



Public Outreach and Engagement Overview

A central and important focus of Delta Conveyance Project planning is maintaining a robust outreach and engagement program. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has and will continue to exceed all requirements for informing and involving the public, decisions-makers and other stakeholders throughout the course of the planning process and beyond. This outreach overview outlines DWR's commitment to provide information that is easily accessible, be responsive and promote transparency.



Environmental Justice

Consistent and accessible communication and information sharing with Environmental Justice communities in the Delta and surrounding region through various channels and in multiple languages (English, Spanish and Chinese).

- **Community survey** "Your Delta, Your Voice" (2020)
 - Gathered input from over 2,000 community members who live, work or recreate in the Delta
- **Community events in locations near the project footprint** with diverse audiences (2020 - ongoing)
 - Organized, participated in or attended 50 community events and meetings/briefings, reaching over 22,000 people
- **Environmental Impact Report (EIR) outreach** (Scoping and Draft EIR) (2020 - 2022)
 - Attended community meetings and events to provide information and technical assistance
 - Developed partnerships with community-based organizations
 - Distributed information through flyers, postcards, email notifications, and radio public service announcements



Delta Focus

Outreach and engagement with the people who live, work and represent the Delta to keep them informed and receive their valuable input.

- **Local County Supervisors:** Regular contact with supervisors in the five Delta Counties (San Joaquin, Sacramento, Yolo, Contra Costa and Solano) to provide relevant updates and information related to field work, public participation opportunities and other general topics. (2020 - ongoing)
 - 20 emails
 - 16 calls
 - 5 briefings
- **Community Benefits Program:** Extensive community engagement to develop the Community Benefits Program, which is aimed at finding ways to identify and implement local projects that can provide tangible and lasting benefits to local communities. (2021 - program administration)
 - Released Discussion Draft Implementation Plan and Guidelines for public review (October 11, 2024 - March 1, 2025)
 - Prepared fact sheets, infographics and other resources
 - Held 4 Community workshops and 2 Tribal workshops to help develop the program framework, which was included as part of the Draft EIR
- **Field Work:** Consistent communication with relevant audiences around field work activities, including traffic counts, soil explorations and investigations, and Built Environment resource surveys. (2020 - ongoing)
 - Regular communication with county supervisors regarding upcoming field work and communication with the public regarding the locations of planned testing sites through a two-week lookahead map the project website
 - Developed and implemented a comprehensive outreach plan for the State Highway 160 lane closure due to geotechnical explorations to inform community members and groups of planned activities and reduce impacts to the extent possible





State Water Project (SWP) Service Area Focus

Sharing information, materials and updates on a regular basis with various stakeholders in the SWP contractor service areas for use in communicating within their organizations and with their customers and networks. (2020 – ongoing)

- Participating Public Water Agencies: 18
- Local groups and organizations: 90
- Statewide organizations: 130
- Local media (English, Spanish and Chinese): 145



Public Participation:

Providing meaningful opportunities to access public review documents and respond through formal public input processes.

- 93-day scoping period, resulting in over 3,500 individual comments (2020)
 - 8 scoping meetings held across the state from Redding to Los Angeles
- 142-day comment period for the Draft EIR, resulting in 7,300 individual comments. (2022)
 - Notification via email (11,000+), targeted direct mailer (14,000+), flyers and posters (130+ locations), Legal ads (27), media and social media and county clerks
 - Draft document available on a dedicated website, at nearly 100 libraries across the state, at a DWR office and the State Clearinghouse
 - Prepared several companion materials to help in reviewing and commenting on the document, including fact sheets, videos and a toolkit
 - Commenting via email, mail, online comment form or at a virtual public hearing
 - Information and resources available in English, Spanish and Chinese



Public Outreach and Engagement Tools

Providing easily accessible information in a variety of formats and through various channels. (2019 – ongoing)

- Dedicated project website pages and planning process/permit portal website
- Regular electronic updates to the project distribution list of nearly 12,000 contacts
- Traditional and social media
- Events/briefings in the Delta and across the state
- Informational webinars
- Dedicated project email address and multilingual hotline
 - Informational materials
 - Fact sheets
 - Infographics
 - FAQs
 - Videos
 - StoryMap
 - Digital articles



Design and Engineering

Information sharing and stakeholder engagement around the design and engineering aspects of the project to help refine the project and support other planning processes.

- Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC) met on a regular basis to provide a forum for input on the preliminary design of the Delta Conveyance Project and optional concepts related to reducing possible construction-related localized Delta impacts and improving the effectiveness of mitigation. The SEC was comprised of Delta residents, business owners and other stakeholders. (2019 – 2021)
- Development of a wide range of materials, including A “Closer Look” fact sheets and videos, virtual tours, map books and other related items
- Delta Tours of various project features and other related locations, led by project representatives and subject matter experts: 19 tours with over 300 participants from regulatory agencies, participating water agencies, and community members



Tribal Engagement

Tribal consultation conducted under AB 52 and DWR’s Tribal Engagement Policy and continued outreach to Tribal communities, including Tribal leadership, representatives, and members, as well as other non-Tribally affiliated Tribal persons. (2019 – ongoing)

- Tribal consultation notification letters sent to 121 Tribes for consultation under AB 52 or DWR’s Tribal Engagement Policy (13 Tribes are consulting with DWR)
- Outreach via phone, email and formal notification letters
- Tribal-specific Community Benefits Program workshops and Draft EIR hearings
- Hosted annual Tribal informational meetings
- Participation in informational meetings as invited by Tribes
- Consultation under the Public Resources Code concluded prior to certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report but continues under DWR’s Tribal Engagement Policy. DWR is committed to continuing coordination and engagement with Tribes throughout implementation of the project’s mitigation measures. This includes hosting quarterly informational meetings for coordinating Tribes to provide project updates and discuss opportunities for Tribal participation in aspects of project construction and mitigation measure implementation.

