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Delta Conveyance Project

California Water Commission Briefing

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Time to Modernize Is Now – Risks are Mounting

The infrastructure that protects, collects and moves water through the Delta to California communities is outdated and at risk. A major disruption would result in a catastrophic public health crisis.

Primary risks to SWP conveyance infrastructure in the Delta:



Seismic activity and risk of major earthquake



Climate change and sea level rise



Subsidence of Delta islands puts increased pressure on levees



Delta Conveyance Project

Purpose

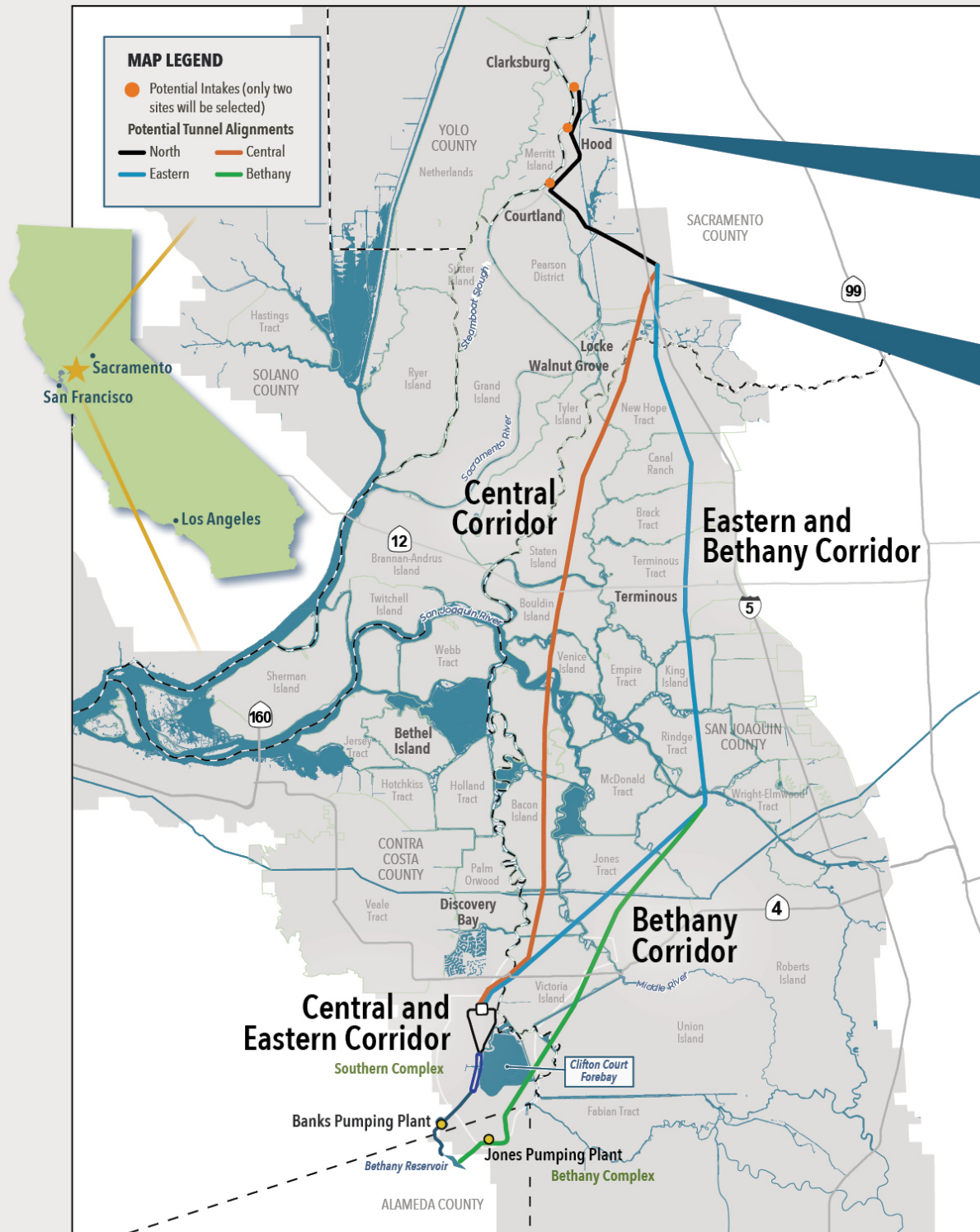
- Modernize the aging SWP infrastructure in the Delta to restore and protect the reliability of SWP water deliveries in a cost-effective manner, consistent with the State's Water Resilience Portfolio.

