



# DCA

# A CLOSER LOOK: COST CONTAINMENT

## Building Value

The Delta Conveyance Design & Construction Authority (DCA) is committed to developing the Delta Conveyance Project utilizing strong cost controls and detailed fiscal accountability. The DCA, a Joint Powers Authority, is governed by a seven-member Board comprised of representatives from sixteen of the Public Water Agencies that are serviced by the Department of Water Resource's State Water Project.

Utilizing monthly budget updates, monthly engineering progress reports, and annual audits, the DCA has initiated a program management model that mandates detailed accounting processes and value engineering to methodically identify opportunities for cost and schedule reduction, without compromising quality or functionality, and while building the value of the project.

## Cost Containment Measures

The DCA uses rigorous oversight, transparent planning, and ongoing innovation to deliver the Delta Conveyance Project efficiently, keeping costs stable while ensuring value, accuracy, and accountability throughout all project phases.

**One Purpose:** The DCA is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) established solely to deliver the Delta Conveyance Project, enabling a focused approach on key delivery issues, especially affordability.

**Cost Oversight:** The DCA Board of Directors, composed of seven representatives from the 16 funding Public Water Agencies (PWAs), provides direct oversight of project spending.

**Cost Containment Mechanisms:** Committed to accountability, the DCA enforces rigorous, transparent program controls. Since 2019, it has effectively managed resources for environmental review, planning, and permitting—maximizing approved funds without compromising scope or schedule.

**Realistic Forecasting and Reviews:** At this early stage, the DCA has defined a comprehensive, constructable project, including logistics and utility relocations. This enables detailed environmental analysis and more accurate early-stage cost estimates.



**Detailed, Public Project Estimates:** In May 2024, the DCA released an updated cost estimate using a detailed methodology uncommon at the permitting stage. The estimate accounted for labor, materials, and equipment based on industry standards and supplier quotes.

**Keeping Costs Flat:** The DCA's updated cost estimate is \$20.1B (2023 \$'s), aligning closely with the inflation-adjusted 2020 estimate of \$20.2B. This confirms the reliability of the cost forecasting process.

**Engineering to Manage Costs:** The CEQA-evaluated project configuration is conservative. In parallel, the DCA has explored design and construction refinements, identifying innovations that could yield \$1.25B (6%) in cost savings.

**Culture of Improvement:** The DCA continues to explore innovations to refine the project, improve accuracy, and control costs. The goal is a well-defined project for PWAs to consider by 2027.

**Balancing Cost and Value:** While inflation affects costs, the rising value of water offsets this. Professional oversight and appropriate contingencies remain key to managing risks and avoiding unnecessary cost increases.

## Cost Transparency

### Cost Estimate Report (May 2024)

In May 2024, the DCA released an updated program cost estimate, using a detailed methodology that included:

- A project schedule outlining equipment, labor, materials, and supplies.
- Engagement with material suppliers and vendors to reflect inflation trends.
- Reconciliation of costs with previous estimates.

Adjusting the previous cost estimate (2020) for inflation demonstrated that **project costs have remained stable.**

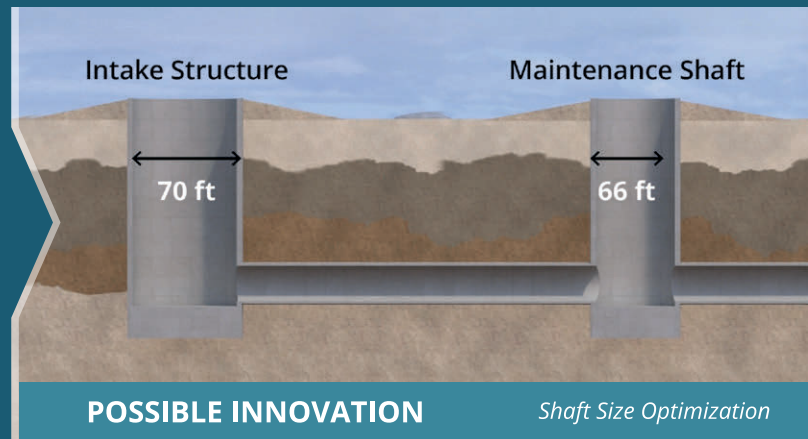
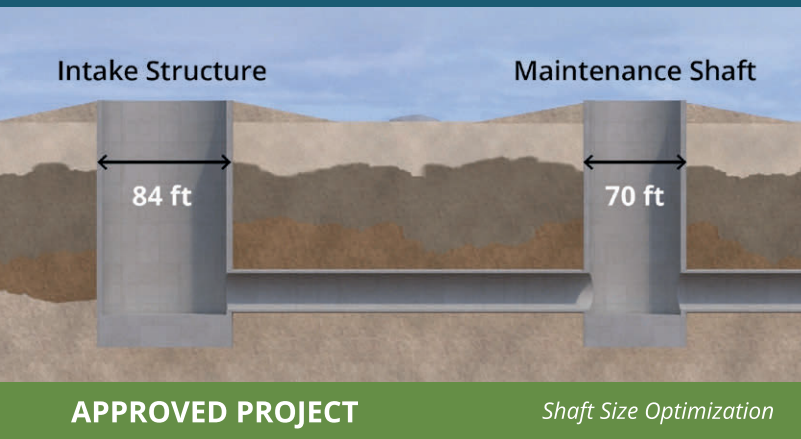
[tinyurl.com/DCPCostEstimate](https://tinyurl.com/DCPCostEstimate)



