

1 capacity that involve -- that improves water security,
2 protects against natural disasters, and keeps water
3 affordable for residents and their businesses. Thank
4 you.

5 JANET BARBIERI: Thank you.

6 STEVE ARAKAWA: Good evening. My name is
7 Steve Arakawa, and I'm the manager over Bay Delta
8 activities for the Metropolitan Water District of
9 Southern California.

10 Thank you for coming to Southern California and
11 hearing from a variety of the interests in our area.
12 Metropolitan will be providing more-detailed input in our
13 written comments to the Department of Water Resources,
14 but we appreciate the opportunity to be here tonight.

15 Metropolitan has consistently identified a need
16 for dealing with Delta conveyance in its integrated water
17 resources planning, its water supply strategy, that would
18 modernize California's ageing infrastructure, allowing
19 water to more reliably move through the Delta and help
20 manage our water supply through the climate extremes.

21 Tonight we're here to express our appreciation
22 for Governor Newsom's support for a one-tunnel project --
23 Governor Newsom being the third executive governor to be
24 committed to address the water delivery system in some
25 manner -- and I want to touch on three points.

1 First, Metropolitan and other water agencies
2 have invested hundreds of millions of dollars and
3 supported years of analysis and scientific work to
4 determine the best ways to meet the state's goals of
5 water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration.

6 In terms of the scoping comments, Metropolitan
7 supports a 6,000 cfs tunnel. That's the appropriate size
8 for the proposed project, and that does the most to
9 address climate change, seismic-risk resiliency, protect
10 water quality, support supply reliability, and protect
11 native fish.

12 Sizing the project flow capacity sufficiently
13 large is necessary to reliably capture storm water flows.
14 Smaller capacities do not proportionately reduce
15 expenses, but they do disproportionately impact this
16 ability to capture important peak storm flows, to plan
17 for sea level rise, and to adjust to outcomes due to
18 earthquakes.

19 Second, Southern California's \$1.6 trillion
20 economy depends on reliable supplies from the State
21 Project as part of its diverse water supply strategy.
22 In an average year, we can get to -- about 30 percent of
23 its water from the State Project, and it's a vital
24 lifeline for homes, businesses, communities, agriculture,
25 and our environment.

1 Metropolitan and its member agencies are hard at
2 work to develop these types of supplies locally. That
3 includes groundwater/storm water recapture. Obviously,
4 water conservation is the California way of life that we
5 all are committed to, but having that high-quality water
6 from the State Project in the volumes that we have today
7 and protecting that is critical to expanding our local
8 supply. So a modernized State Water Project is really
9 key to our future.

10 And, last, the State Project not only represents
11 one of our most important sources of water, but also one
12 of the most affordable, particularly for our rate payers
13 that are from disadvantaged communities. I want to thank
14 you again for the opportunity to comment tonight.

15 JANET BARBIERI: Thanks very much.

16 Go ahead.

17 DAN DRUGAN: Good evening. My name is
18 Dan Drugan, and I represent Calleguas Municipal Water
19 District located in Ventura County.

20 Calleguas is a member agency of the Metropolitan
21 Water District. And through the Metropolitan Water
22 District, we distribute, and Calleguas supplies, about
23 three-quarters of the population that reside in
24 Ventura County.

25 Virtually all that imported water that we

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT CEQA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

320 WEST FOURTH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020

6:00 P.M.

MICHELE WAGNER

COURT REPORTER

1 APPEARANCES:

2 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES STAFF:
3 JANET BARBIERI, FACILITATOR
4 CARRIE BUCKMAN, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM MANAGER

5 PUBLIC SPEAKERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

6 SARAH WILTFONG, BIZFED
7 KEN RAUSH, EL MONTE/SOUTH EL MONTE CHAMBER
8 OF COMMERCE
9 KENDAL ASUNCION, LA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
10 STEVE ARAKAWA, METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
11 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
12 DAN DRUGAN, CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
13 CLARA KARGER, CENTRAL CITY ASSOCIATION
14 RON HASSON, CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE NAACP
15 MICHAEL LEWIS, CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COALITION
16 ON WATER QUALITY
17 HENRY ROGERS, SBACC
18 KEN COATE, INLAND ACTION
19 DR. MARIO MILCH, KAISER PERMANENTE
20 MARK GREY, BIASC
21 RON MILLER, LA/ORANGE COUNTY BUILDING TRADES
22 LUIS PORTILLO, INLAND EMPIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
23 ROBERT HUNTER, MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF
24 ORANGE COUNTY
25 BRANDON DAWSON, SIERRA CLUB
VICKI KIRSCHENBAUM, SUSTAINABLE BURBANK
COMMISSION
MARCI STANAGE, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP
FOR JOBS
DEREK RYDER, SIERRA CLUB LA
BRUCE CAMPBELL
CHARLEY WILSON, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER
COALITION
CATHLEEN PIERONI, INLAND EMPIRE WATER AGENCY
CONNER EVERTS, ENVIRONMENTAL WATER CAUCUS

1 So I appreciate you taking the time to do this
2 because it's, you know, not a lot of fun to have to
3 listen to all the different perspectives. This will be
4 outlined in the letter that we laid out for you, but I
5 want you to understand that, on a personal level, it's
6 the only fix for all of our friends down here. So thank
7 you. Thank you for your time.

8 JANET BARBIERI: Thanks very much.

9 Mr. Milch?

10 MARIO MILCH: Thank you. I am a physician,
11 having worked at Kaiser Permanente for over 31 years.

12 I am not an expert in water or water quality,
13 but I would like to just throw out some possible
14 alternatives. My understanding is this project would
15 cost at least \$100 million -- probably a lot more by the
16 time it's finished.

17 And I know that the technology has improved
18 greatly to the point where water can be recycled safely.
19 And other alternatives, of course, are better rain --
20 conservation of the water that could be stored, other,
21 obviously, projects that reduce consumption, and I think
22 there's been a lot of progress in this.

23 And the other alternative that I wonder if has
24 been considered is to just strengthen the present
25 aqueduct and somehow, you know, make it maybe more

1 reliable and more likely to survive an earthquake.

2 So I just wanted to throw out these possible
3 alternatives to -- hopefully they will be studied and
4 considered. Thank you.

5 JANET BARBIERI: Thanks very much.

6 I'm going to call the next three people up.
7 Ron Miller, Luis Portillo, and Robert Hunter.

8 MARK GREY: Good evening. My name is Mark Grey,
9 and I'm here on behalf of the Building Industry
10 Association of Southern California, representing a
11 thousand members who support homebuilding here in
12 Southern California. I'm also a member of the
13 Southern California Water Coalition, which is a group
14 dedicated to reliable, diverse water supplies here in
15 Southern California.

16 California water issues are well documented and
17 well known, but chief among them is that we are unable to
18 adequately move water when it's available to us. Every
19 year water is sent out to the sea because as our current
20 infrastructure is unable to move water where it is
21 needed.

22 We reject the notion that we don't need a
23 modernized conveyance system and that we can solve our
24 water supply issues solely from conservation or
25 developing local water supply sources alone.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT CEQA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

320 WEST FOURTH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020

6:00 P.M.

MICHELE WAGNER

COURT REPORTER

1 APPEARANCES:

2 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES STAFF:
3 JANET BARBIERI, FACILITATOR
4 CARRIE BUCKMAN, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM MANAGER

5 PUBLIC SPEAKERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

6 SARAH WILTFONG, BIZFED
7 KEN RAUSH, EL MONTE/SOUTH EL MONTE CHAMBER
8 OF COMMERCE
9 KENDAL ASUNCION, LA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
10 STEVE ARAKAWA, METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
11 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
12 DAN DRUGAN, CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
13 CLARA KARGER, CENTRAL CITY ASSOCIATION
14 RON HASSON, CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE NAACP
15 MICHAEL LEWIS, CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COALITION
16 ON WATER QUALITY
17 HENRY ROGERS, SBACC
18 KEN COATE, INLAND ACTION
19 DR. MARIO MILCH, KAISER PERMANENTE
20 MARK GREY, BIASC
21 RON MILLER, LA/ORANGE COUNTY BUILDING TRADES
22 LUIS PORTILLO, INLAND EMPIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
23 ROBERT HUNTER, MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF
24 ORANGE COUNTY
25 BRANDON DAWSON, SIERRA CLUB
VICKI KIRSCHENBAUM, SUSTAINABLE BURBANK
COMMISSION
MARCI STANAGE, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP
FOR JOBS
DEREK RYDER, SIERRA CLUB LA
BRUCE CAMPBELL
CHARLEY WILSON, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER
COALITION
CATHLEEN PIERONI, INLAND EMPIRE WATER AGENCY
CONNER EVERTS, ENVIRONMENTAL WATER CAUCUS

1 and that the time to move forward is now. The status quo
2 in the Delta is unacceptable both for the Delta
3 environment and the California economy, and we support
4 Governor Newsom's efforts to move forward in the planning
5 process in the manner that achieves the goal of water
6 supply reliability and ecosystem restoration.

7 With our largest and most affordable water
8 supply at risk, we need the reliability the proposed
9 Delta Conveyance Project will provide. Thank you for the
10 opportunity and for your support. Thank you.

11 JANET BARBIERI: Thanks very much.

12 I'm just going to call the next three folks up
13 real quick. Brandon Dawson, Vicki Kirschenbaum, and
14 Marci Stanage.

15 Please proceed.

16 ROBERT HUNTER: Good evening. I'm
17 Robert Hunter, the general manager of the Municipal Water
18 District of Orange County. Through 28 member agencies,
19 we provide water to over 2.3 million people.

20 Thanks for the opportunity tonight to talk about
21 the scope of the EIR. Tonight is talking about the study
22 process, not the decision on the final project, so I'm
23 going to address the process issues.

24 MWDOC is in full support of the purpose and
25 objectives listed on DWR's NOP fact sheet including:

1 To assist in the development of a reasonable range of
2 alternatives that would be analyzed in the EIR, the
3 purpose of developing new diversion and conveyance
4 facilities in the Delta necessary to restore and protect
5 the reliability of water deliveries in a cost-effective
6 manner consistent with the State's Water Resilience
7 Portfolio, and the objectives of addressing sea level
8 rise and climate change, minimize water supply
9 distribution due to seismic risk, protect water supply
10 reliability, and provide operational flexibility to
11 improve aquatic conditions in the Delta.

12 Climate change impacts on water resiliency and
13 the ability to recover are key components of water
14 resource planning. And like climate change responses,
15 the Delta Conveyance Project and EIR should not be based
16 on political beliefs, but on sound science, engineering,
17 and economics.

