

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791



June 17, 2019

TO: Distribution List

Subject: Next Steps on Delta Conveyance

Thank you for your letter of June 12, 2019 regarding the next steps for Delta Conveyance. As you know, Governor Newsom has directed us to modernize Delta conveyance by pursuing a single tunnel solution. As a result, we have rescinded all WaterFix-related permitting, approvals and applications. Neither the Department of Water Resources (DWR) nor the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) is continuing work on that project or currently performing any new planning based on the previous WaterFix approvals.

We are renewing environmental planning and permitting activities related to single tunnel conveyance in support of the Governor's vision. This work will continue to be done in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and, consistent with the CEQA process, we will issue a Notice of Preparation for an environmental impact report on a single tunnel conveyance proposed project later this year. The Department will serve as the CEQA lead agency.

We have asked the DCA to support us in the renewed environmental permitting and planning activities, which includes the CEQA process. This is will be reflected in an amendment to the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement, expected to be completed soon. Under our direction and with our oversight, the DCA will provide engineering, field studies and design work to inform the environmental planning process. The DCA is a public agency subject to the Brown Act, and its meetings, materials and decisions are available for public review at www.DCDCA.org. We encourage the public to attend DCA board meetings. In addition, we have forwarded your letter to our Public Records Act coordinator who will handle your request for DCA invoices submitted to DWR since February 12, 2019.

An integral part of our environmental planning will be a new approach to community input and engagement. No one understands the unique character of the Delta better than those of you who live and work in the region. The Newsom Administration believes that it is only through dialogue that the community can give voice to that character and help guide Delta conveyance planning along a mutually beneficial path.

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Toward that end, we would like to schedule some time with you to discuss the planning process and hear your thoughts on local engagement. I would like to propose that I and Kathryn Mallon, the DCA executive director, meet with you soon, perhaps at a location convenient to you in the Delta. If you are interested in setting this up, please reach out to Pat Clark in my office at (916) 651-0739.

Thank you, again, for reaching out to us. Governor Newsom is taking California's water policy planning in a new direction and I am hopeful that we can work together on this new path.

Sincerely,



Gary Lippner, Deputy Director
Delta Conveyance

cc: Karla A. Nemeth, Director, Department of Water Resources
Ken Bogdan, Office of Chief Counsel, Department of Water Resources
Honorable Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for California Natural Resources Agency
Thomas Gibson, Deputy Secretary and Special Counsel for Water,
California Natural Resources Agency
Kathryn Mallon, Executive Director, Delta Conveyance Design and
Construction Authority
Don Nottoli, Sacramento County Supervisor
Chuck Winn, San Joaquin County Supervisor
Skip Thompson, Solano County Supervisor
Jim Provenza, Yolo County Supervisor
Karen Mitchoff, Contra Costa County Supervisor

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Distribution List

Ms. Barbara Daly, Co-Chair
North Delta Cares Action Committee
Post Office Box 255
Clarksburg, California 95612

Mr. Bill Wells, Executive Director
California Delta Chambers & Visitors Bureau
Post Office Box 1118
Rio Vista, California 94571

Mr. Russell Ooms, Chair
Locke Management Association
13916 Main Street
Walnut Grove, California 95690

Ms. Donis Whaley and Mr. Dan Whaley, Facilitators
Delta Defenders
Post Office Box 385
Courtland, California 95615