



Delta Conveyance Project: Delivering Smarter and Cost-Effective Water Infrastructure

A Cost-Focused Approach

The Delta Conveyance Design & Construction Authority (DCA) is building a **modern water conveyance project that prioritizes cost control and fiscal accountability**. As a Joint Powers Authority, the DCA is governed by a seven-member Board comprised of representatives from sixteen Public Water Agencies (PWAs) served by the Department of Water Resources' State Water Project. Through this strong fiscal oversight, DCA has completed detailed early-stage planning for the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP), and submits regular, transparent cost updates. These proactive measures help **manage expenses and prevent budget overruns**.

What Makes DCA Different?





- 💧 **One Purpose:** The DCA is solely focused on delivering the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP). This singular focus ensures better oversight, timely data updates, and consistent cost containment measures.
- 💧 **Strong Governance, Focused Oversight:** The seven-member board of directors, composed of representatives from the 16 PWAs funding the Project, oversees spending and decision-making to ensure transparency and accountability.
- 💧 **Early Planning and Realistic Forecasting:** At an early stage, the DCA defined a comprehensive, constructable project, including logistics and utility relocations. This approach reduces surprises and ensures more accurate early-stage cost estimates.
- 💧 **Detailed, Public Project Estimates:** In May 2024, the DCA released an updated cost estimate using a detailed methodology – rare for a project at the early permitting stage. The estimate accounted for labor, materials, and equipment based on industry standards and supplier quotes. It also took into consideration risks and contingencies to mitigate against future cost fluctuations.
- 💧 **Balancing Cost and Value:** While inflation will continue to increase construction costs over the next 20 years, the value and benefits of the project will also grow over its 100-year lifespan as it delivers safe, reliable and affordable water to more than 27 million people.



Workers use 3D LiDAR to survey the 20-foot-wide, 25,000-foot-long Carley V. Porter tunnel, a key part of the State Water Project in Kern County.

Driving Down Costs Through Innovation

Through engineering refinements, **\$1.25 billion in potential savings** and more than **1,500 days in reduced construction schedules** have been identified. Key innovations under consideration include:

		Dollars Saved	Days Saved
	Smarter Tunnel Design	\$95 million	192
	Efficient Surge Basins	\$230 million	280
	Innovative Pump Plant Design	\$138 million	981
	Optimized Aqueducts	\$60 million	79

\$1.25 billion saved | **1,532 days reduced**

Delivering on Budget with Accountability

Despite inflation, the DCA's latest cost estimate remains consistent at \$20.1 billion, closely aligning with the inflation-adjusted 2020 estimate (\$20.2 billion). Further engineering refinements bring this down even more, to \$18.9 billion. This stability underscores the effectiveness of disciplined planning, rigorous oversight, and proactive cost management.

Engineering a Reliable Water Supply for California

Our 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.