18 In the alternatives section of the NOP, you
19 write:

20 "An EIR need not consider every conceivable
21 alternative to the project. Rather it must
22 consider a reasonable range of potential
23 feasible alternatives."

24 And further: "DWR is currently considering
25 alternatives with capacities that range from

1 3,000 to 7,500 cfs."

2 In this regard you are outside the bounds of
3 sound science, engineering, and economics.

4 Over several years, DWR spent \$273 million on
5 an EIR for the Delta WaterFix -- a different project,
6 as you noted. This effort considered over a hundred
7 alternatives and formally evaluated 18. The conclusion
8 of that effort was -- a further alternative was 4A -- a
9 9,000 cfs alternative.

10 The proposed range of alternatives does not even
11 overlap this preferred alternative from the previous
12 effort. Given your previous analysis, your current range
13 of alternatives is not a reasonable range, as required
14 under CEQA.

15 Trust is an essential component in this effort.
16 I've heard in Northern California people say, "You can't
17 trust DWR because they won't enforce export
18 restrictions." And in Southern California I've heard,
19 "You can't trust DWR to manage \$273 million of other
20 people's money."

21 You do not have an easy assignment, but I thank
22 you for your efforts.

23 JANET BARBIERI: Thank you.

24 ROBERT HUNTER: Trust is essential.

25 JANET BARBIERI: Thanks for your comment.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT CEQA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

320 WEST FOURTH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020

6:00 P.M.

MICHELE WAGNER

COURT REPORTER

1 APPEARANCES:

2 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES STAFF:
3 JANET BARBIERI, FACILITATOR
4 CARRIE BUCKMAN, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM MANAGER

5 PUBLIC SPEAKERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

6 SARAH WILTFONG, BIZFED
7 KEN RAUSH, EL MONTE/SOUTH EL MONTE CHAMBER
8 OF COMMERCE
9 KENDAL ASUNCION, LA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
10 STEVE ARAKAWA, METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
11 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
12 DAN DRUGAN, CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
13 CLARA KARGER, CENTRAL CITY ASSOCIATION
14 RON HASSON, CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE NAACP
15 MICHAEL LEWIS, CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COALITION
16 ON WATER QUALITY
17 HENRY ROGERS, SBACC
18 KEN COATE, INLAND ACTION
19 DR. MARIO MILCH, KAISER PERMANENTE
20 MARK GREY, BIASC
21 RON MILLER, LA/ORANGE COUNTY BUILDING TRADES
22 LUIS PORTILLO, INLAND EMPIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
23 ROBERT HUNTER, MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF
24 ORANGE COUNTY
25 BRANDON DAWSON, SIERRA CLUB
VICKI KIRSCHENBAUM, SUSTAINABLE BURBANK
COMMISSION
MARCI STANAGE, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP
FOR JOBS
DEREK RYDER, SIERRA CLUB LA
BRUCE CAMPBELL
CHARLEY WILSON, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER
COALITION
CATHLEEN PIERONI, INLAND EMPIRE WATER AGENCY
CONNER EVERTS, ENVIRONMENTAL WATER CAUCUS

1 County Business Federation, also known as BizFed. We're
2 an alliance of more than 190 business organizations who
3 represent over 400,000 employers with three and a half
4 million employees in Los Angeles County.

5 Our members consist of a variety of industries
6 including labor, hospitals, education, restaurants,
7 horse facilities, food processors, building industries,
8 refineries, hospitality industries, transportation
9 agencies, and more. We are dependent on them, and all of
10 them are dependent on a clean, steady, and cost-effective
11 flow of water.

12 We strongly promote storm water capture and
13 reuse, ocean desalination, and other conservation
14 measures, but without the insurance of imported water,
15 we cannot provide the stability and reliability that our
16 \$1.6 trillion economy requires.

17 BizFed strongly supports the one-tunnel Delta
18 Conveyance Project. It is the most cost-effective and
19 reliable solution to work for our water problems. Thank
20 you so much for your time.

21 JANET BARBIERI: Thank you, Sarah.

22 Mr. Raush?

23 KEN RAUSH: Good evening. My name is Ken Raush.
24 I am the CEO of the El Monte/South El Monte Chamber of
25 Commerce. I am here today to express support for the

1 6,000 cfs single-tunnel Delta Conveyance Project being
2 advanced by the Department of Water Resources.

3 The chamber of commerce is the independent
4 advocate for businesses in the cities of El Monte and
5 South El Monte. Our cities have a combined population
6 of 140,000 residents. Our chamber membership exceeds
7 525 members, equating to thousands of jobs.

8 The chamber knows that Metropolitan's service
9 area contains close to 20 million inhabitants and that it
10 fuels an annual \$1.6 trillion economy. The Delta, where
11 30 percent of our water supply passes through before
12 being pumped to our businesses, groundwater basins,
13 reservoirs, farms, and homes, is in serious need of
14 investment and upgrades.

15 Without these investments, the water will
16 continue to decline over the coming years because of
17 continuing environmental deterioration and subsequent
18 restrictions.

19 The single Delta Conveyance Project is that
20 important investment that will ensure the reliability and
21 quality of water for our communities while helping
22 protect the environment. The single tunnel will create
23 a more flexible system, allowing for water deliveries in
24 a (indiscernible) time and a way to protect fish and
25 prevent cutbacks.

1 The intended purpose of this tunnel is nothing
2 more than what was originally promised -- assured
3 long-term imported water supply from the north for years
4 and generations to come.

5 We cannot continue kicking the can down the
6 road. Both conveyance and ecosystems are in serious need
7 of repair. Failure to address each of these will leave
8 fundamental problems unsolved and the environment on the
9 verge of collapse. This decision is a generational one
10 that will literally change our landscapes, hopes, and
11 economic futures for the Californians.

12 On behalf of the El Monte/South El Monte Chamber
13 of Commerce, I truly support moving forward with
14 Governor Newsom's Administration's work on the planning
15 process of the 6,000 cfs single-tunnel Delta Conveyance
16 Project. Thank you.

17 JANET BARBIERI: Thank you.

18 I'm just going to call up the next three
19 speakers -- Steve Arakawa, Dan Drugan, and Clara Karger.
20 Go ahead.

21 KENDAL ASUNCION: Good evening. My name is
22 Kendal Asuncion, and I represent the Los Angeles Area
23 Chamber of Commerce. On its behalf, I'd like to express
24 our support for a Delta conveyance tunnel.

25 The chamber has a long history of supporting

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT CEQA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

320 WEST FOURTH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020

6:00 P.M.

MICHELE WAGNER

COURT REPORTER

1 APPEARANCES:

2 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES STAFF:
3 JANET BARBIERI, FACILITATOR
4 CARRIE BUCKMAN, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM MANAGER

5 PUBLIC SPEAKERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE) :

6 SARAH WILTFONG, BIZFED
7 KEN RAUSH, EL MONTE/SOUTH EL MONTE CHAMBER
8 OF COMMERCE
9 KENDAL ASUNCION, LA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
10 STEVE ARAKAWA, METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
11 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
12 DAN DRUGAN, CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
13 CLARA KARGER, CENTRAL CITY ASSOCIATION
14 RON HASSON, CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE NAACP
15 MICHAEL LEWIS, CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COALITION
16 ON WATER QUALITY
17 HENRY ROGERS, SBACC
18 KEN COATE, INLAND ACTION
19 DR. MARIO MILCH, KAISER PERMANENTE
20 MARK GREY, BIASC
21 RON MILLER, LA/ORANGE COUNTY BUILDING TRADES
22 LUIS PORTILLO, INLAND EMPIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
23 ROBERT HUNTER, MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF
24 ORANGE COUNTY
25 BRANDON DAWSON, SIERRA CLUB
VICKI KIRSCHENBAUM, SUSTAINABLE BURBANK
COMMISSION
MARCI STANAGE, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP
FOR JOBS
DEREK RYDER, SIERRA CLUB LA
BRUCE CAMPBELL
CHARLEY WILSON, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER
COALITION
CATHLEEN PIERONI, INLAND EMPIRE WATER AGENCY
CONNER EVERTS, ENVIRONMENTAL WATER CAUCUS

1 move water, restore the Delta ecosystem, and manage our
2 water supply through climate extremes.

3 We support the new administration's work to move
4 forward in the planning process in a manner that achieves
5 the goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem
6 restoration. With our largest and most affordable supply
7 at risk, we need the reliability the proposed Delta
8 Conveyance Project will provide. Thank you.

9 JANET BARBIERI: Thank you very much.

10 I failed to call the next group up, so
11 Derek Ryder, Bruce Campbell, Charley Wilson, and
12 Cathleen Pieroni.

13 So, Mr. Ryder?

14 DEREK RYDER: Good evening. My name is
15 Derek Ryder, and thank you for coming to Los Angeles to
16 hear us.

17 What the Department of Water Resources should
18 consider in their EIR scope: An alternative that
19 increases Delta outflows and reduces exports, i.e., a
20 no-tunnel alternative. The EIR should analyze
21 conservation and efficiency measures that are less
22 harmful than the tunnel alternatives.

23 It should analyze the cumulative impacts of each
24 alternative, specifically impacts to climate change due
25 to conveyance and the effects of subsidized water on

1 encouraging sprawl, water quality in the Delta, species
2 viability in the Delta, and it should analyze the
3 financial concepts of the likely budget on
4 Southern California ratepayers versus a no-tunnel
5 alternative.

6 Why the proposed tunnel, the Sacramento Delta,
7 and So Cal's water supply is important to me: I've lived
8 and worked on both sides of the aqueduct that would carry
9 the additional 6,000 cubic feet per second. I grew up in
10 the foothills above Sacramento and worked as a rafting
11 guide on the American River during college where I saw
12 the value of a healthy river ecosystem and of a jobs-rich
13 tourist industry.

14 I've also lived and worked in Los Angeles as an
15 architect for most of my adult life and believe we can be
16 better stewards of the extensive water we've already
17 imported into Southern California.

18 California showed we could conserve water in
19 the last drought, and I think Southern California in
20 particular needs to step up again and cut back on the
21 loans and other wasteful lifestyle, infrastructure, and
22 agriculture choices that we make.

23 As an architect of custom homes and mixed-use
24 projects, I'm constantly trying to design buildings that
25 minimize our footprint on the earth, whether that's in

1 energy consumption or water use.

