

Update on Delta Stewardship Council and Draft Delta Plan EIR

Bay-Delta Committee
Item 4a, December 13, 2011

Presentation Outline



- Status and process
- Proposed Project – The Draft Delta Plan
- Other Draft EIR alternatives
- Areas evaluated
- Next steps

Status & Process



- Draft EIR released Nov. 4
- 90 day review/comment period, ending Feb 2
- Public hearings – 6 statewide

Who might this impact?



- Upstream of Delta
- In-Delta
- South of Delta

EIR Proposed Project/ Draft Delta Plan



- 12 proposed policies, including:
 - Covered action process
 - Flow proceedings by SWRCB
 - Reduced reliance actions
- 61 recommendations

Key Concerns with Proposed Project/Draft Plan

- Focuses on water supply reliability solely through local resource investments
- Implies reduced Delta diversions compared to present
- Creates additional BDCP approval requirements
- Bases consistency determinations on local actions
- Dictates SWRCB schedule for Delta flow objectives
- Lacks strategic levee investment strategy

Draft EIR Main Alternatives

- Proposed Delta Plan
- No project
- Alt 1A: increased water reliability
- Alt 1B: increased water reliability - Ag/Urban Coalition proposal
- Alt 2: based on comments from environmental interests
- Alt 3: based on comments from in-Delta interests



How we will review the EIR



- Is the draft adequate under CEQA?
- How does the draft address BDCP?
- Does the draft provide a fair analysis of the environmental impact of each alternative?
- Does the DSC have the legal authority to accomplish its proposed project?

Next Steps

- January Committee & Board Meeting updates
- By February 2 provide comments in coordination with other water agencies
- March/April – DSC to release 6th Draft Plan
- April/May – final Delta Plan and EIR released
- April/May – DSC votes to approve Plan & certify EIR