

Proposed Delta Conveyance Project

Community Benefits Program Second Tribal Workshop

October 25, 2021 • Workshop Begins at 2:00pm



Welcome



Objectives



- Learn progress of the Delta Conveyance Project and Community Benefits Program development
- Ensure greater understanding of Community Benefits Programs by providing examples of other programs and the types of things a Community Benefits Program could fund
- Provide opportunity to provide input on the continued development of the Delta Conveyance Project Community Benefits Program
- Ensure understanding of what the next steps are for program development

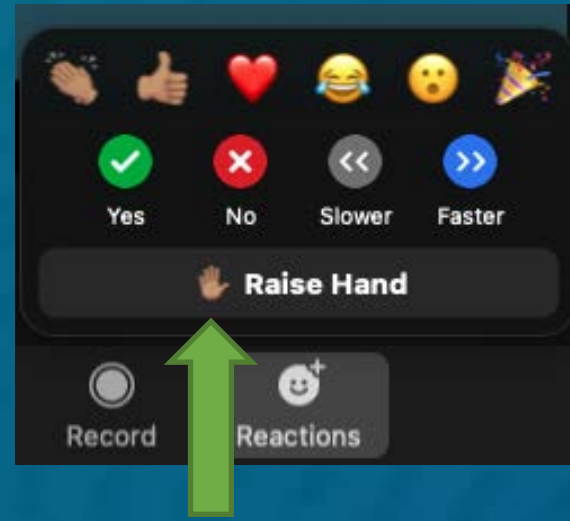


Agenda

2:00pm – 2:15pm	Welcome and Introductions
2:15pm – 2:25 pm	Agenda and How to Participate
2:25pm – 2:35 pm	Delta Conveyance Project Update
2:35pm – 2:45pm	Community Benefits Program Status and Engagement/Input Summary
2:45pm – 3:10pm	Community Benefits Program Examples
3:10pm – 3:55pm	Discussion and Input
3:55pm – 4:00pm	Next Steps



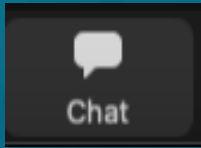
Questions & Input - Verbal



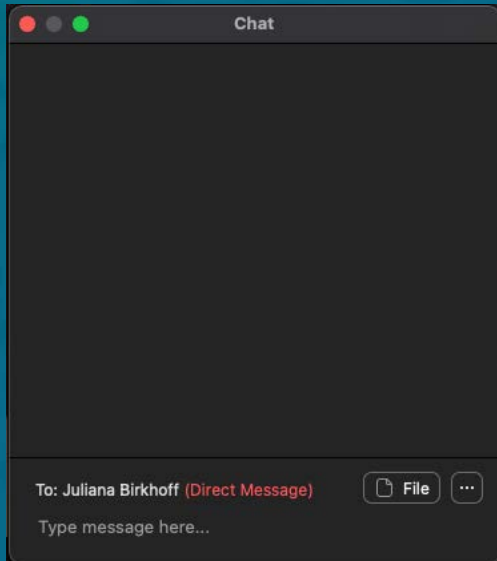
To provide input, click the **“Raise Hand”** icon. The facilitator will ask you to unmute your microphone and you will have two minutes to provide feedback on the Community Benefits Program.



If you have a question - Chat



If you have a question during the presentation, click on “**Chat**” and enter your question into the box.



Your question will be seen by the host and DWR will do their best to answer relevant questions after the presentation.