2 The Delta tunnel EIR should not be limited in
3 scope to tunnel sizes large, extra large, and extra,
4 extra large, but rather include a no-tunnel alternative
5 that takes into account the larger context of the Delta
6 and of water exports to Southern California that may,
7 in fact, not be needed and do more harm than good.

8 Finally, we should not cover over the
9 business-as-usual practices of agribusiness -- as was
10 just mentioned by a previous speaker, with pistachio
11 farmers in the Central Valley or the developers that I'm
12 more familiar with in the Southern California
13 Inland Empire that are using much too much water on
14 sprawled development -- with a fig leaf of resilience and
15 water quality. Thank you for your time.

16 JANET BARBIERI: Thanks very much.

17 Mr. Campbell?

18 BRUCE CAMPBELL: Good evening. Thanks for being
19 here. I'm Bruce Campbell.

20 We also agree we need a no-tunnel alternative
21 and not merely a no-project alternative. I understand
22 the current baseline allows excessive water pumping from
23 the Delta related to the Trump Water Plan under bad
24 recent regulations which do not adequately protect
25 threatened and endangered species.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT CEQA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

320 WEST FOURTH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020

6:00 P.M.

MICHELE WAGNER

COURT REPORTER

1 APPEARANCES:

2 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES STAFF:
3 JANET BARBIERI, FACILITATOR
4 CARRIE BUCKMAN, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM MANAGER

5 PUBLIC SPEAKERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

6 SARAH WILTFONG, BIZFED
7 KEN RAUSH, EL MONTE/SOUTH EL MONTE CHAMBER
8 OF COMMERCE
9 KENDAL ASUNCION, LA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
10 STEVE ARAKAWA, METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
11 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
12 DAN DRUGAN, CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
13 CLARA KARGER, CENTRAL CITY ASSOCIATION
14 RON HASSON, CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE NAACP
15 MICHAEL LEWIS, CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COALITION
16 ON WATER QUALITY
17 HENRY ROGERS, SBACC
18 KEN COATE, INLAND ACTION
19 DR. MARIO MILCH, KAISER PERMANENTE
20 MARK GREY, BIASC
21 RON MILLER, LA/ORANGE COUNTY BUILDING TRADES
22 LUIS PORTILLO, INLAND EMPIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
23 ROBERT HUNTER, MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF
24 ORANGE COUNTY
25 BRANDON DAWSON, SIERRA CLUB
VICKI KIRSCHENBAUM, SUSTAINABLE BURBANK
COMMISSION
MARCI STANAGE, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP
FOR JOBS
DEREK RYDER, SIERRA CLUB LA
BRUCE CAMPBELL
CHARLEY WILSON, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER
COALITION
CATHLEEN PIERONI, INLAND EMPIRE WATER AGENCY
CONNER EVERTS, ENVIRONMENTAL WATER CAUCUS

1 I'm just going to call the next few folks up
2 real quick. Ken Coate, Mario Milch, and Mark Grey.
3 Queue up and please proceed.

4 HENRY ROGERS: Thank you very much. My name's
5 Henry Rogers, and I'm here representing the South Bay
6 Association of Chambers of Commerce, also known as SBACC.

7 Our detailed comments were submitted in writing,
8 but I'm here to support the single-tunnel Delta
9 conveyance system. Our members represent the 17 regional
10 chambers from LAX down to Long Beach. We also serve as
11 the voice of advocacy and issues -- for regional issues
12 that we're seeing within the business community.

13 We are in support of a conveyance tunnel. It's
14 a game changer in the State's infrastructure projects.
15 It's vital to our \$1.6 trillion economy, and more
16 importantly, our businesses and residents have
17 consistently voted in support of it, and we should
18 obviously protect those investments. Thank you very
19 much.

20 JANET BARBIERI: Thank you very much.

21 Mr. Coate?

22 KEN COATE: Thank you. My name is Ken Coate.
23 I'm the environmental chair of a group called
24 Inland Action.

25 We represent diverse businesses and education,

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT CEQA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

320 WEST FOURTH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020

6:00 P.M.

MICHELE WAGNER

COURT REPORTER

1 APPEARANCES:

2 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES STAFF:
3 JANET BARBIERI, FACILITATOR
4 CARRIE BUCKMAN, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM MANAGER

5 PUBLIC SPEAKERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

6 SARAH WILTFONG, BIZFED
7 KEN RAUSH, EL MONTE/SOUTH EL MONTE CHAMBER
8 OF COMMERCE
9 KENDAL ASUNCION, LA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
10 STEVE ARAKAWA, METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
11 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
12 DAN DRUGAN, CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
13 CLARA KARGER, CENTRAL CITY ASSOCIATION
14 RON HASSON, CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE NAACP
15 MICHAEL LEWIS, CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COALITION
16 ON WATER QUALITY
17 HENRY ROGERS, SBACC
18 KEN COATE, INLAND ACTION
19 DR. MARIO MILCH, KAISER PERMANENTE
20 MARK GREY, BIASC
21 RON MILLER, LA/ORANGE COUNTY BUILDING TRADES
22 LUIS PORTILLO, INLAND EMPIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
23 ROBERT HUNTER, MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF
24 ORANGE COUNTY
25 BRANDON DAWSON, SIERRA CLUB
VICKI KIRSCHENBAUM, SUSTAINABLE BURBANK
COMMISSION
MARCI STANAGE, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP
FOR JOBS
DEREK RYDER, SIERRA CLUB LA
BRUCE CAMPBELL
CHARLEY WILSON, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER
COALITION
CATHLEEN PIERONI, INLAND EMPIRE WATER AGENCY
CONNER EVERTS, ENVIRONMENTAL WATER CAUCUS

1 And next up we have Mr. Dawson.

2 BRANDON DAWSON: Good evening. Brandon Dawson,
3 office of counsel and staff attorney for the Sierra Club
4 of California, here on behalf of our million and a half
5 members and supporters statewide, hundreds of thousands
6 of whom live here in Southern California.

7 The proposed project and the NOP-mentioned
8 alternatives are not certain to provide water reliability
9 for California. Indeed, it will only worsen
10 environmental health conditions in the Delta to the
11 detriment of that ecosystem and Delta communities and
12 increase costs for many Californians here in
13 Southern California and south of the Delta.

14 As such, we strongly advise and encourage DWR to
15 assess a no-tunnel alternative. This alternative should
16 be separate from the CEQA-mandated no-project alternative
17 wherein the DWR is only legally obligated to discuss what
18 is reasonably expected to occur in the foreseeable future
19 if the project is not approved.

20 Instead, the no-tunnel alternative should
21 analyze the State's use of investment, programs, and
22 projects that increase Delta output and produce exports
23 from the Delta.

24 Projects relating to water conservation and
25 efficiency, storm water capture, and other export

1 reduction measures that achieve the same water supply
2 reliability goals and targets as the proposed project are
3 both less environmentally destructive, versus what
4 California has done many times in other areas of the
5 environment, and less costly than the proposed project.

6 Moreover, this alternative is more in alignment
7 with a true water resilience portfolio, which would
8 prioritize and put actions and projects that are
9 environmentally beneficial for both California residents
10 and its environment before considering projects such as
11 this that would do nothing more than extinct Delta fish
12 and wildlife as well as starve Delta communities of fresh
13 water.

14 Additionally, the State continuously argues that
15 this project will not increase divergence from the Delta.
16 While this project in a vacuum won't increase divergence,
17 we urge you to look at this project holistically,
18 considering both the state and federal proposals relating
19 to operations of their respective systems.

20 These proposals will increase divergence from an
21 already fragile ecosystem, and the proposed project will
22 facilitate proposed diversions. So unlike the proposed
23 project, a no-tunnel alternative is more consistent with
24 Delta Reform Act's policy of reduced reliance on the
25 Delta as well as restoring the ecosystem of the Delta.

1 And if the State is truly concerned about water
2 reliability, earthquake damage, and salt water intrusion
3 from sea level rise, we urge the State to invest in and
4 strengthen the existing Delta levees and infrastructure.
5 We don't disagree that they need to be modernized, but we
6 just argue that there doesn't need to be additional ones
7 and increase fresh water flows in the Delta. Both of
8 which are far more efficient and cost-effective ways to
9 ensure water reliability for Californians.

10 We look forward to working with you. Thank you.

11 JANET BARBIERI: Thanks very much.

12 Ms. Kirschenbaum?

13 VICKI KIRSCHENBAUM: Hi. I'm -- oh, okay.

14 I'm Vicki Kirschenbaum. As part of the
15 Sustainable Burbank Commission, I did tour the Delta with
16 the Metropolitan Water District, and I saw this rich and
17 fragile ecosystem for myself, and I saw slides about how
18 the tunnel would be built.

19 This tunnel would be the width of a four-story
20 building resting on its side and would be 35 miles long.
21 Unbelievably destructive, and every major environmental
22 group/organization in this state has already been suing
23 to stop the two tunnels or the one-tunnel project.

24 Most the people who have spoken here seem to
25 have no idea where the water from this tunnel would go.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT CEQA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

320 WEST FOURTH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020

6:00 P.M.

MICHELE WAGNER

COURT REPORTER

1 APPEARANCES:

2 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES STAFF:
3 JANET BARBIERI, FACILITATOR
4 CARRIE BUCKMAN, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM MANAGER

5 PUBLIC SPEAKERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

6 SARAH WILTFONG, BIZFED
7 KEN RAUSH, EL MONTE/SOUTH EL MONTE CHAMBER
8 OF COMMERCE
9 KENDAL ASUNCION, LA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
10 STEVE ARAKAWA, METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
11 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
12 DAN DRUGAN, CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
13 CLARA KARGER, CENTRAL CITY ASSOCIATION
14 RON HASSON, CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE NAACP
15 MICHAEL LEWIS, CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COALITION
16 ON WATER QUALITY
17 HENRY ROGERS, SBACC
18 KEN COATE, INLAND ACTION
19 DR. MARIO MILCH, KAISER PERMANENTE
20 MARK GREY, BIASC
21 RON MILLER, LA/ORANGE COUNTY BUILDING TRADES
22 LUIS PORTILLO, INLAND EMPIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
23 ROBERT HUNTER, MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF
24 ORANGE COUNTY
25 BRANDON DAWSON, SIERRA CLUB
VICKI KIRSCHENBAUM, SUSTAINABLE BURBANK
COMMISSION
MARCI STANAGE, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP
FOR JOBS
DEREK RYDER, SIERRA CLUB LA
BRUCE CAMPBELL
CHARLEY WILSON, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER
COALITION
CATHLEEN PIERONI, INLAND EMPIRE WATER AGENCY
CONNER EVERTS, ENVIRONMENTAL WATER CAUCUS

1 reliable and more likely to survive an earthquake.

