

TAGGED: CALIFORNIA WATER WARS, COVID, DELTA TUNNEL, WATER

RedGREENandBlue's top 10 stories of 2021:

- 1. Steven Donziger beat Chevron in court, so they crucified him. He just won his appeal
- 2. Michael Mann on "Don't Look Up": DO see this film!
- 3. Earth's magnetic field broke down 42,000 years ago and caused massive sudden climate change
- 4. Sharkfest: 10 solutions to overfishing that could save our oceans
- 5. Dr Michael Mann on the IPCC report: We have ZERO years left to avoid climate change, it's here
- 6. It might be the world's biggest ocean, but the mighty Pacific is in peril
- 7. Despite massive public opposition and global pandemic, California barrels forward with its water-stealing Delta Tunnel
- 8. Renewable Roundup US consumes more renewable energy than coal!
- 9. COP26: Climate deniers beclown themselves, then cry 'I've been cancelled!' when people laugh
- Calls for Texas Governor Abbott to resign as he falsely blames blackouts on wind and solar

(This story originally appeared on March 18, 2021)

Despite massive opposition by the California public, the State of California continues fast-tracking the Delta Tunnel in the second year of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Kearns & West Facilitation Team, the organization that oversaw the public process for the privately-funded Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative to create "marine protection areas" in California, has announced the latest development in the State Water Project (SWP) Contract Amendment meetings for the Delta Tunnel:



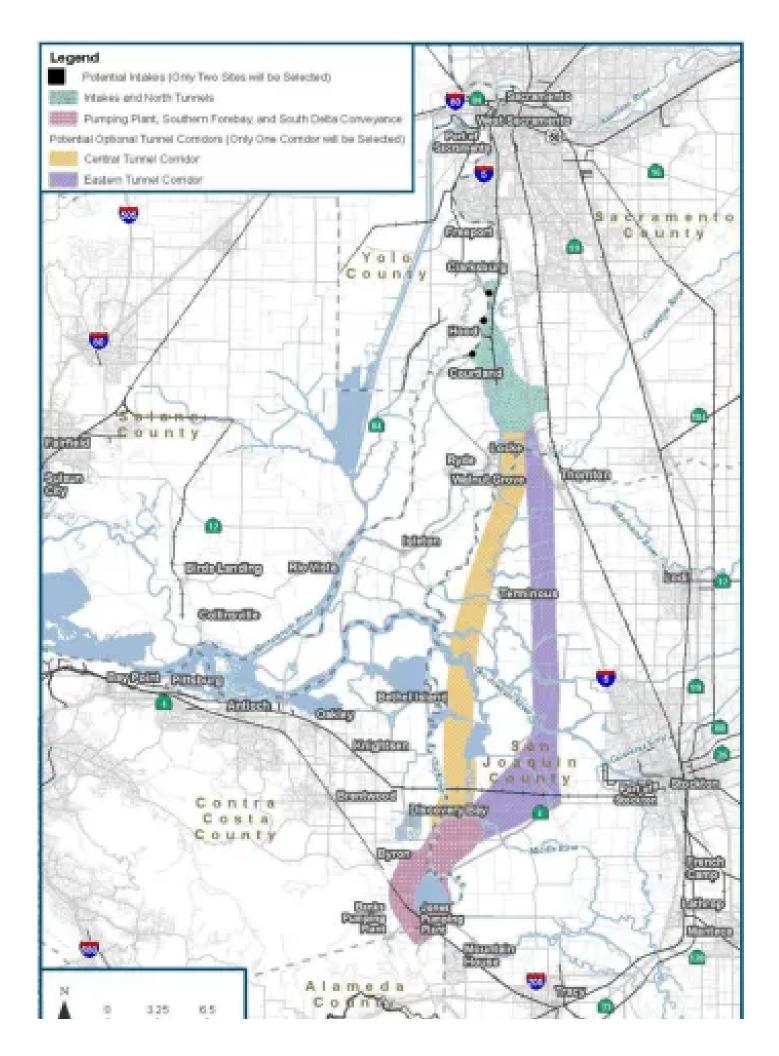




Figure 1. Proposed Project Facility Corridor Options

By Dan Bacher

"One new document pertaining to the State Water Project (SWP) Contract Amendment for Delta Conveyance meetings, the DWR Ninth Offer (Document #148), is posted to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Box site, here: https://cadwr.app.box.com/s/irusyewojv4nwzmxfznghzmgli9sswcw/.

The negotiators plan to discuss this document at the next negotiation session on Monday, March 29, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via webinar."