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.

One below ground tunnel, following an eastern or central 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

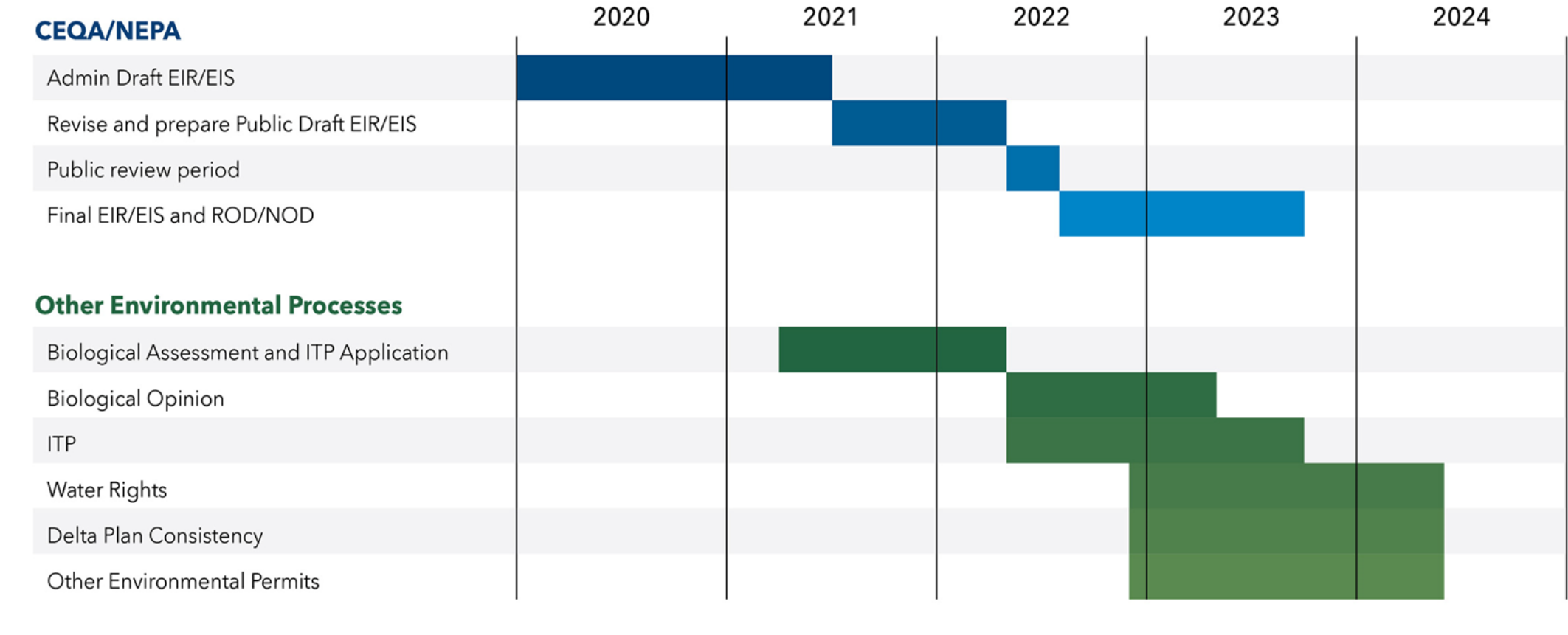
*All proposed project details are subject to refinement. No final decisions will be made until the conclusion of the environmental review process.





Current Project Schedule

Delta Conveyance Project Schedule



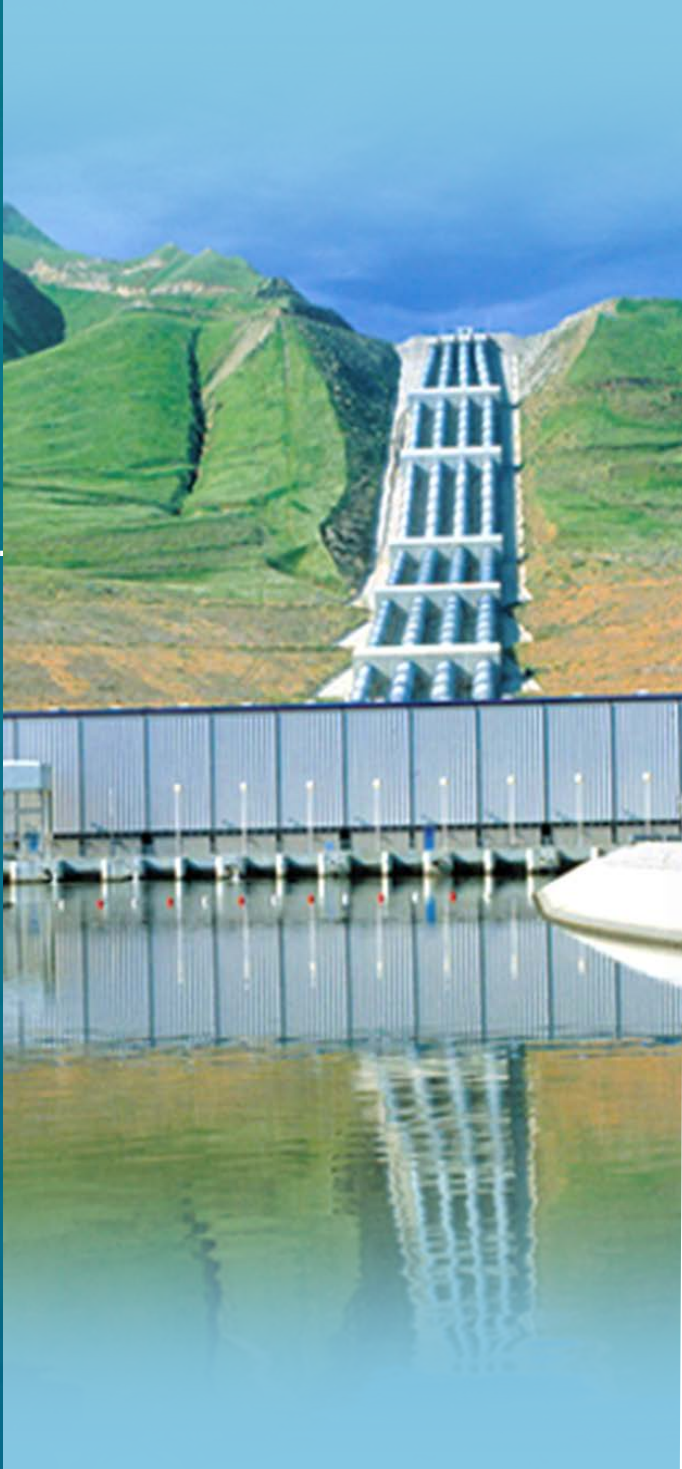
2020 Year in Review

- January 2020: State released draft Water Resilience Portfolio and DWR issued an NOP for a proposed single tunnel project, initiating the CEQA scoping process
- Feb-Mar 2020: Scoping meetings held throughout CA
- April 2020: CEQA scoping period closes
- June 2020: DWR submits Section 404/10 Application to USACE
- July 2020: Scoping Summary Report published capturing scoping-related information including comments received and scoping meeting transcripts
- August 2020: USACE released an NOI initiating the NEPA EIS process



2021 Planned Activities CEQA/NEPA

- Refine modeling tools to assist in impact analysis
- Assess potential impacts
- Identify mitigation measures to reduce impacts
- Revisit options to reduce impacts through design modifications
- Develop and review internal draft Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement



2021 Planned Activities ESA/CESA

- Collaborate with regulatory agencies to develop operational criteria
- Identify tools to assess potential effects
- Develop preliminary draft materials for Biological Assessment (for ESA) and Incidental Take Permit Application (for CESA)



