BDCP
BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

Bay Delta Conservation Plan EIR/ EIS

Overview of the EIR/EIS

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Agenda

- Environmental Review Process
- Alternatives
  - Range of Alternatives
  - Preferred Alternative
  - CM 1 Operations
- Impacts & Mitigation
- Next Steps

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Environmental Review Process

Objectives of environmental review:

- Identify environmental impacts
- Evaluate reasonable alternatives to avoid or minimize impacts
- Develop mitigation -- ways to reduce or avoid impacts
- Public review and comment
- Information for decision-makers

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Alternatives

- 15 action alternatives and No Action/No Project Alternative described and analyzed
- Alternatives include:
  - Water conveyance facilities and five basic alignments
  - Operational criteria under eight scenarios
  - Habitat restoration and conservation activities
  - Measures to reduce stressors on covered species in the Delta

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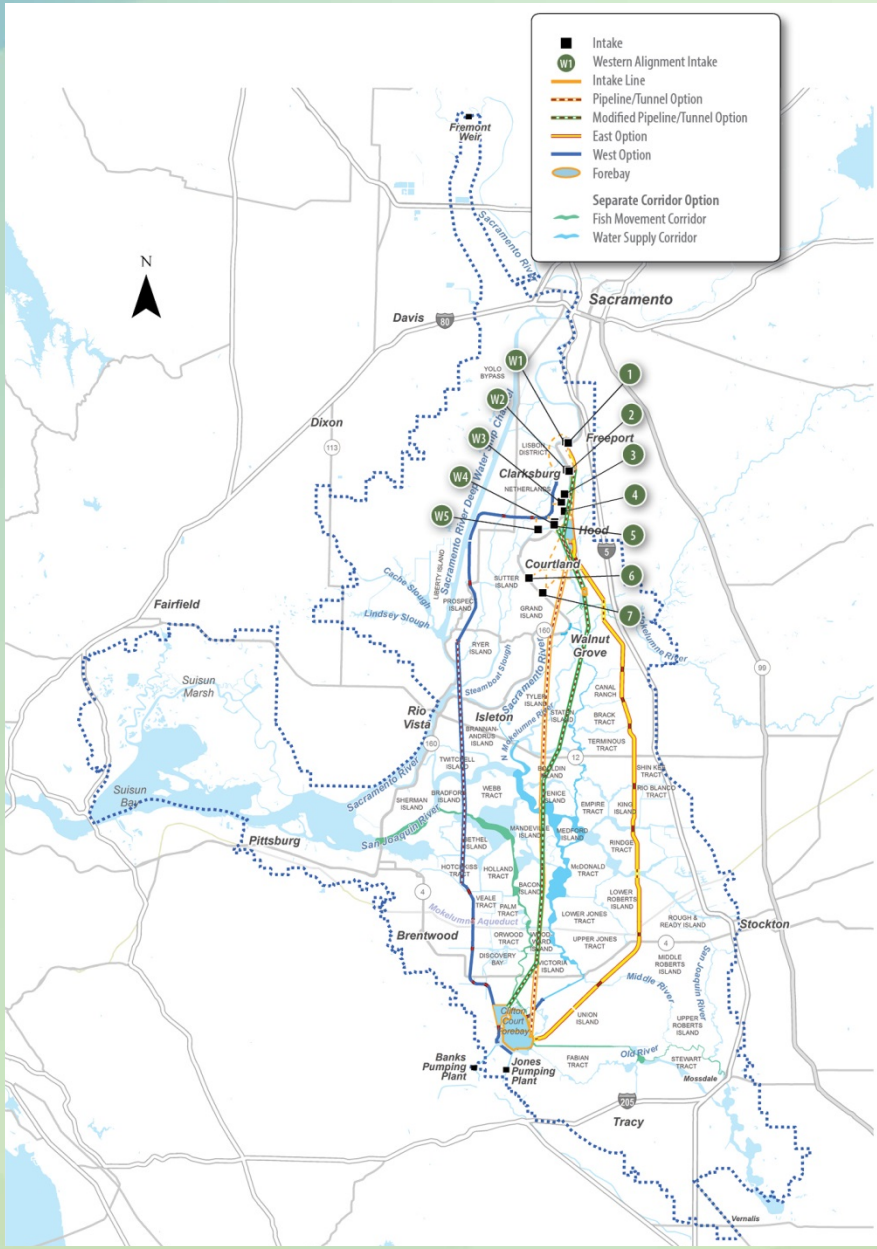
BDCP Alternative Alignments



