



Delta Conveyance Project –
Update to Eastern Municipal
Water District

Jennifer Pierre, General Manager, State Water Contractors

www.SWC.org

# **Essential to Climate Adaptation Strategy**

- 01. California faces a future of water instability, more rain, less snow, and more frequent extreme events like drought and flood
- 02. The Delta Conveyance Project protects against future water supply losses caused by climate change, sea level rise, and earthquake
- 03. The Delta Conveyance Project helps ensure that the State Water Project can capture, move and store water by making the most of big, but infrequent, storm events

#### Potential Component of Drought Relief

MISSED OPPORTUNITY: If the DCP were operational in 2021, we could have captured and moved 236,000 acre-feet of water into the San Luis Reservoir.

### 236,000 acre-feet enough water to supply over 2.5 million nearly **850,000** Water people for one year households for one year

### **Prudent Public Policy**

- 27 million Californians rely on the State Water Project
  - That's 1 in 12 Americans, including about 6 million disadvantaged community members
- Communities must have confidence in the stability and efficiency of the State Water Project in the face of climate change
- Local resiliency requires a stable SWP
  - Recycling, groundwater management, storage and conservation
- Water managers need functional water infrastructure to meet all water supply needs, including health and safety, economy, environment and water equity.

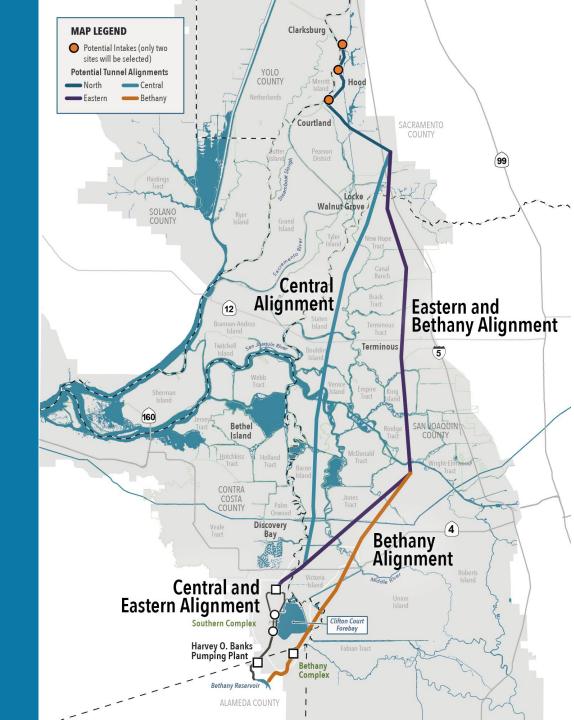
# Proposed Project (Bethany Alignment)

#### Proposed Project

- Bethany alignment
- 6,000 cfs
- 2 intakes
- Pumping plant connects the tunnel directly to Bethany Reservoir

#### Alternatives

- Central or Eastern alignment
- 1, 2 or 3 intakes
- 3,000, 4,500, 6,000 or 7,500 cfs
- Southern complex with pumping plant and forebay



## Worked hard over past 3 years to meet Governor Newsom's mission

#### **A Very Different Project**

- Changing from 2 tunnels to 1 tunnel opened the door to many design and engineering innovations
- The project is downsized, rerouted, redesigned and is responsive to community needs
- Took a fresh look at everything. Built on, but not constrained by, previous work
- Considered ways to minimize noise, traffic, power needs, aesthetic effects, boating and waterway effects, land disturbance

## Design Objective: Minimize Project Effects

#### **Some Examples:**

- Launch shafts moved away from intakes
- Proposed route avoids the central Delta
- Acreage needed to store tunnel material has been minimized
- Avoid using Highway 160
- Undergrounding power near sandhill crane habitat
- No new barge landings
- No new forebays



### Robust Community Engagement

- Environmental Justice/Disadvantaged Community focus using dedicated consultant and based on guidance about best practices from statewide experts
- Extensive coordination with Tribes
- First-of-its-kind Tribal impact analysis and mitigation
- Delta community engagement to obtain local insight during conceptual design/engineering to avoid and minimize impacts

## Committed to a Comprehensive Community Benefits Program

Acknowledge and address the reality that impacts are local to the Delta, but direct project benefits accrue to other parts of the state

- Overarching Delta Fund
- Leave-behind infrastructure
- Targeted hiring, job training and business participation expectations
- Open to town-by-town community benefits agreements

# Draft EIR Milestone Approaching

#### Draft Environmental Impact Report released July 27, 2022

- 90-day public comment period
- Draft EIS from Corps to follow for shorter review period
- Final EIR in fall 2023

## Questions?

### For Comparison

California WaterFix proposed
 alignment was through the central
 Delta

