



**Jim Frazier**

CHAIR, ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, ELEVENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:  
CHAIR: TRANSPORTATION  
BUDGET  
INSURANCE  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1 ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

California Legislature

April 14, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of the State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Karla Nemeth, Director  
Department of Water Resources  
1416 9th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

I write to request an extension of the comment period for the recently released Notice of Preparation of Environmental Impact Report (NOP) for the Delta Conveyance Project.

As you know, I am deeply concerned about the Delta's fragile ecosystem, its economic vitality, its value as a future drinking water source and its future as a recreational mecca. My immediate concerns are that the public must have the time to properly review and voice their comments about the entire range of environmental issues related to the development of the EIR. Given the COVID-19 public health crisis engulfing our state, many interested members of the public have been unable to respond to the NOP with specific detail about the scope, significant environmental issues, reasonable alternatives, or mitigation measures. The current comment period does not allow those affected enough time to review and offer substantive comments on an incredibly complex and technical project.

Every Californian has made unprecedented changes to their daily life to confront the COVID-19 pandemic. The residents of our state are working harder than ever to pay their bills, take care of their children, and preserve the health of their loved ones on a daily basis. As a hub for tourism in the region, the residents of the Delta have been especially impacted by these unforeseen challenges.

Just like our Delta families and stakeholders, DWR must clearly adapt to the inescapable impacts of COVID-19 and extend the comment period. The current course of action will impact the Delta for decades and the limited comment period fails to serve the people of my district and the greater Bay-Delta region.



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The NOP comment process must change with the times to be truly accessible, open and transparent. We need an extended comment period and I ask that the comment period be extended for at least 45 days past the declared end of the state of emergency.

In the face of this public health crisis, I look forward to working with you and Delta stakeholders to find a 21<sup>st</sup> century solution to manage California's water system, to produce and conserve more water and to create comprehensive drought and flood-prevention solutions.

Sincerely,

Jim Frazier  
Assemblymember, 11<sup>th</sup> District

cc: Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency  
Carrie Buckman, Environmental Program Manager for Delta Conveyance