October 25, 2021

Delta Conveyance Project Update

Carrie Buckman

Environmental Program Manager

Delta Conveyance Project

Purpose

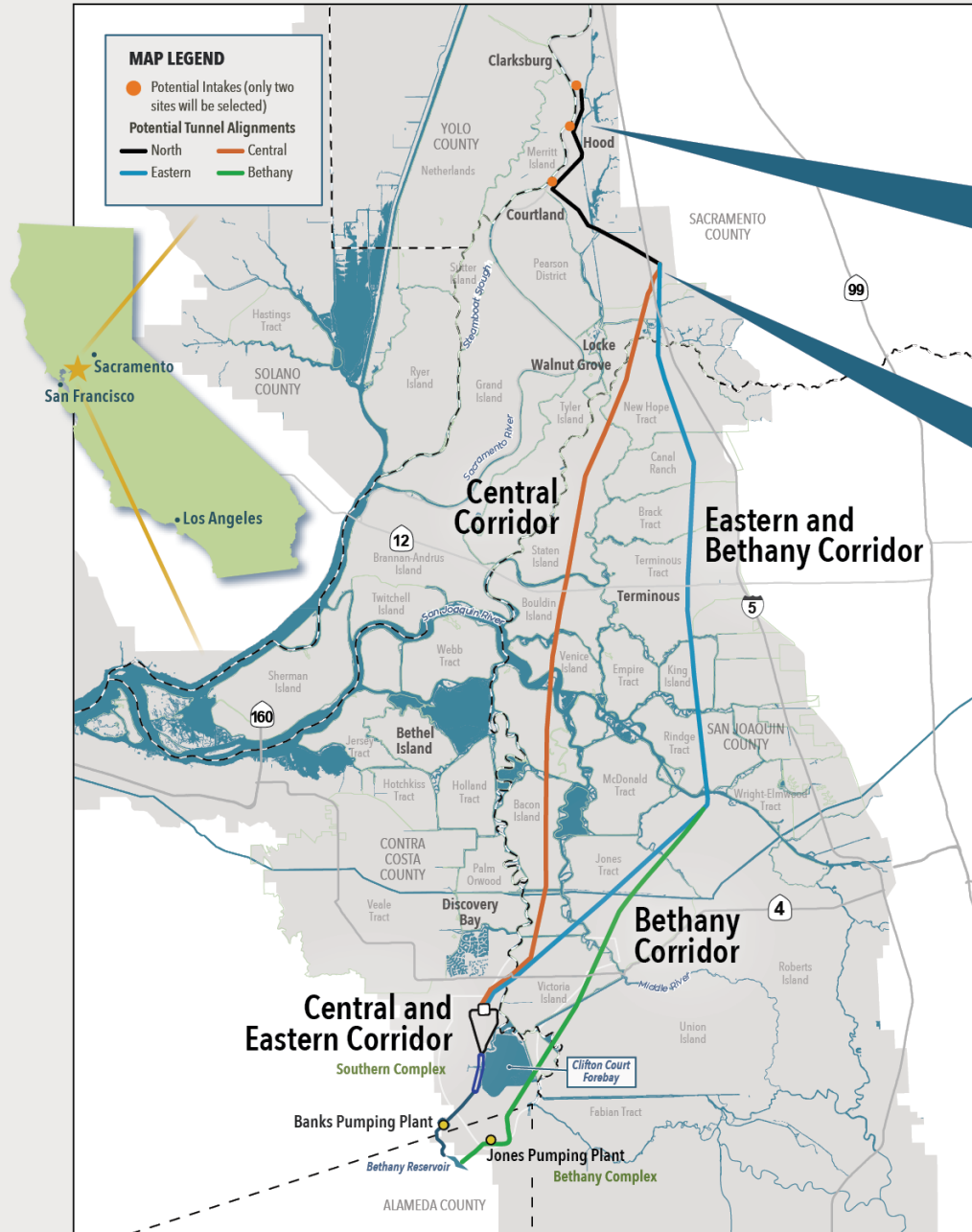
Modernize the aging State Water Project (SWP) infrastructure in the Delta to restore and protect the reliability of SWP water deliveries in a cost-effective manner, consistent with the State's Water Resilience Portfolio.

Objectives

- **Address** sea level rise and climate change
- **Minimize** water supply disruption due to seismic risk
- **Protect** water supply reliability
- **Provide** operational flexibility to improve aquatic conditions



PROJECT DETAILS



Proposed Facilities*

Two new intakes in the north Delta, each with 3,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) capacity, for the proposed project. Alternatives could include one, two, or three intakes.

One below ground tunnel, following an eastern, central, or Bethany corridor, designed to protect California's water supplies from sea level rise, earthquakes, subsidence and levee failure.

Operational Flexibility

 A new diversion facility would be operated together with existing South Delta pumping facilities