The contract negotiations between the water contractors and Department of Water Resources are a necessary step among a number of others for the state to build the Delta Tunnel under the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, despite strong opposition to the project by the majority of Californians, including Southern California ratepayers, Northern California Indian Tribes, recreational and commercial fishing groups, Delta residents and businesses, environmental justice communities and many elected officials.

The team also announced that the draft agenda pertaining to the SWP Contract Amendment for Delta Conveyance meeting on Monday, March 29, 2021 will be posted to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Box site "soon." No specific date was given.

"The forthcoming agenda and agenda notice will contain public participation information," the team stated.

Negotiation Process:

DWR has opened negotiations to the public to allow the opportunity to observe and provide comments to DWR at the end of each negotiation session. Written comments may also be submitted within seven (7) calendar days following each negotiation session. The process that DWR will follow to enable members of the public to observe and comment on the negotiations will be consistent with the "Principles Regarding Public Participation Process in SWP Contract Negotiations," which were approved as part of the settlement agreement reached in the case titled, Planning and Conservation League et al.v. Department of Water Resources, 83 Cal.App.4th 892 (2000).

Contact Brian "B.G." Heiland at Brian.Heiland@water.ca.gov if you have any questions or comments, or need additional information about the SWP Contract Amendment for Delta Conveyance Negotiations.

Zombie Delta Tunnel Project Back to Life As Delta Conveyance Project

In other Delta Tunnel news, Caty Wagner, SoCal Water Organizer, Sierra Club California, recently posted this short piece on the blog of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter about the "Zombie Tunnel Project" coming back to the life as the Delta Conveyance Project.

The Newsom Administration is now forging ahead with the project as the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is in its biggest ecological crisis ever, with scientists saying the extinction of the Delta Smelt in the wild is likely this year or next.

Here's Cate's article:

"For many years we have opposed this project through its many iterations. The Peripheral Canal of the 80's, the Bay Delta Conservation Project of the 00's, the California WaterFix & Eco Restore



(Photo by Department of Water Resources.)

Project of the 10's and now the 20's The Delta Conveyance project. Whether informally known as the twin tunnels, the tunnel boondoggle or the tunnel, we are forever hard at work to preserve and protect the Sacramento- San Joaquin Delta, the only and largest freshwater tidal estuary on the West Coast.

This month, Metropolitan Water District (MWD)joined at least 24 other water agencies in amending the state water contract provisions regarding water transfers, exchanges, and ratios. This allows water districts to sell their surplus water to each other, which comes with a host of pros and

cons. Metropolitan Water District has 26 member agencies and 19 million customers. As such a large water agency, MWD has deep pockets and connections and lobby heavily in support of the Delta tunnel.

In December, MWD voted unanimously to fund the next two phases of the Delta Conveyance project. This decision joined 27 other water districts around the state. In discussions with board members, the vote seemed to be split when the question was to fund the tunnel or not, but then four options were proffered: no tunnel, delayed vote, pay for only MWD's share, or MWD's share and an additional portion. Tunnel proponents hoped for MWD to sign on to the additional portion, but the Sierra Club and allies submitted 2,000 emails and 60 calls, lasting nearly 4 hours, and was able to stop it.

The Department of Water Resources will be conducting an environmental impact review this year and next on the consequences and effects of the Delta tunnel. There will be no votes in 2021, but this is our time to build an army and get the word out about the environmental disaster that this project is. Sierra Club California's recent poll shows that when most Californians learn the details of the tunnel, they oppose it, no matter their background or where they live. We need to make sure Californians know how expensive, wasteful and destructive this project is.

In April, MWD is expected to determine whether or not to raise property taxes, and that increase in funding will provide revenue that may be used in funding the tunnel in the future. This comes at a time when Californians, mostly in LA County, have racked up over \$1 billion in debt over their water bills as they struggle with the pandemic and high rates of unemployment. We will be calling MWD that month to give public comment urging the board not to raise property taxes. If you want to join the fight, sign up here and receive updates and opportunities to take action."

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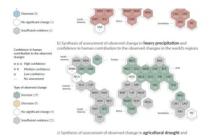








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Dan Bacher Dan Bacher is an environmental journalist in Sacramento who focuses on California's water issues, a healthy environment for the salmon fishery of the Northwest, and the attempts by big agriculture and big oil to hog all the water.

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February 28, 2022

Remember when multi-shirting white nationalism peddler turned Presidential strategist Steve Bannon said the Trump administration would bring about the "deconstruction of the administrative state?" Many were skeptical that the administration would be successful at undoing 130 years of governance, and indeed, it may seem like it failed. That undoing might be underway today, as the Supreme Court hears West Virginia [...]

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