2 So I just wanted to throw out these possible
3 alternatives to -- hopefully they will be studied and
4 considered. Thank you.

5 JANET BARBIERI: Thanks very much.

6 I'm going to call the next three people up.
7 Ron Miller, Luis Portillo, and Robert Hunter.

8 MARK GREY: Good evening. My name is Mark Grey,
9 and I'm here on behalf of the Building Industry
10 Association of Southern California, representing a
11 thousand members who support homebuilding here in
12 Southern California. I'm also a member of the
13 Southern California Water Coalition, which is a group
14 dedicated to reliable, diverse water supplies here in
15 Southern California.

16 California water issues are well documented and
17 well known, but chief among them is that we are unable to
18 adequately move water when it's available to us. Every
19 year water is sent out to the sea because as our current
20 infrastructure is unable to move water where it is
21 needed.

22 We reject the notion that we don't need a
23 modernized conveyance system and that we can solve our
24 water supply issues solely from conservation or
25 developing local water supply sources alone.

1 This is a very strong fundamental tenet of ours.
2 It's not either/or. We need an all-of-the-above
3 portfolio approach to improving the resilience of our
4 water supply. Delta conveyance is central to a rich and
5 comprehensive portfolio approach.

6 Our cities and farms are doing a great job with
7 water conservation and developing new local water
8 resources, but we still desperately need to invest in our
9 conveyance system. It's the only way to make the local
10 solutions work most effectively and efficiently.

11 And, finally, we encourage the State to move
12 forward with this project to improve the reliability of
13 our water distribution system, of course, while
14 supporting housing in Southern California. Thank you for
15 the time.

16 JANET BARBIERI: Thank you very much.

17 Mr. Miller?

18 RON MILLER: Good evening. I'm Ron Miller,
19 executive secretary of the LA/Orange County Building
20 Trades, here on behalf of over 140,000 hardworking,
21 skilled, and trained, unionized men and women of the
22 construction workforce in LA and Orange County.

23 We're pleased to see the State has initiated the
24 environmental review process for this modernized Delta
25 conveyance system. Our current system is aged and in

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT CEQA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

320 WEST FOURTH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020

6:00 P.M.

MICHELE WAGNER

COURT REPORTER

1 APPEARANCES:

2 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES STAFF:
3 JANET BARBIERI, FACILITATOR
4 CARRIE BUCKMAN, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM MANAGER

5 PUBLIC SPEAKERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

6 SARAH WILTFONG, BIZFED
7 KEN RAUSH, EL MONTE/SOUTH EL MONTE CHAMBER
8 OF COMMERCE
9 KENDAL ASUNCION, LA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
10 STEVE ARAKAWA, METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
11 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
12 DAN DRUGAN, CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
13 CLARA KARGER, CENTRAL CITY ASSOCIATION
14 RON HASSON, CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE NAACP
15 MICHAEL LEWIS, CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COALITION
16 ON WATER QUALITY
17 HENRY ROGERS, SBACC
18 KEN COATE, INLAND ACTION
19 DR. MARIO MILCH, KAISER PERMANENTE
20 MARK GREY, BIASC
21 RON MILLER, LA/ORANGE COUNTY BUILDING TRADES
22 LUIS PORTILLO, INLAND EMPIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
23 ROBERT HUNTER, MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF
24 ORANGE COUNTY
25 BRANDON DAWSON, SIERRA CLUB
VICKI KIRSCHENBAUM, SUSTAINABLE BURBANK
COMMISSION
MARCI STANAGE, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP
FOR JOBS
DEREK RYDER, SIERRA CLUB LA
BRUCE CAMPBELL
CHARLEY WILSON, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER
COALITION
CATHLEEN PIERONI, INLAND EMPIRE WATER AGENCY
CONNER EVERTS, ENVIRONMENTAL WATER CAUCUS

1 MARCI STANAGE: Hi. My name is Marci Stanage,
2 and on behalf of Southern California Partnership For
3 Jobs, an organization that represents 2,750 construction
4 firms and 90,000 union workers, I would like to thank you
5 for allowing us to provide input for the scoping process
6 of the single-tunnel Delta Conveyance Project.

7 Southern California has a long tradition of
8 investing in water projects. To meet the needs of future
9 generations, these water projects are imperative not only
10 with the need to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act,
11 but also as we continue to rebuild the great state of
12 California and the critical issues that face our
13 disadvantaged communities.

14 Southern California Partnership For Jobs, in
15 partnership with California Consulting, has started a
16 program to research, submit, and fund grants for our
17 disadvantaged communities who do not have the time or
18 the means to get many of the much-needed water projects
19 completed. These grant submittals will be done by a
20 professional, and each grant application will be
21 considered extremely competitive.

22 Modernizing and upgrading our state's aging
23 infrastructure with a single-tunnel properly sized to
24 convey 6,000 cubic foot per second of water supply for
25 the State Water Project will allow us to more efficiently

1 move water, restore the Delta ecosystem, and manage our
2 water supply through climate extremes.

3 We support the new administration's work to move
4 forward in the planning process in a manner that achieves
5 the goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem
6 restoration. With our largest and most affordable supply
7 at risk, we need the reliability the proposed Delta
8 Conveyance Project will provide. Thank you.

9 JANET BARBIERI: Thank you very much.

10 I failed to call the next group up, so
11 Derek Ryder, Bruce Campbell, Charley Wilson, and
12 Cathleen Pieroni.

13 So, Mr. Ryder?

14 DEREK RYDER: Good evening. My name is
15 Derek Ryder, and thank you for coming to Los Angeles to
16 hear us.

17 What the Department of Water Resources should
18 consider in their EIR scope: An alternative that
19 increases Delta outflows and reduces exports, i.e., a
20 no-tunnel alternative. The EIR should analyze
21 conservation and efficiency measures that are less
22 harmful than the tunnel alternatives.

23 It should analyze the cumulative impacts of each
24 alternative, specifically impacts to climate change due
25 to conveyance and the effects of subsidized water on

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT CEQA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

320 WEST FOURTH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020

6:00 P.M.

MICHELE WAGNER

COURT REPORTER

1 APPEARANCES:

2 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES STAFF:
3 JANET BARBIERI, FACILITATOR
4 CARRIE BUCKMAN, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM MANAGER

5 PUBLIC SPEAKERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

6 SARAH WILTFONG, BIZFED
7 KEN RAUSH, EL MONTE/SOUTH EL MONTE CHAMBER
8 OF COMMERCE
9 KENDAL ASUNCION, LA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
10 STEVE ARAKAWA, METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
11 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
12 DAN DRUGAN, CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
13 CLARA KARGER, CENTRAL CITY ASSOCIATION
14 RON HASSON, CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE NAACP
15 MICHAEL LEWIS, CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COALITION
16 ON WATER QUALITY
17 HENRY ROGERS, SBACC
18 KEN COATE, INLAND ACTION
19 DR. MARIO MILCH, KAISER PERMANENTE
20 MARK GREY, BIASC
21 RON MILLER, LA/ORANGE COUNTY BUILDING TRADES
22 LUIS PORTILLO, INLAND EMPIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
23 ROBERT HUNTER, MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF
24 ORANGE COUNTY
25 BRANDON DAWSON, SIERRA CLUB
VICKI KIRSCHENBAUM, SUSTAINABLE BURBANK
COMMISSION
MARCI STANAGE, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP
FOR JOBS
DEREK RYDER, SIERRA CLUB LA
BRUCE CAMPBELL
CHARLEY WILSON, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER
COALITION
CATHLEEN PIERONI, INLAND EMPIRE WATER AGENCY
CONNER EVERTS, ENVIRONMENTAL WATER CAUCUS

1 tunnel and in the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta Region.
2 Please also consider oxygen production in the entire
3 Bay Delta Region in your evaluations.

4 Seeing that San Joaquin Valley agribis and some
5 water agencies from Santa Clara County and beyond will
6 often get their allotments of water ahead of the MWB --
7 MWD behemoth, please carefully evaluate each alternative
8 in regards to water security, water quality, and water
9 quantity for Southern California water consumers.

10 Please evaluate carefully for each alternative
11 how the entire Sacramento San Joaquin Delta food chain
12 would be impacted if there was a major reduction in
13 fresh water reaching the central Delta and San Pablo and
14 San Francisco Bays, such as would occur under the tunnel
15 alternatives.

16 Obviously, essential to include in your analysis
17 of impact on the whole food chain is the impact on the
18 Delta Smelt and Chinook Salmon already mentioned. If the
19 Delta is deprived of it's fresh water -- and I'll comment
20 more later.

21 JANET BARBIERI: Yes. Thank you very much.

22 Mr. Wilson?

23 CHARLEY WILSON: Thank you, and good evening.

24 As others have mentioned, thank you very much for coming
25 to Southern California. I know too frequently with this

1 issue we tend to spend a lot of time in one particular
2 town. As you can see, the interest here in an area that
3 represents some 27-plus million people is important to
4 hear from.

5 My name is Charley Wilson. I'm the executive
6 director of the Southern California Water Coalition.
7 We represent some 200 members and a coalition actually
8 larger of some 300, representing over 27 million
9 individuals from Kern County to the Mexican boarder and
10 out to both state lines.

11 It is a multifaceted, diverse group of people
12 that I won't go into again today, but we've engaged in
13 this issue for several years including the twin tunnels.

14 We are encouraged and we applaud
15 Governor Newsom. And to give you all direction within
16 the resiliency portfolio that's modernizing the state's
17 water delivery system is absolutely critical in helping
18 to make a truly functional, broad-based resiliency
19 portfolio possible.

20 As was mentioned earlier, the climate change
21 impacts from reduce of snowfall, increase flows with
22 rain. It's important how we modernize the system, where
23 we put the intakes, and the size of the facility. All of
24 these things go into serving over half the state's
25 population as well as some of the business interests

1 you've heard from today.

2 The ability to move water when it is abundant is
3 important. I also wanted to make sure that I shared this
4 with the Delta Stewardship Council -- this issue about
5 Southern California and its resiliency. We've been
6 spending, for the past 25 years, on average \$2 billion
7 annually around recycling, around storm water, around
8 efficiency, around conservation.

9 This is not new to Southern California. There
10 are parts of the state that this would be new to, but
11 we've made the investment. We will continue to make
12 additional investments. We will do so.

13 But the fresh water supply that comes from the
14 project that you are considering is the base supply that
15 makes all of that possible. Without that 30 percent, we
16 have fundamentally changed how we will do things in
17 Southern California at exponentially higher costs.

