



Delta Counties Coalition

Contra Costa County · Sacramento County · San Joaquin County · Solano County · Yolo County

"Working together on water and Delta issues"

November 22, 2019

SENT VIA EMAIL

Delta_Soil_ISMND@WATER.CA.GOV

Katherine Marquez
Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Re: Request for Extension of Public Comment Period on
Mitigated Negative Declaration for Soil Investigations for Data Collection in the Delta

Dear Ms. Marquez,

We write on behalf of the Delta Counties Coalition ("DCC") regarding the Department of Water Resources' ("DWR") Notice of its Intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for Soil Investigations for Data Collection in the Delta ("MND") pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. The DCC is an alliance made up of the California Counties of Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, and Yolo. These counties work collaboratively to give one voice on behalf of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and its four million area-wide residents. The DCC advocates to protect and enhance Delta communities and existing land uses, improve the Delta ecosystem and provide a more reliable water supply for the State.

DWR has not consulted the Delta Counties regarding current plans to conduct extensive geotechnical investigations in furtherance of a single tunnel. DWR and this Administration has repeatedly communicated its interest in fostering a productive dialogue with the DCC on matters pertaining to the Delta. Yet DWR did not discuss with the DCC its plans to conduct hundreds of on-land soil and over water investigations over a six-month period. Instead, it was through the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority and DWR correspondence with local historical societies that the DCC learned of DWR's plans.

The DCC also objects to the timing of the MND review period over holiday and vacation months that make responding more difficult due to limited availability of staff and outside professionals. DCC public constituents likewise are subject to similar time constraints. Thus, the

Katherine Marquez
November 22, 2019
Page 2

DCC requests that comments on the MND be accepted for 60 days to accommodate the DCC and the public submission of comments.

Sincerely,



Don Nottoli
Supervisor, Sacramento County



Skip Thomson
Supervisor, Solano County



Karen Mitchoff
Supervisor, Contra Costa County



Oscar Villegas
Supervisor, Yolo County



Chuck Winn
Supervisor, San Joaquin County

cc: California Resources Agency Secretary Wade Crowfoot
California Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth