



State Water Project Briefing: Construction Update

Introduction

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) manages the California State Water Project (SWP) to ensure adequate water supplies are available under various hydrologic and legal conditions while maintaining SWP operational flexibility. This briefing will inform the Commission about key construction activities undertaken in the past year to manage and maintain the SWP. The projects are occurring across the entire length of the SWP and include all the major facility types – dams, canals, pipelines, pumping and generating plants. These projects represent DWR’s efforts to modernize fire and life safety programs, to identify and implement needed repairs, and to refurbish aging infrastructure.

Background

The California State Water Project, consisting of 36 water storage facilities and 700 miles of rivers, pipelines and canals, supplies water to 27 million people and irrigates 750,000 acres of farmland. The system includes 21 pumping plants, powered by a system of power-generation and power-recovery plants. The Department of Water Resources also operates the world’s tallest water lift – the Edmonston Pumping Plant – which pumps water more than 1,900 feet up and over the Tehachapi Mountains into Southern California.

Goal Two of the Commission’s Strategic Plan directs the Commission to remain apprised of the operations and construction activities of the State Water Project, focusing on how the SWP adapts and responds to hydrological extremes expected with climate change, restores critical ecosystems, and addresses aging infrastructure. As required by Water Code section 165, the Commission conducts an annual review of the progress of the construction and operation of the SWP and reports its findings and recommendations to the Department and the Legislature. This presentation will update the Commission on SWP construction activities over the past year, in preparation for the Commission’s 2020 annual review.

Meeting Overview

At the November meeting, SWP Operations and Maintenance Assistant Division Chief, Behzad Soltanzadeh, will brief the Commission on the status of major State Water Project investigative, construction, and refurbishment efforts for 2020.

This is an informational item.

Agenda Item: 11

Meeting Date: November 18, 2020

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