ALTERNATIVE	CONVEYANCE ALIGNMENT	INTAKES	NORTH DELTA DIVERSION CAPACITY	OPERATIONAL SCENARIO	HABITAT COMPONENTS
No Action Alternative	N/A	None	Current Operations	N/A	8,000 acres of restored aquatic habitat
Alternative 1A	Pipeline/ Tunnel	1 through 5	15,000 cfs	A	Approx. 153,000 acres of restored, enhanced, and protected habitat
Alternative 1B	East	1 through 5	15,000 cfs	A	
Alternative 1C	West	W1 through W5	15,000 cfs	A	
Alternative 2A	Pipeline/ Tunnel	1 to 3, 6 and 7 or 1 through 5	15,000 cfs	B	
Alternative 2B	East	1 to 3, 6 and 7 or 1 through 5	15,000 cfs	B	
Alternative 2C	West	W1 through W5	15,000 cfs	B	
Alternative 3	Pipeline/ Tunnel	1 and 2	6,000 cfs	A	
Alternative 4	Mod -Pipeline/ Tunnel	2, 3, and 5	9,000 cfs	H	
Alternative 5	Pipeline/ Tunnel	1	3,000 cfs	C	Approx. 113,000 acres of restored, enhanced, and protected habitat
Alternative 6A	Pipeline/ Tunnel	1 through 5	15,000 cfs	D	Approx. 153,000 acres of restored, enhanced, and protected habitat
Alternative 6B	East	1 through 5	15,000 cfs	D	
Alternative 6C	West	W1 through W5	15,000 cfs	D	
Alternative 7	Pipeline/ Tunnel	2, 3, and 5	9,000 cfs	E	Approx. 163,000 acres of restored, enhanced, and protected habitat, additional channel margin habitat and seasonally inundated floodplain
Alternative 8	Pipeline/ Tunnel	2, 3, and 5	9,000 cfs	F	Approx. 153,000 acres of restored, enhanced, and protected habitat
Alternative 9	Through-Delta/ Separate Corridors	channel modifications	15,000 cfs	G	

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Alternative 4 – Preferred Alternative

- Alignment: Modified Pipeline/Tunnel
- Dual Conveyance
- Intakes 2, 3, 5
- North Delta Diversion Capacity: 9,000 cfs
- Operational Scenario H
- Approximately 153,000 acres of restored, enhanced and protected habitat

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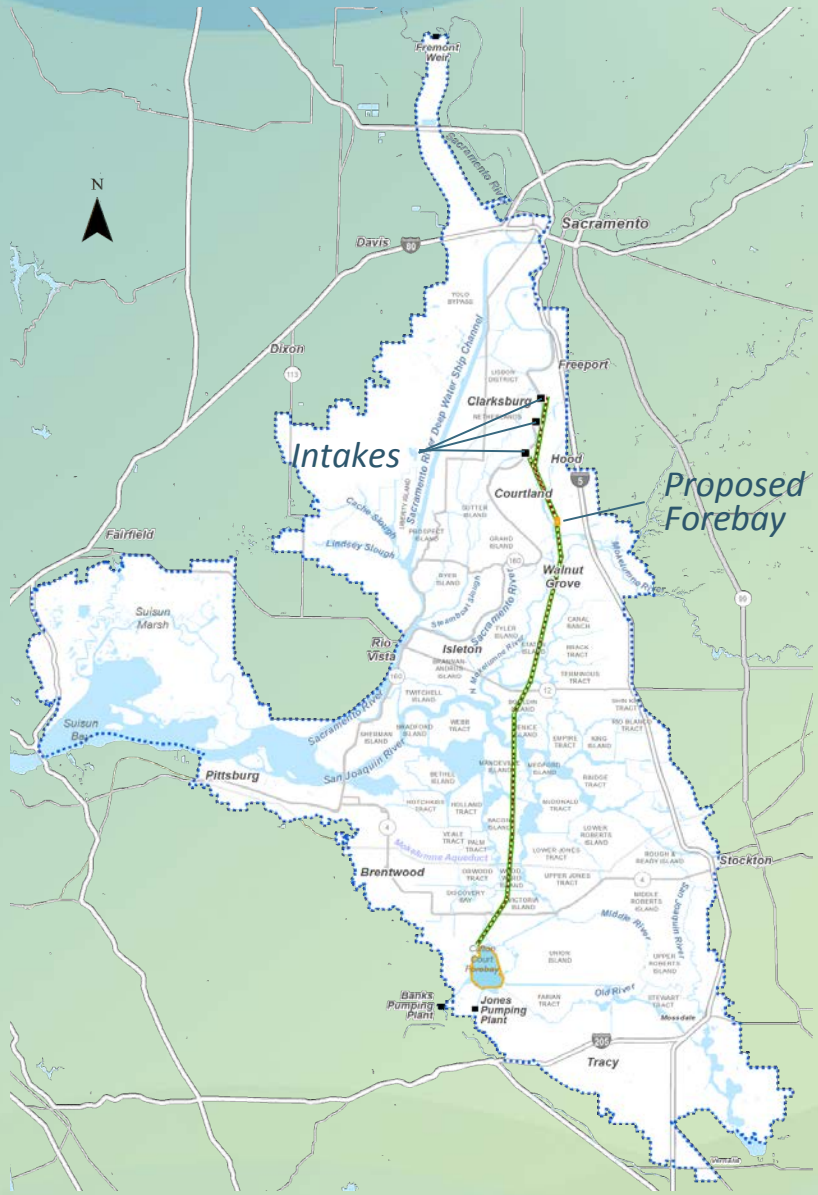
Alternative 4 – Preferred Alternative



