



## Update on Conveyance Activities

### Introduction

As directed by the Water Resilience Portfolio, the Commission assessed a State role in financing conveyance projects to meet the needs of a changing climate. The Commission used information gathered via expert panels, interviews with interested parties, and public workshops to produce a white paper for state policymakers that describes the essential criteria for resilient water conveyance projects that meet the needs of a changing climate, the potential public benefits of such projects, and the implications of various financing options. The Commission released its white paper, [\*A State Role in Financing Conveyance to Meet Climate Change Needs: Findings and Conclusions\*](#), in June of 2021.

In response to a previous request by the Commission, Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff will provide an update on their activities related to the Commission's June 2021 white paper on conveyance. The Commission will hear from Michael Sabbaghian, Executive Advisor, about the Conveyance Subsidence Program, and Ajay Goyal, Manager of the Statewide Infrastructure Investigations Branch in the Division of Planning, about the San Joaquin Valley Conveyance Study.

### Conveyance Subsidence Program

Four canal segments of the State and federal water supply systems in California have lost up to 60% capacity due to subsidence of the land beneath the canals. The 2021 and 2022 California Budget Act included a total of \$200 million to restore lost capacity and directed DWR to administer a funding program pursuant to which both DWR and other agencies will receive a share of the funding. The State's one-third share of the total \$2.35 billion cost is estimated to be \$785 million over 10 years. Federal and local program partners also each have a one-third cost share.

DWR established a program to expedite distribution of the initial \$200 million of State local assistance funds, administer future state funds, and incentivize partners to secure federal and local cost shares to fully implement repairs needed to recover conveyance capacity for climate resiliency. DWR considered and integrated portions of the Commission's conveyance white paper when establishing the program.

### San Joaquin Valley Conveyance Study

DWR is conducting a San Joaquin Valley Conveyance Study to better understand the risks and vulnerabilities in the Valley and how a modernized conveyance system can help address them.

The study is directed by Water Resilience Portfolio action 19.3 and is built upon the Commission's conveyance white paper.

The presentation on the San Joaquin Valley Conveyance Study will cover the following:

- Risks and vulnerabilities to the San Joaquin Valley from climate change
- Objectives of the study
- List of related previous studies
- Water imbalance in the Valley
- Loss of conveyance capacity due to subsidence

The presentation will also include the study plan and timeline.

### **Background**

On July 28, 2020, the California Natural Resources Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture issued the final [Water Resilience Portfolio](#) (portfolio) in response to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-10-19, which calls for a "set of actions to meet California water needs through the 21st century." The portfolio outlines a broad suite of actions designed to move the state toward water resilience. The portfolio calls on the Commission to fulfill Action 19.4: assess a state role in financing conveyance projects that could help meet needs in a changing climate. Action 19.4 is embedded in a section of the portfolio that is focused on building connections, which includes actions designed to help increase physical connections and coordination between and among the decentralized elements of California's water system.

The Commission's work on conveyance implements Goal One of the Strategic Plan, which calls on the Commission to "serve as a primary public forum for the discussion of improving water management policy to assist regions in achieving climate resiliency ... including those actions of the Water Resilience Portfolio assigned to the Commission."

### **Meeting Overview**

The Commission will hear from DWR staff, take comments from the public, then have an opportunity to discuss this item. This is an informational item.

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