18 And since it was mentioned by the previous
19 speaker, I do want to encourage you as we're looking at
20 carbon emissions -- I believe it's part of the CEQA
21 documentation. The evaluation of the current carbon
22 emissions from the deteriorating existing Delta is the
23 single-largest carbon emittance in California. I think
24 that's part of the evaluation so when you're comparing
25 apples to apples, you actually get the apples-to-apples

1 comparison. Thank you.

2 JANET BARBIERI: Thanks very much.

3 And, Ms. Pieroni? Sorry if I'm pronouncing your
4 name incorrectly.

5 CATHLEEN PIERONI: No. You actually got it.

6 JANET BARBIERI: Okay.

7 CATHLEEN PIERONI: So my name is
8 Cathleen Pieroni. I'm the manager of government
9 relations at the Inland Empire Utilities Agency, which
10 is a wholesale water provider in the Inland Empire --
11 242 square miles represented by 900,000 people. We
12 import water from the Metropolitan Water District, which
13 we in turn supply to our retail water agencies.

14 For the sake of brevity, I'll just kind of say
15 "ditto" to Mr. Wilson's comments. They were very good.

16 But I did want to assure you that from a
17 Northern California perspective that our region really
18 is doing everything we can to just sustain our water
19 supplies.

20 My agency takes a hundred percent of the waste
21 water that comes to us, and we recycle it. So we use
22 that tertiary treated groundwater, recycled water, to
23 recharge the groundwater supplies at the Chino Basin that
24 we must maintain in a sustainable manner because it is
25 adjudicated. We also have requirements to replenish the

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT CEQA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

320 WEST FOURTH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020

6:00 P.M.

MICHELE WAGNER

COURT REPORTER

1 APPEARANCES:

2 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES STAFF:
3 JANET BARBIERI, FACILITATOR
4 CARRIE BUCKMAN, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM MANAGER

5 PUBLIC SPEAKERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

6 SARAH WILTFONG, BIZFED
7 KEN RAUSH, EL MONTE/SOUTH EL MONTE CHAMBER
8 OF COMMERCE
9 KENDAL ASUNCION, LA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
10 STEVE ARAKAWA, METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
11 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
12 DAN DRUGAN, CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
13 CLARA KARGER, CENTRAL CITY ASSOCIATION
14 RON HASSON, CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE NAACP
15 MICHAEL LEWIS, CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COALITION
16 ON WATER QUALITY
17 HENRY ROGERS, SBACC
18 KEN COATE, INLAND ACTION
19 DR. MARIO MILCH, KAISER PERMANENTE
20 MARK GREY, BIASC
21 RON MILLER, LA/ORANGE COUNTY BUILDING TRADES
22 LUIS PORTILLO, INLAND EMPIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
23 ROBERT HUNTER, MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF
24 ORANGE COUNTY
25 BRANDON DAWSON, SIERRA CLUB
VICKI KIRSCHENBAUM, SUSTAINABLE BURBANK
COMMISSION
MARCI STANAGE, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP
FOR JOBS
DEREK RYDER, SIERRA CLUB LA
BRUCE CAMPBELL
CHARLEY WILSON, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER
COALITION
CATHLEEN PIERONI, INLAND EMPIRE WATER AGENCY
CONNER EVERTS, ENVIRONMENTAL WATER CAUCUS

1 And if the State is truly concerned about water
2 reliability, earthquake damage, and salt water intrusion
3 from sea level rise, we urge the State to invest in and
4 strengthen the existing Delta levees and infrastructure.
5 We don't disagree that they need to be modernized, but we
6 just argue that there doesn't need to be additional ones
7 and increase fresh water flows in the Delta. Both of
8 which are far more efficient and cost-effective ways to
9 ensure water reliability for Californians.

10 We look forward to working with you. Thank you.

11 JANET BARBIERI: Thanks very much.

12 Ms. Kirschenbaum?

13 VICKI KIRSCHENBAUM: Hi. I'm -- oh, okay.

14 I'm Vicki Kirschenbaum. As part of the
15 Sustainable Burbank Commission, I did tour the Delta with
16 the Metropolitan Water District, and I saw this rich and
17 fragile ecosystem for myself, and I saw slides about how
18 the tunnel would be built.

19 This tunnel would be the width of a four-story
20 building resting on its side and would be 35 miles long.
21 Unbelievably destructive, and every major environmental
22 group/organization in this state has already been suing
23 to stop the two tunnels or the one-tunnel project.

24 Most the people who have spoken here seem to
25 have no idea where the water from this tunnel would go.

1 It would not come here to Southern California. It
2 goes to corporate agribusinesses in the South Western
3 Central Valley. They want to get more
4 taxpayer-subsidized water at our expense.

5 The tunnel would funnel massive amounts of
6 water to Beverly Hills billionaire Stewart Resnick's
7 agribusiness empire whose business uses more water every
8 year than all the homes in LA combined.

9 And the Resnick's, owners of the Wonderful
10 Company, and their agribusiness associates have gained
11 the state's water system to grow excessive amounts of
12 pistachios and almonds in the desert. And now they want
13 ratepayers to pay for a multibillion dollar tunnel to
14 keep this thing going?

15 These agribusiness companies already receive the
16 majority of water from the Delta. They would continue to
17 receive the majority of water from the Delta. We would
18 like the \$30 billion, instead of for a tunnel, to go to
19 local resilience, to go to storm water capture, to go to
20 conservation and recycling.

21 Voters have been fighting this project since
22 1982, when we voted it down, and it should be buried once
23 and for all.

24 JANET BARBIERI: Thank you.

25 Ms. Stanage?

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT CEQA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

320 WEST FOURTH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020

6:00 P.M.

MICHELE WAGNER

COURT REPORTER

1 APPEARANCES:

2 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES STAFF:
3 JANET BARBIERI, FACILITATOR
4 CARRIE BUCKMAN, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM MANAGER

5 PUBLIC SPEAKERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

6 SARAH WILTFONG, BIZFED
7 KEN RAUSH, EL MONTE/SOUTH EL MONTE CHAMBER
8 OF COMMERCE
9 KENDAL ASUNCION, LA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
10 STEVE ARAKAWA, METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
11 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
12 DAN DRUGAN, CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
13 CLARA KARGER, CENTRAL CITY ASSOCIATION
14 RON HASSON, CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE NAACP
15 MICHAEL LEWIS, CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COALITION
16 ON WATER QUALITY
17 HENRY ROGERS, SBACC
18 KEN COATE, INLAND ACTION
19 DR. MARIO MILCH, KAISER PERMANENTE
20 MARK GREY, BIASC
21 RON MILLER, LA/ORANGE COUNTY BUILDING TRADES
22 LUIS PORTILLO, INLAND EMPIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
23 ROBERT HUNTER, MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF
24 ORANGE COUNTY
25 BRANDON DAWSON, SIERRA CLUB
VICKI KIRSCHENBAUM, SUSTAINABLE BURBANK
COMMISSION
MARCI STANAGE, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP
FOR JOBS
DEREK RYDER, SIERRA CLUB LA
BRUCE CAMPBELL
CHARLEY WILSON, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER
COALITION
CATHLEEN PIERONI, INLAND EMPIRE WATER AGENCY
CONNER EVERTS, ENVIRONMENTAL WATER CAUCUS

1 we get into comments?

2 (No audible response.)

3 JANET BARBIERI: Okay. We'll go ahead and start
4 the comments. So I have all the comment cards. If
5 anyone has one they haven't turned in, just let me know
6 and I can come get it. I think what I'll do is I will
7 call you up -- thank you. I'll call you up in threes.
8 So you can just queue up here if you want.

9 And I just wanted to mention I do have quite a
10 few cards. I would like to try to get through everybody
11 in the time we have allotted, and so there is a timer
12 here. Everyone has three minutes to make their comments.
13 Please note that the yellow will start to blink when you
14 have 30 more seconds. So that's just a little visual
15 queue. We'll go ahead and get started.

16 And then, also, just as a reminder, these are
17 your comments to us, and so Carrie and Marcus and I will
18 be listening to your comments, but we're not doing Q&A
19 anymore. So this is your opportunity to give us
20 comments.

21 So we'll start with Sarah Wiltfong, Ken Raush,
22 and Kendal Asuncion. If you guys can come up, that would
23 be great, and just begin when you're ready.

24 SARAH WILTFONG: Good evening. My name is
25 Sarah Wiltfong, and I'm here on behalf of Los Angeles

1 County Business Federation, also known as BizFed. We're
2 an alliance of more than 190 business organizations who
3 represent over 400,000 employers with three and a half
4 million employees in Los Angeles County.

5 Our members consist of a variety of industries
6 including labor, hospitals, education, restaurants,
7 horse facilities, food processors, building industries,
8 refineries, hospitality industries, transportation
9 agencies, and more. We are dependent on them, and all of
10 them are dependent on a clean, steady, and cost-effective
11 flow of water.

12 We strongly promote storm water capture and
13 reuse, ocean desalination, and other conservation
14 measures, but without the insurance of imported water,
15 we cannot provide the stability and reliability that our
16 \$1.6 trillion economy requires.

17 BizFed strongly supports the one-tunnel Delta
18 Conveyance Project. It is the most cost-effective and
19 reliable solution to work for our water problems. Thank
20 you so much for your time.

21 JANET BARBIERI: Thank you, Sarah.

22 Mr. Raush?

23 KEN RAUSH: Good evening. My name is Ken Raush.
24 I am the CEO of the El Monte/South El Monte Chamber of
25 Commerce. I am here today to express support for the

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT CEQA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

320 WEST FOURTH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020

6:00 P.M.