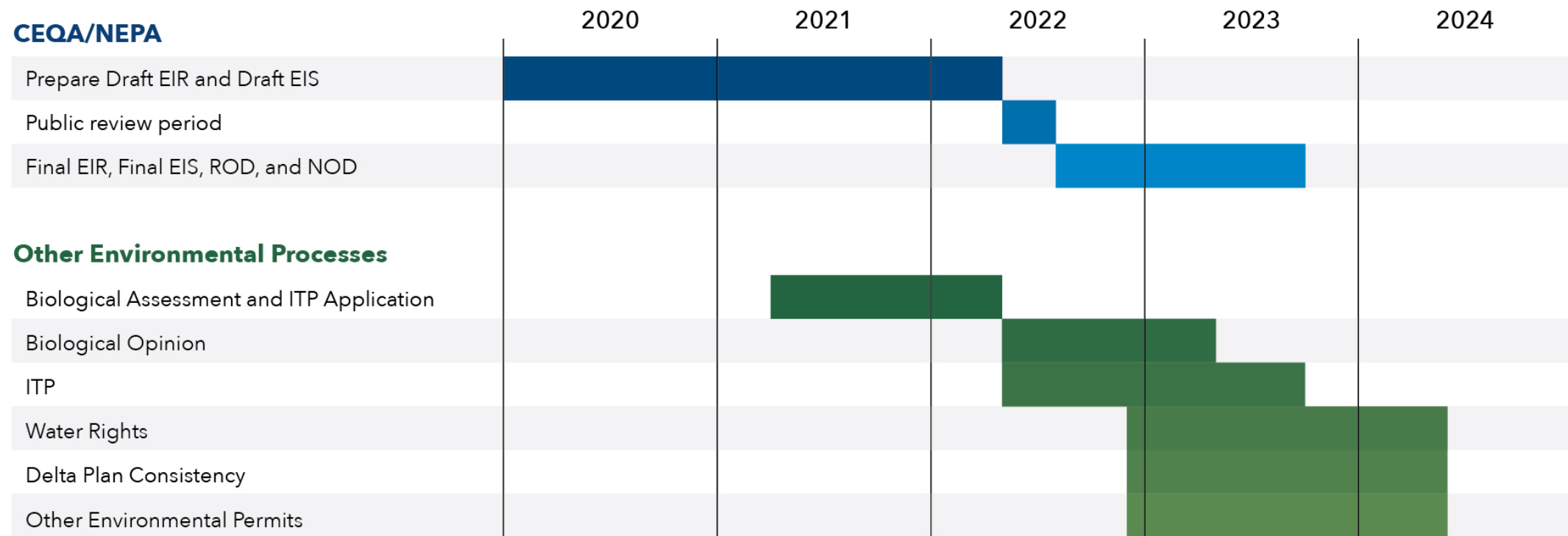
 Operations would increase DWR's ability to capture water during high flow events

**All proposed project details are subject to refinement. No final decisions will be made until the conclusion of the environmental review process.*



Current Project Schedule

Delta Conveyance Project Schedule



Clarifying Questions



October 25, 2021

Community Benefits Program Status and Engagement/Input Summary

Carrie Buckman
Environmental Program Manager

Juliana Birkhoff
Facilitator

Why Create a Community Benefits Program for the Delta Conveyance Project?

- Acknowledge that the direct project benefits (e.g. State Water Project reliability) are not located inside the Delta
- Acknowledge that if the project is approved it could have potential adverse effects that Delta communities may endure through construction
- Acknowledge the limitations of traditional CEQA “environmental mitigation” typically affords



Delta Conveyance Project Community Benefits Program Objectives

1. Provide a mechanism for the Delta community to identify opportunities for local benefits
2. Provide a mechanism for the project proponents to demonstrate good faith, transparency and accountability to the community through formal commitments developed with community member's input
3. Protect and enhance the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place



Proposed Delta Conveyance Project Community Benefits Program Components

Delta Community Fund

Grassroots framework to fund community priorities, developed and managed to empower local community

Project Implementation Commitments

- Hiring targets, jobs training and education
- Local business utilization
- Infrastructure and facilities



Three Distinct But Complementary Processes

Regulatory Mitigation

Purpose: Address project impacts related to specific regulatory requirements (e.g., CEQA/NEPA)

Community Benefits Program

Purpose: Provide resources to direct benefits toward communities most impacted by implementation, based on community collaboration.

Ombudsman Program

Purpose: Clearinghouse single point of contact to streamline information, support and claims. Includes ensuring just compensation as a result of direct construction impacts.