2021 Planned Activities

Other Permits

- Water rights: coordinate EIR analysis with State Board as a CEQA Responsible Agency
 - DWR will petition for a change in point of diversion in late 2021
- Delta Plan Consistency: coordinate with Delta Stewardship Council staff through early consultation
 - DWR will submit a Certification of Consistency with the Delta Plan



2021 Planned Activities

Soil Investigations

- Complete soil borings and cone penetration tests under the 2020 Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
- Seek permission from landowners through Temporary Entry Permit process
- Utilize process established through the courts from past soil explorations to obtain entry on identified parcels



Outreach Plans

Public Information

Informational tools

Informational Webinars

A deeper dive into topics of interest in advance of the Draft EIR

Community Benefits Program

Create a framework and process—with community input

Design-Focused Stakeholder Engagement

Further reduce impacts or improve mitigation

Public Participation

DEIR public review draft planned for mid-2022

Agency Coordination

Ensure permit/planning process moves forward with efficiency



Community Benefits Program: Concept

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.



Why Create a Community Benefits Program?

- 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.



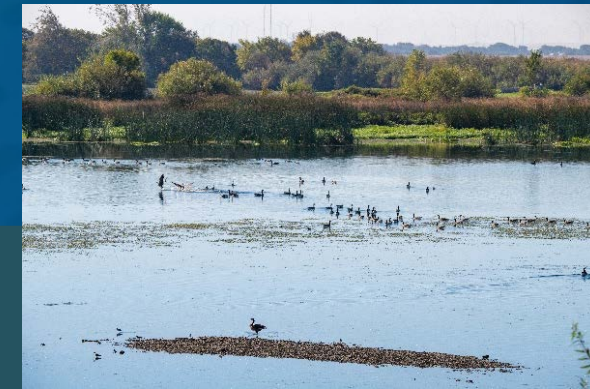
Two Community Benefits Program Components

1. Delta Community Fund

Grassroots framework for fund development and management that empowers local community

2. Project Implementation Commitments

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



Framework Development Process

- Informal community interviews in February/March 2021
- Community Workshops
 - Workshop #1: Concept
 - Workshop #2: Ideas for Delta Fund
 - Workshop #3: Implementation Commitments
 - Economic development (targeted hiring, local business utilization, job training)
 - Infrastructure leave-behinds
- Draft EIR – Appendix (mid-2022)
- Ongoing public engagement to further develop program





Goal of “Your Delta, Your Voice” Survey

Photo: The Mercury

To gather direct input from disadvantaged (DAC) communities in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta region that may be disproportionately affected by the proposed Delta Conveyance Project.

Focus on communities that are historically burdened, underrepresented, people of color, and low-income communities of interest, including tribal members



Survey Questions

Screen 1: A
welcome and
overview

Purpose

Some education

Screen 2:
Priorities

What's important to
you?

Suggest your own
priority

Screen 3:
Special Places
using Map

Businesses

Gathering spots

Fishing

Historic and cultural
sites (some
confidential)

Other special places

Screen 4:
Delta
Community
Needs

What respondents
like best and have
concerns about in
the Delta region

Economic wellbeing
and identifying social
services

Experience in nature

Opinions on
Concerns and
benefits of the Delta
Conveyance Project

Screen 5:
Demographics

Zip code

Ethnicity

Language

Income

Email (anonymous)



Results of Survey

REPORTING SETS FOR ALL SURVEY FINDINGS:

2117 total participants

540 Delta Region DAC Participants

DAC is defined as:

- *Non-white or*
- *Household income is less than \$60,000 or*
- *By zip code and household income is less than \$75,000*