MICHELE WAGNER

COURT REPORTER

1 APPEARANCES:

2 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES STAFF:
3 JANET BARBIERI, FACILITATOR
4 CARRIE BUCKMAN, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM MANAGER

5 PUBLIC SPEAKERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

6 SARAH WILTFONG, BIZFED
7 KEN RAUSH, EL MONTE/SOUTH EL MONTE CHAMBER
8 OF COMMERCE
9 KENDAL ASUNCION, LA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
10 STEVE ARAKAWA, METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
11 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
12 DAN DRUGAN, CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
13 CLARA KARGER, CENTRAL CITY ASSOCIATION
14 RON HASSON, CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE NAACP
15 MICHAEL LEWIS, CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COALITION
16 ON WATER QUALITY
17 HENRY ROGERS, SBACC
18 KEN COATE, INLAND ACTION
19 DR. MARIO MILCH, KAISER PERMANENTE
20 MARK GREY, BIASC
21 RON MILLER, LA/ORANGE COUNTY BUILDING TRADES
22 LUIS PORTILLO, INLAND EMPIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
23 ROBERT HUNTER, MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF
24 ORANGE COUNTY
25 BRANDON DAWSON, SIERRA CLUB
VICKI KIRSCHENBAUM, SUSTAINABLE BURBANK
COMMISSION
MARCI STANAGE, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP
FOR JOBS
DEREK RYDER, SIERRA CLUB LA
BRUCE CAMPBELL
CHARLEY WILSON, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER
COALITION
CATHLEEN PIERONI, INLAND EMPIRE WATER AGENCY
CONNER EVERTS, ENVIRONMENTAL WATER CAUCUS

From: [Lynes, Mike](#)
To: [DWR Delta Conveyance Scoping](#)
Subject: Audubon comments on NOP for the DEIR for Delta conveyance
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 6:45:52 PM
Attachments: [Audubon Comments re NOP of EIR for Delta Conveyance -3.20.20_final.pdf](#)

Good evening,

Please find attached a comment letter from Audubon California regarding the notice of preparation for the environmental impact report for the Delta conveyance.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,
Mike Lynes

Director of Public Policy
Audubon California
455 Capitol Mall, Suite 415
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tel: 916-737-5707 extension 102
Cell: 415-505-9743
Fax: 916-737-5717
mlynes@audubon.org

ca.audubon.org



455 Capitol Mall, Suite 415
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 737-5707
mike.lynes@audubon.org

March 20, 2020

VIA Email
NOP of EIR for Delta Conveyance
P.O. Box 942836 Sacramento, CA 94236
DeltaConveyanceScoping@water.ca.gov

Re: Notice of Preparation for the Delta Conveyance EIR
To Renee Rodriguez:

Audubon California (Audubon) submits these comments regarding the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Delta Conveyance Project ("Project") in the hope of ensuring that any efforts to address the significant challenges of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ("Delta") derive from the best available science and comprehensive consideration of the project's impacts, mitigation measures, and uncertainties. The ecological value of the Delta cannot be overstated and a project of this size and complexity must proceed to carefully and fully assess environmental impacts and avoid, minimize, and mitigate for them to the fullest extent feasible.

Audubon has long been concerned with the fate of the Delta, as it is home to a strong community of inhabitants, provides a substantial amount of habitat for birds and other wildlife, and serves as a principal conduit of water from northern California to the people, farms, and wildlife refuges south. We understand that the status quo in the Delta is not sustainable and the California's water security depends on improving conditions there. In an Audubon comment letter addressing the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report / Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/SDEIS) for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) / California WaterFix from October 30, 2015, we stated our concerns that the State did not provide adequate assurances that impacts from the WaterFix were fully mitigated. We remain concerned that these issues will be carried over to the Delta Conveyance project. More importantly, in these previous processes the State did not provide adequate assurances that the wildlife habitat, water quality, and human inhabitants in the Delta would be properly attended to once those proposed conveyance projects were constructed; many harbor the reasonable concern that once water conveyance infrastructure is complete, promises of habitat restoration and other benefits to the Delta community will be left unfulfilled.

It is reasonable to assert that past concerns as stated in the following text are relevant to the current Project and therefore should be addressed at this early stage of Project development.

In its letters of July 23, 2012 and May 24, 2013, the Central Valley Joint Venture (“CVJV”), of which Audubon is a member, stated that the BDCP should improve—not compromise—efforts to conserve wildlife and habitat in and around the Delta. In its May 24, 2013 letter, the CVJV recommended that “all Delta-related planning efforts, including BDCP...adopt a goal to contribute to the attainment of the acreage, water and bird population goals set forth by the Central Valley Joint Venture Implementation Plan.”

Audubon is also part of the Migratory Bird Conservation Partnership (MBCP) with Point Blue Conservation Science and the Nature Conservancy. On July 29, 2014, the MBCP provided a comment letter on the BDCP and set forth the following principles that we believe are relevant to the current proposed Project:

- PRINCIPLE 1: *Avoid Detrimental Impacts to Wetland Water Supply*
- PRINCIPLE 2: *Mitigate for Impacts to Brackish and Freshwater Wetland-associated Birds and Bird Habitat.*
- PRINCIPLE 3: *Use Adaptive Management to Improve Mitigation Outcomes.*

The MBCP letter expressed concern about the many uncertainties in the DEIS/DEIR’s assessment of impacts, planned conservation measures, and vaguely defined adaptive management measures. Given the similarities between projects it is imperative that these concerns also be considered under the currently proposed Project. Specifically, we expressed concern and provided recommendations regarding the following:

- the DEIS/DEIR’s overly-narrowed focus on threatened and endangered species, which missed opportunities to slightly adjust conservation measures in order to provide benefits to a broader array of species that would suffer impacts arising from the projects;
- the importance of post-harvest management as a boon for habitat quality and the recommendation that post-harvest, wildlife-friendly agricultural practices be included among conservation measures;
- the incomplete consideration of the conservation benefits of improved water management and vulnerabilities arising from climate change impacts to water delivery in areas where restoration may occur;
- the DEIS/DEIR’s failure to include as a stated goal the maintenance or improvement of water deliveries to wildlife refuges, which will suffer direct and indirect impacts arising from the project;
- the overall failure to account for impacts of climate change on habitat restoration and protection activities and the failure to apply “climate-smart” principles in the planning effort;
- the lack of monitoring for shorebirds, waterfowl, and riparian songbirds, which, if remedied, would provide for an effective monitoring tool for ongoing restoration and effects arising from the project; and
- the lack of an adequate adaptive management plan, informed by ongoing monitoring and reinforced by specific benchmarks, triggers, and actions that would be taken if impacts or mitigation measures had unanticipated results.

While Audubon was pleased to see several improvements during the BDCP/WaterFix process, we noted that all of the above referenced concerns remained in the RDEIR/SDEIS for that project, and therefore these concerns remain for the currently proposed Project.

Specifically, we are most concerned about the following not appropriately being included in a draft EIR for the proposed project:

1. A failure to address impacts to water supplies for private, state, and federal wildlife refuges, particularly those south of the Delta.
2. Impacts on non-listed wildlife having a narrow focus.
3. Failure to include sufficiently robust monitoring and adaptive management plans.

Audubon appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments and the amount of work the State continues to invest in attempting to provide a comprehensive environmental review document. We understand that while no document will be perfect, there are specific consideration that can be made to the Project and the EIR to provide the public and decision makers with the best and most complete information to understand the Project and provide assurances that its adverse environmental impacts will be mitigated.

Perhaps most importantly, these considerations in the EIR's assessment of environmental impacts, including the development of an adaptive management framework, and strong environmental commitments will provide the Delta community and conservation organizations with more assurance that their concerns will not wash out with the tide once the tunnel is constructed and water is flowing freely from north to south.

If you would like to discuss these comments further, please do not hesitate to contact me at mike.lynes@audubon.org or (916) 737-5707 ext. 102.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Lynes
Director of Public Policy
Audubon California

From: [julie bongers](#)
To: [DWR Delta Conveyance Scoping](#)
Subject: DCP comment
Date: Saturday, March 21, 2020 2:19:27 AM

To Whom it May Concern:

I think it is time that California stop looking for more ways to send northern California's water south. Conservation is something we all learned to do a few years ago and can further hone -- including San Joaquin Valley agribusiness that appears to have drummed up the DCP and to be filling the governor's campaign coffers (I know the published amounts donated by more than one multimillionaire and one billionaire agribusiness owner. Moreover, at least a couple among those already use the Sacramento Delta water they procures from the State Water Project system of canals to refill natural groundwater reservoirs or banks that they pump up to water their crops -- sources that they seem to have acquired at taxpayer expense). This project reeks of potential corruption and unquestionable immorality.

The governor argues that it is needed, a kind of insurance in anticipation of rising sea levels. Everyone knows that water flows to the lowest point so this argument does not stand on any reasonable logical grounds. If you divert Delta water in such large quantities as the DCP is planned to be capable of, due to the consequently much weakened force from the Sacramento current running into San Pablo Bay, salt water will naturally extend further into the Delta! Most importantly, NO one put this concern with the DCP into my mind. Upon hearing of it, I was appalled by the very idea. From an environmental management perspective California already allows too much of Northern California's water to be brought south.

Since first hearing of it, I began studying this situation, and I've concluded that most Californians and particularly those who think this DCP is a good idea, do not even remotely appreciate the current and especially the long term importance of salmon for our state, and particularly but not only the importance of Chinook. I also suggest that this lack of appreciation is from many different perspectives that, when we examine them, make the DCP look like a very bad idea.

Among other things, the DCP is not just likely to further endanger the Sacramento River watershed Chinook runs, it's super difficult to dispute the evidence that the DCP will definitely result in the almost immediate extinction of the already endangered Chinook winter run and that the "threatened" and "of concern" fall and spring runs will follow in the winter run's footsteps within the lives of some of us (read on before you tell me that hatcheries can prevent that).

Besides our existing and financially very significant Chinook and other Sacramento watershed fishing industry that will be harmed and gradually destroyed if the DCP is built, and that, with no DCP, good management and a slew of appropriate protections, could be enhanced, we benefit from Chinook in other ways that are less obvious and more fundamental. For example, nearly all of Northern and Central California's rich agricultural soils, including all those in the valleys of the Sacramento watershed are built of decomposed salmon bodies. Millions of Chinook bodies have decomposed seasonally over the millennia as a result of running up their natal streams to spawn and then to die. It is estimated that there were two million Chinook per run per year, so a total of eight million annually (small Chinook weight >30 pounds, so do the math) that swam up into the Sacramento watershed with nutrients from the sea. So all the soils and all those Sacramento, Pajaro, Klamath, Russian River and other ecosystems are also built on the basis of northern and central California's keystone species, and particularly on the basis of the Chinook or King salmon, because they are so large.

Moreover, salmon are the inescapably irrefutable link between California's agricultural riches

and the biodiversity that contributes (in the governor's economic terms) to California's recreational economy. Besides having created our rich soils, over a hundred species eat salmon, and people come to see the worlds that all these species inhabit. I can name over thirty salmon devouring animals quickly off the top of my head, and I'm not even in the sciences, let alone an environmental sciences specialization.

Because of the destruction of salmon spawning grounds during the nineteenth century's gold rush and the twentieth century's obsession with dams, some of those beings who eat salmon are probably now endangered and some smaller ones entirely forgotten and extinct. It's very likely the reason wolverines no longer live in our forests and fishers are so rare. So it's no longer morally or even long-term economically responsible to let what happened to Chinook as a consequence of the gold rush and the dam building eras occur in some new way.

