



DWR Adopts Mitigated Negative Declaration and Approves Soil Collection Activities

July 9, 2020

Today, consistent with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Department of Water Resources (DWR) adopted the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for soil investigations in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta). As part of the CEQA process, DWR also formally approved the action and adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP). Soil investigations will include data collection, soil samples and surveys in support of DWR's efforts to better understand the region's geology to support the future evaluation of potential activities, including the proposed Delta Conveyance Project. As identified in the Final IS/MND, any potential significant impact will be avoided or otherwise mitigated with implementation of mitigation adopted as part of the project approval process. To access a copy of the Notice of Determination and Final IS/MND, which includes responses to comments and the adopted MMRP, visit the [Delta Conveyance Environmental Planning page](#) on DWR's website.

Delta Conveyance Project IS/MND: Q&A

1. What is the purpose of this work and how does the IS/MND relate to other Delta environmental planning activities, including the proposed Delta Conveyance Project?

Collecting data on soil conditions will help determine the composition, location and geotechnical properties of soil materials commonly found in the Delta. This information will contribute to DWR's overall understanding of Delta geology and inform the ongoing development of alternatives, environmental analysis and preliminary design for the proposed Delta Conveyance Project. Preparation of the IS/MND is a standalone CEQA process—separate from the environmental review of the proposed Delta Conveyance Project currently underway.

2. How did DWR consider comments received on the Draft IS/MND?

Prior to deciding whether to adopt the Final IS/MND and approve the Soil Investigations for Data Collection in the Delta, DWR considered the Final IS/MND together with each comment received, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15074, subdivision (b). Although not required, DWR is including the response to comments as an Appendix to the Final IS/MND to promote transparency and responsiveness (see *State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15073*).

3. When are the soil investigations scheduled to begin?

Soil investigation work is anticipated to begin this fall on a limited subset of sites on public lands, consistent with all permit conditions and mitigation requirements. DWR is continuing to pursue permits for sites that fall under the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act (Section 401 and Section 404), Rivers and Harbors Act (Section 408) and Fish and Game Code (Section 1602). Those sites are not included in the anticipated 2020 efforts. Investigations at any given site will not occur until property owners have been notified and required permits and approvals for that site have been obtained.

4. How will DWR track implementation of the adopted mitigation measures?

In addition to the adoption of the Final IS/MND and approval of the project, DWR has adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) that is included as an Appendix to the Final IS/MND. Implementation of this MMRP will include a tracking and documentation process for all mitigation measures adopted as part of the project approval.

5. Who do I contact for additional information about the Final IS/MND or upcoming soil investigations?

For more information about anything related to the IS/MND process and associated soil investigations, please contact:
Delta_Soil_ISMND@water.ca.gov or 866-924-9955.