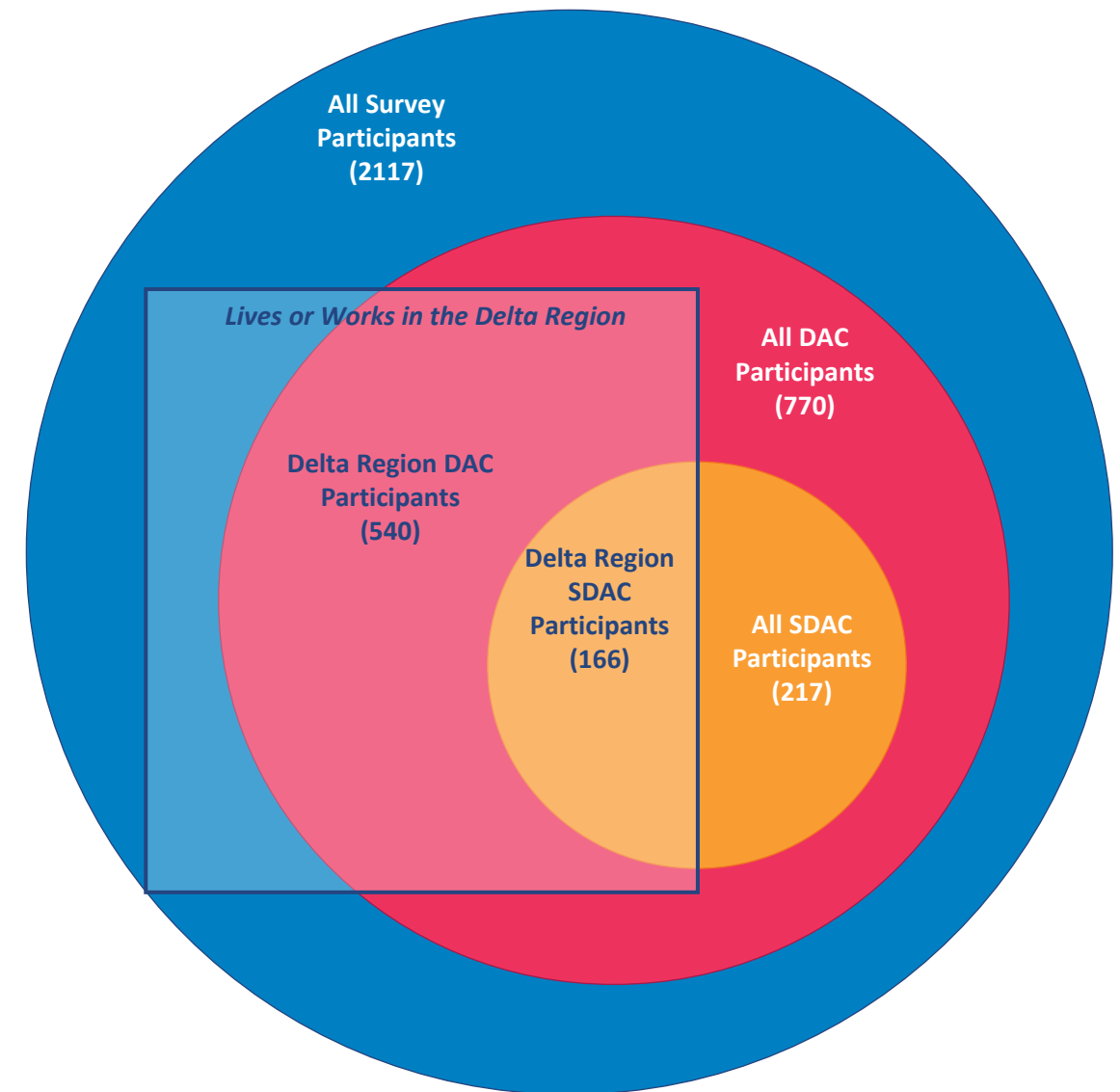
DAC includes 166 Delta Region SDAC Participants

SDAC is defined as

- *Household income is less than \$45,000 or*
- *By zip code and household income is less than \$60,000*