This DCP threatens to be such a new way. It threatens to be at least as destructive to our Chinook as was the gold rush and all of the dams we've built on northern California rivers. Moreover, while well-managed hatcheries may be possible, they are not the solution! Even the Nimbus Fish Hatchery management's fish ladder docents tell people that for salmon to survive, let alone thrive, wild populations are critical. Moreover, hatcheries themselves have seriously endangered some salmon populations. This is a photo of a wild black bear who is salmon deprived, and hence starving.

image.png



This bear lives in the Broughton Archipelago in British Columbia, and its ribs are sticking out in the fall when the bears are usually fat and need to be fattening for the pending winter. It is starving because in 2019 one tenth of one percent of salmon returned last year. Why so few? Because of fish lice and an east coast fish virus that are thriving in the nearby hatcheries and have infected the wild population. So it's time you get it.

California's rich biodiversity, which contributes enormously to its recreational economy, and its immense agricultural wealth is largely due to two sources that are both nearly gone. The San Joaquin Valley the soils are rich because of millennia of decomposed animal and plant bodies that accumulated in the valley's former seasonal marshlands, marshes that were once rife with amphibians, steelhead trout, birds, and reeds. Likewise, from the Delta north, soils are rich due to the accumulation over the millennia of decomposing salmon bodies, deposits of carnivore-digested salmon bodies, and of herbivore-digested salmon-fed grasses.

Besides the lucrative Chinook industry, which could easily be fostered and enlarged (Chinook are known to be super-resilient species), humans' and over a hundreds other beings' long term food security can be ensured if we protect the Chinook. Our food security is not ensured by means of the DCP plan that is being advocated by the governor. He seems to be lured by the money that some excessively-wealthy water-hog San Joaquin valley agribusiness owners bring into his coffers. The governor and his supporters are likely to counter this last truth saying that such agribusiness-persons are massive contributors to the state's economy. Yes, perhaps, and at what cost? The cost of the biodiversity of California's environment, the cost of those

beings whose bodies created the soils upon which the agribusiness owners farms depend, and even the cost of California taxpayer. I don't hear the agribusiness owners offering to pay higher taxes, or in some cases even their share of taxes, nor do I hear them offering to pay for the DCP that they want the state taxpayers to build. The rich soils their businesses depend on are largely no-longer being replenished remnants of California's former, dying, and suffering ecosystems. Moreover, on the basis of these business persons' own greed for more water to sustain long-term unsustainable mono-cropping practices, it's clear that those who favor this project do not appreciate California's indigenous ecosystems. Massive water-heavy mono-cropping practices do not ensure long term food security. Respect for the biodiversity of the ecosystems that have given us our agricultural wealth does. We have a moral obligation to our grandchildren to live sustainably, and what's unsustainable for such species as the Chinook is, in the long term, unsustainable for humans.

Best wishes,

Elephant seal, Orca, Racoon, Black bear, Water shrew, Wolverine, Grizzly bear, Great white shark, Golden mantled ground squirrel, Stellar Sealion, Bald eagle, Ringtail, Bobcat, Striped skunk, North American River Otter, and California Sea lion (we all eat Chinook, but we're just here to represent our eighty-five to a hundred other relatives -- our human friend edited something previously written and gave it to us to send).

From: [Cherie Clark](#)
To: [DWR Delta Conveyance Scoping](#)
Cc: [Yee, Marcus@DWR](mailto:Yee.Marcus@DWR)
Subject: Delta Conveyance Notice of Preparation
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 4:43:21 PM
Attachments: [20200061.pdf](#)

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached District comment letter on the Delta Conveyance Notice of Preparation project. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

*Cherie Clark
Air Quality Specialist II
Permits
San Joaquin Valley APCD
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.
Fresno, CA 93726
559-230-5940*

*Service*Teamwork*Attitude*Respect*



March 20, 2020

Renee Rodriguez
 Department of Water Resources
 P.O. Box 942836
 Sacramento, CA 94236

Project: Notice of Preparation for the Delta Conveyance Project

District CEQA Reference No: 20200061

Dear Ms. Rodriguez:

The San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) has reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Delta Conveyance Project. The proposed project consists of construction and operation of new conveyance facilities in the Delta that would add to the existing State Water Project (SWP) infrastructure (Project). The new conveyance facilities would be located in the north Delta along the Sacramento River between Freeport and the confluence with Sutter Slough, encompassing approximately 2,455 acres. The Project would include a tunnel to convey water from new intakes to the existing Banks Pumping Plant and potentially the federal Jones Pumping Plant in the south Delta. In addition to the tunnel and new intake facilities, other ancillary facilities may be constructed to support construction of the conveyance facilities including, but not limited to, access roads, barge unloading facilities, concrete batch plants, fuel stations, mitigation areas, and power transmission and/or distribution lines. The District offers the following comments:

1) Emissions Analysis

Given the size of the Project identified, the District's initial review of the Project concludes that emissions resulting from construction and/or operation of the Project may exceed the following thresholds of significance: 100 tons per year of carbon monoxide (CO), 10 tons per year of oxides of nitrogen (NOx), 10 tons per year of reactive organic gases (ROG), 27 tons per year of oxides of sulfur (SOx), 15 tons per year of particulate matter of 10 microns or less in size (PM10), or 15 tons per year of particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less in size (PM2.5).

Samir Sheikh
 Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer

Northern Region
 4800 Enterprise Way
 Modesto, CA 95356-8718
 Tel: (209) 557-6400 FAX: (209) 557-6475

Central Region (Main Office)
 1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue
 Fresno, CA 93726-0244
 Tel: (559) 230-6000 FAX: (559) 230-6061

Southern Region
 34946 Flyover Court
 Bakersfield, CA 93308-9725
 Tel: (661) 392-5500 FAX: (661) 392-5585

At the federal level for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), the District is currently designated as extreme nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone standards; nonattainment for the PM_{2.5} standards; and attainment for the 1-Hour ozone, PM₁₀ and CO standards. At the state level, the District is currently designated as nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS).

2) Project Emissions Quantification: Construction related emissions

Construction emissions are short-term emissions and should be evaluated separately from operational emissions. For reference, the District's annual criteria thresholds of significance for construction are: 100 tons per year of carbon monoxide (CO), 10 tons per year of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), 10 tons per year of reactive organic gases (ROG), 27 tons per year of oxides of sulfur (SO_x), 15 tons per year of particulate matter of 10 microns or less in size (PM₁₀), or 15 tons per year of particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less in size (PM_{2.5}).

The District recommends the cleanest reasonably available off-road construction fleets, as set forth in §2423 of Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations, and Part 89 of Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations be used to reduce Project related impacts from construction related exhaust emissions.

The District also recommends the Project related criteria pollutant emissions from construction be identified and quantified. Emissions analysis should be performed using CalEEMod (**C**alifornia **E**mission **E**stimator **M**odel), which uses the most recent approved version of relevant Air Resources Board (ARB) emissions models and emission factors. CalEEMod is available to the public and can be downloaded from the CalEEMod website at: www.caleemod.com

3) Project Emissions Quantification: Operational Emissions: Permitted (stationary)

The District typically analyzes the emissions associated with permitted equipment. The District permitting process typically ensures that emissions of criteria pollutants from permitted equipment and activities at stationary sources are reduced or mitigated to below the District's thresholds of significance.

Although permitted equipment or activities located at stationary sources will generally have a less than significant impact on air quality, to meet the standards of adequacy for disclosure of potential environmental impacts, the Department of Water Resources should include a discussion of the analysis of criteria pollutant emissions from permitted sources and activities for the purposes of determining significance.

Project related criteria pollutant emissions from construction and operation non-permitted (limited to equipment not subject to District permits) should be identified and quantified. Emissions analysis should be performed using CalEEMod (**California Emission Estimator Model**), which uses the most recent approved version of relevant Air Resources Board (ARB) emissions models and emission factors. CalEEMod is available to the public and can be downloaded from the CalEEMod website at: www.caleemod.com.

4) Project Emissions Quantification: Operational Emissions: Non-permitted (mobile sources).

Mobile sources should be analyzed separately from construction and permitted sources. For reference, the annual criteria thresholds of significance for operation of non-permitted sources each are: 100 tons per year of carbon monoxide (CO), 10 tons per year of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), 10 tons per year of reactive organic gases (ROG), 27 tons per year of oxides of sulfur (SO_x), 15 tons per year of particulate matter of 10 microns or less in size (PM₁₀), or 15 tons per year of particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less in size (PM_{2.5}).

The District recommends that the Department of Water Resources include mitigation measures to reduce project related operational impacts through incorporation of design elements, for example, increased energy efficiency, reducing vehicle miles traveled, etc. More information on mitigation measures can be found at: http://www.valleyair.org/transportation/ceqa_idx.htm.

5) Voluntary Emission Reduction Agreement (VERA)

The Project would potentially have a significant impact on regional air quality. As such, the District recommends the EIR also include a discussion on the feasibility of implementing a VERA for this project. A VERA is a mitigation measure by which the project proponent provides pound-for-pound mitigation of emissions increases through a process that develops, funds, and implements emission reduction projects, with the District serving a role of administrator of the emissions reduction projects and verifier of the successful mitigation effort. To implement a VERA, the project proponent and the District enter into a contractual agreement in which the project proponent agrees to mitigate project specific emissions by providing funds for the District's incentives programs). The funds are disbursed by the District in the form of grants for projects that achieve emission reductions. Thus, project-specific regional impacts on air quality can be fully mitigated. Types of emission reduction projects that have been funded in the past include electrification of stationary internal combustion engines (such as agricultural irrigation pumps), replacing old heavy-duty trucks with new, cleaner, more efficient heavy-duty trucks, and replacement of old farm tractors.

In implementing a VERA, the District verifies the actual emission reductions that have been achieved as a result of completed grant contracts, monitors the emission reduction projects, and ensures the enforceability of achieved reductions. After the project is mitigated, the District certifies to the lead agency that the mitigation is completed, providing the lead agency with an enforceable mitigation measure demonstrating that project-specific regional emissions have been mitigated to less than significant. To assist the Lead Agency and project proponent in ensuring that the environmental document is compliant with CEQA, the District recommends the environmental document includes an assessment of the feasibility of implementing a VERA.