New Water Facilities

- Three north Delta intakes, each 3,000 cfs capacity, with state of the art fish screens
- 40 acre forebay
- Two 30-mile long gravity-fed main tunnels
- New Head of Old River operable gate
- Improvements and expansion of Clifton Court Forebay

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Alternative 4 – Operations

- Specific criteria guide operations:
  - Current Delta Rules
  - Current North of Delta Water Rights
  - North Delta diversion bypass flows
  - South Delta channel flows
  - Fremont Weir/Yolo Bypass outflow
- Decision-tree process for CM1.

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Impacts and Mitigation Measures

- Alternatives evaluated at *project-level* and *program-level* of detail.
- Project-level
  - Conservation Measure (CM) 1 evaluated at project-level – facility location, size, operations, and associated mitigation.
- Program-level
  - Environmental effects of CM2-CM22 evaluated at program level.
  - Some CMs will require project-level analysis before implementation.

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Impacts & Mitigation

- The BDCP EIR/EIS describes:
  - Potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts for 26 Resource Areas
  - Adverse and Significant Impacts
  - Mitigation to minimize, avoid, or reduce significant impacts
  - Mitigation Measures fully reduce potential effects?

Impacts & Mitigation

- Baselines and points of comparison
  - CEQA: Existing Conditions
    - Environmental conditions as of 2009
    - Comparisons to Existing Conditions often incorporate effects of BDCP alternatives as well as the effects of climate change, sea level rise, and selected programs and projects
  - NEPA: No Action Alternative
    - Environmental conditions projected in 2060
    - Comparisons to the No Action Alternative isolate the effects of BDCP alternatives

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Impacts & Mitigation

- Temporary and Permanent Impacts
- Alternative 4 Impacts
  - Most of the 600 + Impacts are identified as beneficial or less than significant; 47 impacts are significant
  - Beneficial and LTS Effects for Covered Fish and Wildlife Species
  - Construction Impacts of conveyance facilities and restoration
  - Minor surface water effects but potential for some Delta water quality effects
- Cumulative impacts
  - Cumulative impact analysis considers the effects of an alternative that may be significant when combined with effects from other existing or reasonably foreseeable projects

Mitigation

- Mitigation: measures to reduce, minimize or compensate for environmental impacts.
  - Measures recommended for all SU impacts
  - Conservation measures and environmental commitments
  - CEQA requires adoption of feasible mitigation to reduce significant impacts to a less-than-significant level
  - NEPA guidance encourages lead agencies to consider mitigation measures

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Resource Areas in EIR/EIS

- Water Supply
- Surface Water
- Groundwater
- Water Quality
- Geology and Seismicity
- Soils
- Fish and Aquatic Resources
- Terrestrial Biological Resources
- Land Use
- Agriculture
- Recreation
- Socioeconomics
- Aesthetic and Visual Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Transportation
- Public Services and Utilities
- Energy
- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases
- Noise
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Public Health
- Minerals
- Paleontological Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Climate Change
- Growth Inducement