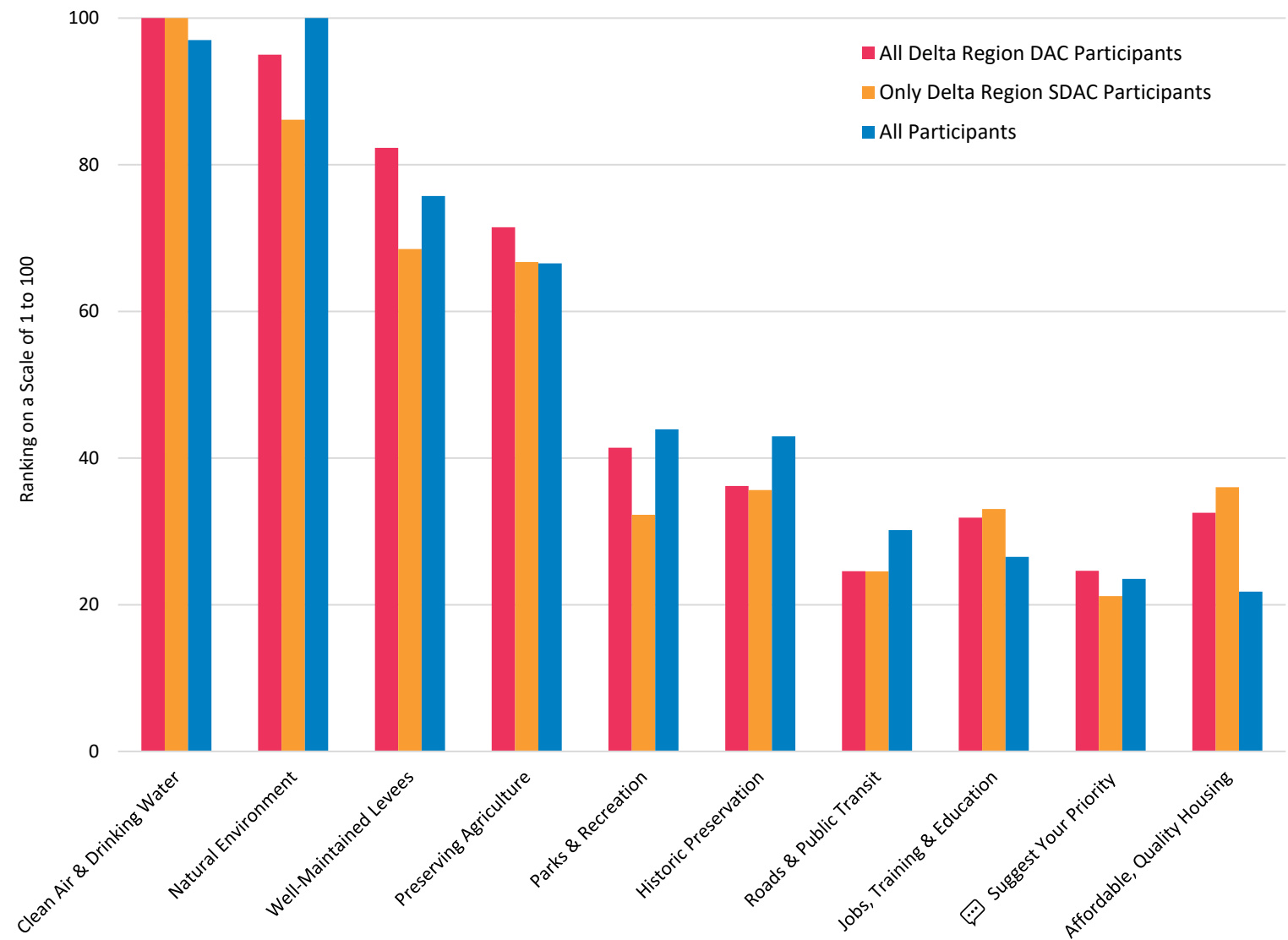
Chinese Survey Respondents: 311

Spanish Survey Respondents: 12



There were consistent, high priority themes of clean air and drinking water, the natural environment, habitat for fish, migrating birds and wildlife.

What's Important to You?
 Comparing Priorities Between Delta Region DAC, the Portion Categorized as Delta Region SDAC, and All Survey Participants



Rankings are weighted by multiplying a priorities average rank by the number of times it was chosen.



Key Takeaways

- Robust participation
- Delta DAC participants have strong interests in
 - Natural environment and outdoor recreation
 - Services are needed, strong emphasis on homelessness
 - Preserving the Delta and community
 - Hiking, walking and running
- No surprise: Anti-project sentiment, paired with an idea that people don't understand the potential impacts and benefits of the project, which makes it hard to engage



Ways to Stay Informed



water.ca.gov

- Programs
 - State Water Project
 - Delta Conveyance



Project Hotline

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