Community Benefits Program and Tribal Consultation

The commitments that would be included as part of the Community Benefits program:

- Separate and apart from required permit terms or environmental mitigation
- Go beyond traditional mitigation and commitments made during government-to-government Tribal consultation under AB 52 or DWR's Tribal Engagement Policy



Core Commitments

If the Delta Conveyance Project is approved, core commitments for a potential Community Benefits Program would include:

1

Transparent

Open process to collaborate effectively

2

Constructive

Participation in good faith with community to create a positive legacy

3

Inclusive

Broad stakeholder participation to expand capture of voices

4

Fair

Benefits related to localized nature of effects

5

Unconditional

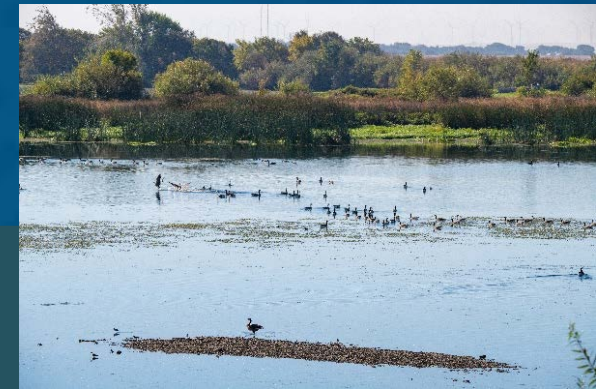
Community benefits are not dependent on support for project



Clarifying Questions



What Have We Learned So Far?



What We Learned from the Environmental Justice Survey (Fall 2020)

- We asked people what was most valuable to them. Everyone ranked highly natural environment, clean air and drinking water, habitat for fish, migrating birds and wildlife.
- All prioritized preserving and improving Delta, its community and economy, local agriculture and local recreation.
- Disadvantaged community members ranked clean air, safe drinking water and the natural environment as very important.
- We asked people what they liked most about the Delta. People ranked beautiful, rural landscape, natural environment, history, culture, and access to outdoor activities very highly.
- All participants spent several hours or more per week fishing, walking, or “just hanging out” in the Delta.
- These responses help to understand what kinds of community benefits are valuable for Delta residents, workers and visitors.



What We Learned From the Interviews and Workshops (Spring 2021)

- People do not like the Delta Conveyance Project but are prepared to discuss the Community Benefit Program.
- People ranked natural resources, water quality, recreation, agriculture and culture/ history as important benefit categories.
- People suggested language changes to the concept, purpose, objectives, and funding categories of the Community Benefits Program which have been incorporated.
- People made thoughtful and comprehensive suggestions about funding ideas to possibly include in a Delta Fund.



Suggestions

The following is a list of suggested ideas* that could potentially be included if a fund were set up in the Delta as part of a Community Benefits Program. The suggestions were provided to the Department of Water Resources in the 44 community interviews conducted, Workshop 1 and in written input received through a variety of channels.

Water and Air Quality

- Clean up trash and garbage
- Address algal blooms, pollutants, invasive plant species and salt water intrusion
- Provide clean drinking water systems
- Remove derelict boats
- Water hyacinth removal
- Manage dust
- Address road congestion (related to air quality)
- Establish waste water treatment or provide access to regional sanitation



Public Safety and Emergency Response

- Address homeless encampments
- Coordinate Sheriff response so someone comes out when you call
- Increase law enforcement throughout the Delta
- Swimming lessons for all Delta residents
- Help counties and towns deal with illegal dumping and constant theft
- Create a community center that can be used for emergencies and educational workshops and other activities
- Fire protection
- Make sure recreation areas stays safe and clean and provides benches and shade



Recreation

- Develop safe, shady and clean fishing, walking and picnicking recreation places throughout the Delta
- Connect urban river walk/bike trails throughout the Delta
- Create a history/culture walking trail along Mormon Slough from Scotts Ave to the river
- Connect green space at Reyes Park to the boat launch
- Work with youth to plant trees and community gardens all along the slough
- Access to river for non-motorized boaters
- Walking and biking trails including Rails to Trails
- Fishing access especially from shore
- After construction, convert the construction roads to walking and biking routes
- Complete the Great Delta Trail with campgrounds
- Reopen Delta Shores State Park
- Public access to natural places
- Support hatcheries within recreation as part of fisheries
- Connect the missing portion of the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail between Oakley and Pardee



Habitat Conservation

- Elk Slough Project
- Protect Golden Eagle habitat in hills behind Clifton Court
- Funding to farmers to put some of their land in habitat maybe in conjunction with NRCS
- Wildlife easements
- Land acquisition and purchase easements essential to connect the refuge habitats throughout the Delta
- Land acquisition to protect habitat from urban encroachment
- Funding for easements for a greater variety of habitat types than the NRCS Wetland Reserve Program funds



