The Delta Conveyance Project in Practice

Increased System Flexibility – Reliable Water Supplies

Every water year is unique, with some being dry and others wet. California's climate has always been highly variable, and as the climate changes, precipitation patterns are becoming even more unpredictable, wildly swinging from extreme drought to intense precipitation and flooding. Four years of data show the Delta Conveyance Project provides water supply benefits regardless of the water year type by adding system flexibility to improve water management and adapt to changing weather patterns and sea level rise.

Key: Water Supply Conditions | DCP Improvements

2025

- Significant regional differences – wet in the North, dry in the South
- Dry January statewide, plus numerous fishery conditions and other fishery limitations

Groundwater Recharge

- With San Luis Reservoir near capacity, DCP water could have helped replenish groundwater banks

2022 – *Critically Dry*

- Third year of drought
- Only 5% SWP allocation
- Emergency conservation mandates in effect

Safe Capture

- During two flashy storm events, an alternate diversion point could have safely captured additional supplies,which are vitally needed in a 5% allocation year

MODERNIZE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

MOVE WATER MORE SAFELY AND EFFICIENTLY

2024 – *Above Normal*

- More fish constraints than recent years
- Unusual steelhead congregation near pumps limiting operations most of February and all of March
- Only 40% SWP allocation

System Optimization

- North Delta diversions would not have faced the same fish restrictions due to location, providing flexibility to optimize the system
- Two-thirds of DCP water could go to fill San Luis Reservoir with the rest available to refill local surface and ground water storage

2023 – *Wet*

- High flows delayed until January
- Fish protections triggered in January
- Dry February conditions
- Low storage conditions

Improved Storage

- DCP could have helped restore storage and avoid operational limitations during dry February conditions

MISSED OPPORTUNITY

If the Delta Conveyance Project was operational over the past four winters, a significant amount of water could have been captured and moved.

	Amount of water that could have been captured:*	That's enough water to supply:		
Water Year 2022	110,000 acre-feet	Over 1.1 MILLION people for one year	OR	Over 385,000 households for one year
Water Year 2023	186,000 acre-feet	Nearly 2 MILLION people for one year	OR	Over 650,000 households for one year
Water Year 2024	815,000 acre-feet	Over 8.5 MILLION people for one year	OR	Over 2.8 MILLION households for one year
Water Year 2025 (Oct 1, 2024 – June 5, 2025)	956,000 acre-feet	Over 10 MILLION people for one year	OR	Over 3.3 MILLION households for one year

*Estimates have been updated to reflect the Incidental Take Permit

Operations of the Delta Conveyance Project would:

- **Prioritize South Delta** to preserve through-Delta flows
- **Not alter upstream reservoirs**
- **Meet permit conditions and requirements**, including those set by the State Water Resources Control Board, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and state and federal fishery agencies
- **Provide flexibility to capture water** in the North Delta and protect fisheries and water quality in the South Delta
- **Safely maximize water deliveries** to recover water lost due to climate change and sea level rise over the coming decades



