

[Email Communication]

From: Karla Nemeth, DWR Director

Date: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 12:20 PM

To: Delta County Supervisors

Re: Exploring the possibility of Delta soil testing MOUs and improving understanding of transportation issues

Dear Supervisors:

I hope you all had an enjoyable Labor Day weekend.

As you are aware, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is continuing to work on the environmental planning and review to modernize State Water Project infrastructure in the Delta, consistent with Governor Newsom's direction and support for a single-tunnel project to ensure a climate resilient water system.

There are two activities I wanted to bring to your attention. Field surveys and data collection will continue to be an important part of the environmental review. We clearly have some common goals regarding our planned soil exploration activities: protecting groundwater, ensuring boreholes are properly and securely filled, and improving communication. I would like to direct my staff to work with the key department leads in your county to meet and formalize our common goals and perhaps create an agreement on how we can conduct future soil exploration activities that can meet our mutual needs.

Also, the Department anticipates publishing a Notice of Preparation for Delta Conveyance under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) toward the end of 2019. As you know, the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) will be providing DWR with design and engineering work to support that effort. They will be reaching out to various departments and other agencies within your county to solicit input related to certain baseline assumptions (e.g. traffic loads and conditions) and their priorities related to transportation planning as the CEQA evaluation gets started.

I am hopeful that you will encourage your staff to engage in these conversations to ensure that we have a solid basis of shared information to develop our Environmental Impact Report, but also to use the design process to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts.

Please give me a call if you would like to talk about this topic or any other. Ring Janiene Friend in my office at (916) 653-7007.

Kind regards,
Karla

Karla A. Nemeth
Director
California Department of Water Resources