Culture and History

- Put up history and culture interpretative signs to connect to MiWok and other history
- Develop a community center large enough for whole community to meet in and for larger events
- Community center with multiple uses
- Prop 68 should guide the benefit types
- Land purchase for history and culture
- Beyond Legacy communities, includes cultural landscape, towns that no longer exist like old Chinatown



Suggestions

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Economy

- Visitor and Education Center at Junctions of Highways 12 and 160
- Facilitate multi-agency funding of the Isleton Community Plan
- Develop water-related jobs related to the River as a source of work
- Fund a Rural Main Street program similar to SACOG's to fund implementation of local community plans
- Provide communities assistance to people to develop ideas and write proposals
- Equal economic opportunity
- Communities need early planning, engineering, or architectural expertise
- Need more anchor businesses to attract tourists
- Economic development for local Delta residents
- Natural resource tourism
- Funds for legacy towns for board walks and main streets
- Address housing code violations-Sac and FEMA issues
- Recreational tourism
- County regulations of AirBnB to encourage more of that type of rental in the Delta
- Marketing the region for tourism



Infrastructure

- Improve infrastructure: roads, levees, communication, power
- Improve transportation corridors
- Access to reliable highspeed internet
- Use buses used in construction for a Delta shuttle
- More bus service to major cities and towns



Agriculture

- After construction, dedicate the construction roads to agricultural transport
- Marketing and tourism grants to hire staff that could work with agriculture businesses
- Incentivize agricultural innovations
- Incentivize wildlife-friendly agriculture
- Land and easement purchase
- Assistance for conversion to agriculture that can participate in carbon markets
- Housing for farm labor closer to agricultural areas (would improve traffic)



Education and Workforce Development

- Environmental education
- Schools have a backlog of infrastructure needs
- In-person, long-term, comprehensive, hands-on agricultural education
- Workforce development for low-skilled workers with emphasis on people with disabilities and youth
- Improve academics in schools
- Provide paid internship opportunities for young people



Levee Maintenance

- Diversions should have fish screens
- Infrastructure investments especially levees
- Financing for abandoned lands
- Support for Reclamation Districts and levee maintenance
- Address subsidence
- Raise the level of flood protection to Legacy communities
- Add funding for the Delta Levee Subventions and Special Projects programs



Clarifying Questions



October 25, 2021

Community Benefits Program Information and Models

Juliana Birkhoff
Facilitator

Community Benefits Programs Overview

- A defined set of commitments made by project proponents and created in coordination with the local community to create lasting, tangible and potentially significant economic and social benefit to the residents, businesses and organizations facing project impacts.
- Community benefits programs grew from smart growth and environmental justice movements to ensure that economic developments brought improvements to affected residents.
- Community benefit programs are frequently used in US and international development projects to ensure that local communities benefit from large scale infrastructure such as roads, dams, mines, and pipelines.



Community Benefits Programs Can Include...

- Agreements between project proponents and sponsors, municipal and regional governments, faith based and community-based organizations, and residents
- Municipal, County or State action that require project sponsors to negotiate or provide community benefits in any project
 - Standards and requirements for living wages, local hiring goals, job training programs, minority/women contracting goals, etc.
- Funds beyond regulatory mitigation for community priorities such as affordable housing, recreation, habitat restoration, flood control, infrastructure improvements, public art, and education



Different Approaches to Community Benefit Programs

Thames Tideway Sewage Tunnel

- Construction contractor surveyed communities along tunnel route to understand needs and priorities
- Permitting authority included prioritized community benefit projects in development consent order
- Several different entities implement jobs, art, public access, education, and community grants programs. Each entity has its own organization structure and budget from the Thames Tide construction contractor
- Municipal government, NGO's, contractor and public agencies meet in Forum to discuss successes and challenges



Different Approaches to Community Benefit Programs

Low County Alliance for Model Communities

- Low County Alliance organized community in response to Port Authority plans to expand Port and transfer facility
- LAMC and City of North Charleston developed and signed mitigation plan agreement to fund 4.08 million in community priorities
- Priorities include affordable housing, air, water, noise monitoring, maritime job training, and human health improvements
- City appointed a LAMC Working group to implement plan and City hired a planner to coordinate different efforts
- Community First Land Trust acquires land to implement affordable housing



Different Approaches to Community Benefit Programs

Morro Bay Wind Project

- Castle Wind signed an agreement with the City of Morro Bay to provide green jobs, clean energy and environmental education, reduced energy costs and other green investments
- Castle Wind signed a second agreement with Morro Bay Commercial Fishing Association to provide mutual benefits to fishing in Morro Bay
- Project not implemented yet, waiting for permitting



Discussion & Input

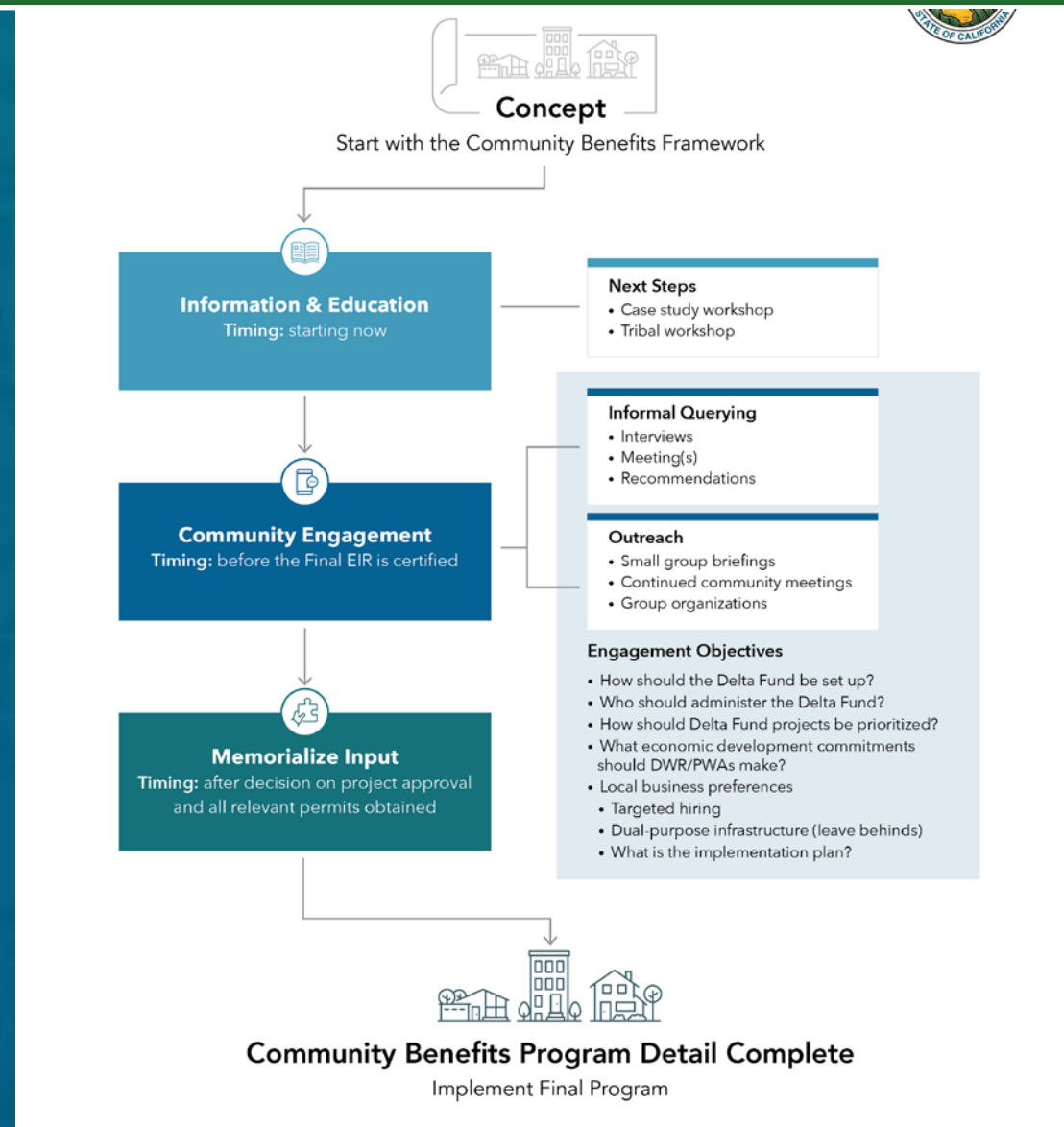


General Input & Feedback

00:02:00



Next Steps



Thank You for Participating!



Ways to Stay Informed



water.ca.gov

- Programs
 - State Water Project
 - Delta Conveyance



Project Hotline

866.924.9955



Twitter

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Project Email

DeltaConveyance@water.ca.gov

