

Commenters raised concerns regarding emergency access both for construction crews, residents, and business in the project area. Commenters stated that there are few fire stations and emergency medical providers in the area that would be available to respond to potentially increased demand during project construction. Commenters also raised general concerns that the project could have impacts to public utilities such as gas, power and water service for residents and business in the project vicinity.

3.2.20 Energy

Commenters raised concern about project construction in and around existing power supply infrastructure and the potential effects it might have to the overall state energy grid. Other commenters raised general concerns regarding the overall energy footprint of the project.

3.2.21 Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Commenters requested analysis of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Specific comments focused on the study of air quality impacts from construction on rural communities and urban southwest Stockton. Other commenters called for an evaluation of carbon emissions during project construction and operation.

3.2.22 Noise

Commenters requested an analysis of impacts related to noise generated from pile driving for the EIR. Commenters also raised concerns about the potential impacts that noise associated with the construction of the project could have on businesses, schools, and residents in the project area.

3.2.23 Hazards

Commenters requested that the EIR evaluate the potential for construction activities to release hazardous materials both from ground disturbance and from structure demolition. Commenters also raised concerns regarding the potential for construction activities to intersect with existing oil and gas lines in the area and release hazardous materials. Other commenters stated that the tunnel material should be evaluated as a potentially hazardous material. Some commenters raised concerns regarding existing hazards in the project area associated with historic agricultural practices, requested an evaluation of those potential effects, and if needed, appropriate abatement measures.

3.2.24 Public Health

Commenters asked DWR to examine air pollution impacts as they relate to public health. Commenters also raised concerns regarding harmful algal blooms and mobilization of airborne cyanobacteria as a result of the project. Commenters also raised concerns about drinking water

quality for those who rely on Delta surface and groundwater supplies. Commenters also stated interest in potential impacts associated with mosquitos and mosquito-borne diseases.

3.2.25 Minerals

Commenters requested that the EIR address existing laws and regulations related to mining and mineral extraction.

3.2.26 Paleontological Resources

No comments regarding paleontological resources were identified.

3.2.27 Environmental Justice

Some commenters raised concerns that environmental justice was missing as a resource category in the NOP, that this resource category should be added, and that analysis on impacts to environmental justice communities should be conducted. Stakeholders in environmental justice communities, such as the south Stockton area, asked DWR to continue outreach and dialog throughout the project's development. Commenters asked for expanded outreach to environmental justice communities across the state of California and in the project area, including portions of eastern Contra Costa County, San Joaquin County, and in southern Sacramento communities. Other commenters stated that indigenous persons would face environmental justice impacts in the Trinity and Klamath River watersheds because of their connection to the water sources and fisheries in those rivers. Commenters suggested that harmful algal blooms could result because the project could carry airborne toxins that would have a disproportionate impact on environmental justice communities.

3.2.28 Climate Change

Multiple commenters requested a full evaluation of the possible effects the project might have on increased greenhouse gas emissions that could contribute to climate change. Commenters also asked for an evaluation of potential effects climate change might have on the existing and proposed conveyance facilities.

3.2.29 Growth Inducement

Commenters raised concerns that the project may cause growth in southern California, which would create more need for fresh water supply from the Delta. Other commenters raised concerns about growth inducement in the project area as a result of roadway improvements made to facilitate construction or to mitigate potential traffic impacts.

3.2.30 Tribal Cultural Resources

Commenters asked DWR to meet with tribes to discuss analysis for tribal cultural resources; these might include resources that hold cultural or spiritual importance for tribes. Commenters also requested proposing mitigation such as construction monitors to reduce or avoid potential impact to tribal cultural resources.

3.2.31 Public Involvement, Consultation, and Coordination

Commenters requested an extension of the scoping period from the original deadline of March 20, 2020. As the April 17, 2020 deadline approached, multiple commenters requested an extension of the comment period, citing the COVID-19 pandemic and unprecedented circumstances requiring Californians to shelter in place. Several commenters stated that they should be considered Responsible or Trustee Agencies under CEQA. Some commenters requested additional information regarding the participation of a federal agency as the NEPA lead. Commenters asked DWR to conduct the necessary coordination and consultation with regulatory agencies, and to examine all permits and approvals needed to construct the project.

Some commenters requested a 6-month public review period for the Draft EIR. Commenters also requested releasing information and technical reports to the public in advance of the Draft EIR. Many commenters requested regular progress updates, and to be added to the project email or mailing lists.

3.3 Consideration of Scoping Comments in the Draft EIR

All comments received on the scope of the EIR are reviewed by DWR. Comments are sorted and distributed to the appropriate subject-matter experts who are writing the environmental analysis for consideration in the development of the Draft EIR. Subject-matter experts review comments for issues related to the scope of the analysis and resources to be evaluated, for recommendations for methods and data to be used in the analysis, and for suggested mitigation measures. Comments are also reviewed by DWR for suggested alternatives and suggestions for modifying the proposed project to avoid or minimize impacts. Alternatives suggested during the scoping period will be considered in the process of developing a reasonable range of alternatives to study in the EIR.

Chapter 4
Works Cited

California Natural Resources Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency and California Department of Food and Agriculture. 2020. *2020 Water Resilience Portfolio.* https://waterresilience.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/California-Water-Resilience-Portfolio-2019-Final2.pdf.

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