

California Water Commission

Water Resiliency Portfolio Actions

August 19, 2020

Commission Responsibility

Action 19.4: Assess a state role in financing conveyance projects that could help meet needs in a changing climate.

Background

The need:

- Major conveyance structures are aging, damaged by subsidence and in need of repair.
- Adapting to climate change will require improved and new connections designed for different purposes than our historic infrastructure.

Action 19.4

Assess a state role in financing conveyance projects that could help meet needs in a changing climate

Workplan

The product:

- White paper & recommendations for state policymakers.
- Describe issues and financing mechanisms related to water conveyance infrastructure, such as:
 - Characteristics of resilient, climate-ready water conveyance projects.
 - Potential public benefits of projects.
 - Financing options and challenges.

Action 19.4

Assess a state role in financing conveyance projects that could help meet needs in a changing climate

Workplan

The product:

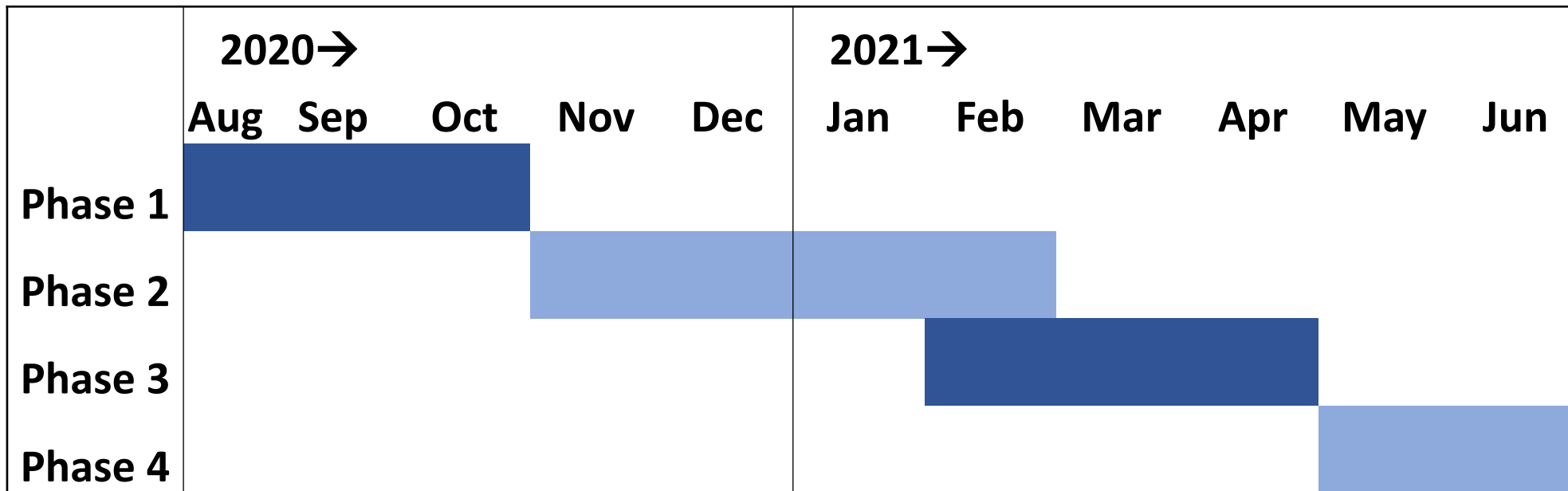
- The paper will not consider the pending proposal to improve State Water Project conveyance through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.
- The paper will not include an inventory of potential conveyance projects but will broadly mention different regional priorities.

Action 19.4

Assess a state role in financing conveyance projects that could help meet needs in a changing climate

Workplan

- **Phase 1:** Staff Research and Background Document
- **Phase 2:** Gather Public Input
- **Phase 3:** Draft Paper
- **Phase 4:** Commission Approval



Workplan

Phase 1: Staff Research and Background Document

August - October 2020

- Interview stakeholders representing the water industry, agriculture, environmental groups, disadvantaged communities, and others.
- Compile information into a background document for presentation at the October Commission meeting.



Workplan

Phase 1: Staff Research and Background Document

August - October 2020

- Interview topics:
 - Characterizing and evaluating resilient water infrastructure.
 - Prioritizing regional conveyance needs.
 - Assessing how regional needs impact state water resilience.
 - Examining the public benefits of conveyance infrastructure.
 - Understanding current and preferred financing mechanism.
 - Understanding other policy considerations.



Workplan

Phase 2: Gather Public Input

November 2020 - February 2021

- Four virtual, regionally focused workshops:
 - Northern California
 - Southern California
 - Central California
 - Southeastern California
- Invite public input from diverse interests, including small and under-represented communities:
 - How can conveyance assist in adapting to climate change?
 - What are potential mechanisms to pay for it?



Workplan

Phase 2: Gather Public Input

November 2020 - February 2021

- Complementary expert panels on relevant topics such as:
 - Innovative financing mechanisms
 - Financing challenges
 - Assessing public benefits
 - Defining resilience
 - Climate-ready conveyance



Workplan

Phase 3: Draft Paper

February - April 2021

- Summarize expert and public input and draft a policy paper for Commission consideration.
- Bring to Commission in Spring 2021.

Phase 4: Commission Approval

May - June 2021

- Revise paper based on Commission and public input.
- Finalize paper for delivery to Administration officials and the public by June 2021.



Alignment with Other Actions

Action 19.3: Conduct a feasibility analysis for improved and expanded capacity of federal, state, and local conveyance facilities to enhance water transfers and water markets. The analysis must incorporate climate change projections of hydrologic conditions.

- Assigned to DWR
- Commission staff will work closely with DWR to ensure alignment between 19.3 and 19.4