2020 Cost Estimate:  
**\$15.9 billion** (2020 dollars)

Adjusted 2020 Estimate for Inflation:  
**\$20.2 billion** (2023 dollars)

2024 Cost Estimate:  
**\$20.1 billion** (2023 dollars)



## Cost Management Through Design Innovations

The DCA is exploring engineering innovations to enhance constructability and manage costs, with potential savings of an additional \$1.25 billion. Key innovations include:

### 1. Surge Basin Innovation

Tiedown anchors for the base slab and a conventional tied-back sheet pile/concrete wall system.

- **Cost Savings: \$230.83 million**
- **Schedule Savings: 280 construction days**

### 2. Bethany Reservoir Pumping Plant Below-ground Innovation

Replacing vertical diaphragm wall with interlinking shafts and a tunnel.

- **Cost Savings: \$138.72 million**
- **Schedule Savings: 981 construction days**

### 3. Tunnel Profile and Shaft Size Optimization

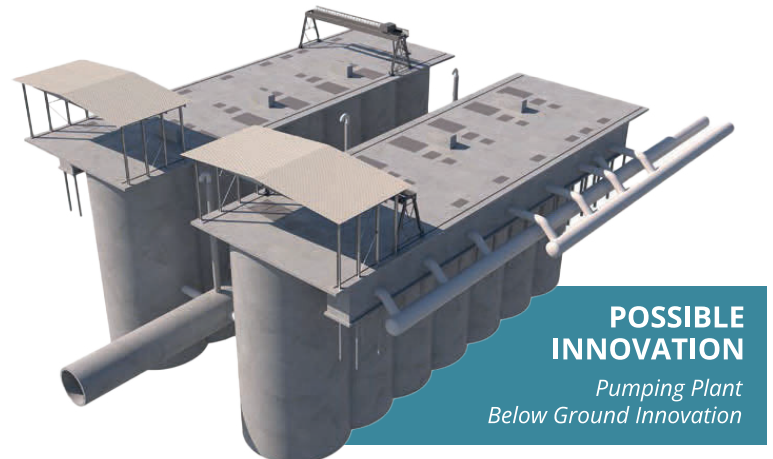
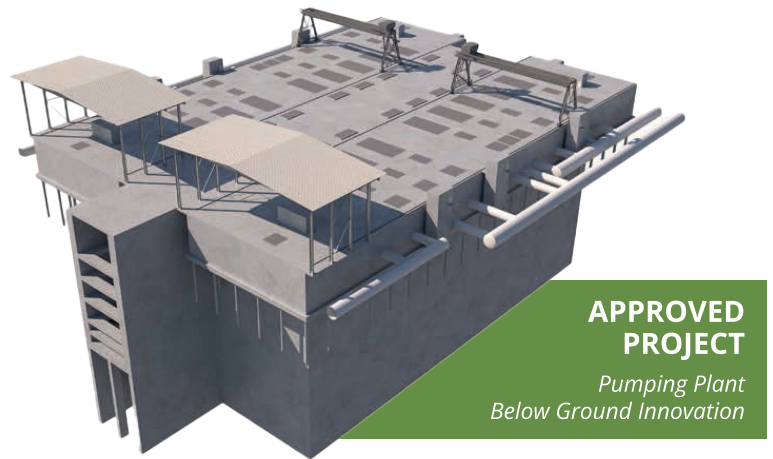
Adjusting tunnel depth and reducing shaft diameter.

- **Cost Savings: \$95.43 million**
- **Schedule Savings: 192 construction days**

### 4. Aqueduct Pipeline Optimization

Reducing pipeline diameter to 166 inches and spacing them 21 feet apart while maintaining backfill and soil cover dimensions.

- **Cost Savings: \$60.38 million**
- **Schedule Savings: 79 construction days**



## Engineering a Reliable Water Supply for California

The DCA's mission is to plan, permit, design and build a modernized state-of-the-art sustainable, resilient, environmentally responsive, and cost-effective Delta Conveyance Project that resolves the long-standing need to assure affordable State Water Project reliability serving future generations of Californians in a way that respects the uniqueness of the Delta as a place and its communities.