6) Nuisance Odors

The Project should be evaluated to determine the likelihood that the Project would result in nuisance odors. Nuisance orders are subjective, thus the District has not established thresholds of significance for nuisance odors. Nuisance odors may be assessed qualitatively taking into consideration of Project design elements and proximity to off-site receptors that potentially would be exposed objectionable odors.

7) Health Risk Screening/Assessment

- a. A Health Risk Screening/Assessment identifies potential Toxic Air Contaminants (TAC's) impact on surrounding sensitive receptors such as hospitals, daycare centers, schools, work-sites, and residences. TAC's are air pollutants identified by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment/California Air Resources Board (OEHHA/CARB) (<https://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/healthval/healthval.htm>) that pose a present or potential hazard to human health. A common source of TACs can be attributed to diesel exhaust emitted from both mobile and stationary sources.

The District recommends the Project be evaluated for potential health impacts to surrounding receptors (on-site and off-site) resulting from operational and multi-year construction TAC emissions.

- b. The District recommends conducting a screening analysis that includes all sources of emissions. A screening analysis is used to identify projects which may have a significant health impact. A prioritization, using CAPCOA's updated methodology, is the recommended screening method. A prioritization score of 10 or greater is considered to be significant and a refined Health Risk Assessment (HRA) should be performed. For your convenience, the District's prioritization calculator can be found at:

http://www.valleyair.org/busind/pto/emission_factors/Criteria/Toxics/Utilities/PRIORITIZATION%20RMR%202016.XLS.

- c. The District recommends a refined HRA for projects that result in a prioritization score of 10 or greater. Prior to performing an HRA, it is recommended that the Project proponent contact the District to review the proposed modeling protocol. The Project would be considered to have a significant health risk if the HRA demonstrates that the Project related health impacts would exceed the District's significance threshold of 20 in a million for carcinogenic risk and 1.0 for the Acute and Chronic Hazard Indices, and would trigger all feasible mitigation measures. The District recommends that Projects that result in a significant health risk not be approved.

For HRA submittals, please provide the following information electronically to the District for review:

- HRA AERMOD model files
- HARP2 files
- Summary of emissions source locations, emissions rates, and emission factor calculations and methodology.

More information on toxic emission factors, prioritizations and HRAs can be obtained by:

- E-Mailing inquiries to: hramodeler@valleyair.org; or
- The District can be contacted at (559) 230-6000 for assistance; or
- Visiting the District's website (Modeling Guidance) at: http://www.valleyair.org/busind/pto/Tox_Resources/AirQualityMonitoring.htm.

8) Ambient Air Quality Analysis (AAQA)

An AAQA uses air dispersion modeling to determine if emissions increases from a project will cause or contribute to a violation of the ambient air quality standards. The District recommends that an AAQA be performed for the Project if emissions exceed 100 pounds per day of any pollutant.

If an AAQA is performed, the analysis should include emissions from both Project specific permitted and non-permitted equipment and activities. The District recommends consultation with District staff to determine the appropriate model and input data to use in the analysis. Specific information for assessing significance, including screening tools and modeling guidance is available online at the District's website www.valleyair.org/ceqa.

9) Project Modeling and Design

In addition to the discussions on potential impacts identified above, the District recommends the EIR also include the following discussions:

- a. A discussion of the methodology, model assumptions, inputs and results used in characterizing the Project's impact on air quality. To comply with CEQA requirements for full disclosure, the District recommends that the modeling outputs be provided as appendices to the EIR. The District further recommends that the District be provided with an electronic copy of all input and output files for all modeling.
 - b. A discussion of the components and phases of the Project and the associated emission projections, including ongoing emissions from each previous phase.
 - c. A discussion of Project design elements and mitigation measures, including characterization of the effectiveness of each mitigation measure incorporated into the Project.
- i) The following policies/mitigation measures are recommended to reduce or mitigate impacts from criteria pollutant emissions:
- (1) For projects exceeding the applicability thresholds identified in Section 2.0 of District Rule 9510, a condition of Project approval requiring demonstration of compliance with Rule 9510, prior to the issuance of grading and/or building permits.
 - (2) For projects subject to District permitting requirements, demonstration of compliance with District Rule 2201, such as a copy of the Authority to Construct (ATC), before issuance of the first building permit, be made a condition of project approval.
- ii) The following policies/mitigation measures are recommended to mitigate potential health impacts of individual projects:
- (1) Development projects resulting in toxic air contaminant emissions will be located an adequate distance from residential areas and other sensitive receptors in accordance to ARB's *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective*.
 - (2) A health risk screening and/or assessment will be performed to assess potential risks to sensitive receptors for the following projects:

- (3) Projects whose proposed locations are within the established buffer distances identified in ARB's handbook;
 - (4) Projects whose land uses are not specifically identified in ARB's handbook (such as shopping centers), but there is sufficient information to reasonably conclude that sensitive receptors would be exposed to significant sources of toxic air contaminants; and
 - (5) Projects that would otherwise appear to be exempt from CEQA requirements, but there is sufficient information to reasonably conclude that sensitive receptors would be exposed to significant sources of toxic air contaminants, such as industrial use projects allowed by right.
- iii) A discussion of whether the Project would result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant or precursor for which the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin is in non-attainment. More information on the District's attainment status can be found online by visiting the District's website at: <http://valleyair.org/aqinfo/attainment.htm>.
- a. As required by the recent decision in *Sierra Club v. County of Fresno* (2018) 6 Cal.4th 502, a reasonable effort to discuss relevant specifics regarding the connection between potential adverse air quality impacts from the Project with the likely nature and magnitude of potential health impacts. If the potential health impacts from the Project cannot be specifically correlated, explain what is known and why, given scientific constraints, potential health impacts cannot be translated.
- 10) District Rules and Regulation
- a. The proposed Project may be subject to District rules and regulations, including: Regulation VIII (Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions), Rule 4102 (Nuisance), and Rule 4641 (Cutback, Slow Cure, and Emulsified Asphalt, Paving and Maintenance Operations). In the event an existing building will be renovated, partially demolished or removed, the Project may be subject to District Rule 4002 (National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants).
 - b. This Project may be subject to District Rule 2010 (Permits Required) and Rule 2201 (New and Modified Stationary Source Review) and require District permits. Prior to construction, if the Project is subject to District permits, the Project proponent should submit to the District an application for an Authority to Construct

- (ATC). For further information or assistance, the project proponent may contact the District's Small Business Assistance (SBA) Office at (209) 557-6446.
- c. The purpose of District Rule 9510 (Indirect Source Review) is to reduce the growth in both NO_x and PM₁₀ emissions associated with development and transportation projects from mobile and area sources associated with construction and operation of development projects. The rule encourages clean air design elements to be incorporated into the development project. In case the proposed project clean air design elements are insufficient to meet the targeted emission reductions, the rule requires developers to pay a fee used to fund projects to achieve off-site emissions reductions.

Accordingly, this Project is subject to District Rule 9510 as it exceeds 9,000 square feet of space. When subject to the rule, an Air Impact Assessment (AIA) application is required prior to applying for project-level approval from a public agency. In this case, if not already done, please inform the project proponent to immediately submit an AIA application to the District to comply with District Rule 9510.

An AIA application is required and the District recommends that demonstration of compliance with District Rule 9510, before issuance of the first building permit, be made a condition of Project approval. Information about how to comply with District Rule 9510 can be found online at:
<http://www.valleyair.org/ISR/ISRHome.htm>.

The AIA application form can be found online at:
<http://www.valleyair.org/ISR/ISRFormsAndApplications.htm>.

District staff is available to provide assistance and can be reached by phone at (559) 230-6000 or by email at ISR@valleyair.org.

- d. The Project may be subject to District Rule 9410 (Employer Based Trip Reduction) if the Project would result in employment of 100 or more "eligible" employees. District Rule 9410 requires employers with 100 or more "eligible" employees at a worksite to establish an Employer Trip Reduction Implementation Plan (eTRIP) that encourages employees to reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips, thus reducing pollutant emissions associated with work commutes. Under an eTRIP plan, employers have the flexibility to select the options that work best for their worksites and their employees. Information about how District Rule 9410 can be found online at: www.valleyair.org/tripreduction.htm. For additional information, you can contact the District by phone at 559-230-6000 or by e-mail at etrip@valleyair.org

- e. The above list of rules is neither exhaustive nor exclusive. To identify other District rules or regulations that apply to this Project or to obtain information about District permit requirements, the applicant is strongly encouraged to contact the District's Small Business Assistance (SBA) Office at (209) 557-6446. Current District rules can be found online at the District's website at: www.valleyair.org/rules/1ruleslist.htm.

The District recommends that a copy of the District's comments be provided to the Project proponent. If you have any questions or require further information, please call Cherie Clark at (559) 230-5940.

Sincerely,

Arnaud Marjollet
Director of Permit Services



For:
Robert Gilles
Program Manager

AM: cc

From: [Walsh, Jolene](#)
To: [DWR Delta Conveyance Scoping](#)
Cc: [Cooper, Rhonda](#)
Subject: EMWD Supports the Delta Conveyance Scoping Process
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 3:39:13 PM
Attachments: [EMWD Delta Conveyance Comment letter 3-2020 draft final.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.txt](#)

Renee Rodriguez-

Attached please find EMWD's comment letter, supporting the scoping process on the single-tunnel Delta Conveyance project currently being advanced by the Department of Water Resources.

Please let me know if we can provide any other information.

Thank you,
Jolene



March 20, 2020

VIA EMAIL: DeltaConveyanceScoping@water.ca.gov

Delta Conveyance Scoping Comments
Attention: Renee Rodriguez
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

On behalf of Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) and its Board of Directors, we are pleased to provide comments on the scoping process of the single-tunnel Delta conveyance project currently being advanced by the Department of Water Resources. We appreciate Governor Newsom's initiative and willingness to pursue the Delta Conveyance project as it would help ensure, safe, affordable and reliable water supplies to many California residents.

EMWD is a water, wastewater, and recycled water service provider to more than 839,000 residents living throughout a 555-square mile service area in arid western Riverside County. EMWD has made great strides to develop local supplies, and reduce its dependence on water supply from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta (Bay Delta). EMWD receives a blend of imported water — from the Bay Delta and Colorado River— from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. In 1990, while serving a total population of 358,000 people, EMWD was about 65 percent dependent on imported supplies. In 2019, even though its population grew to 839,000, EMWD effectively reduced dependence on imported supplies to 49 percent. This speaks to the investments EMWD has made in water use efficiency, and developing local, sustainable supplies like recycled water, and brackish groundwater desalination. However, despite EMWD's best efforts to develop local supplies, our region will always be partially reliant on water from the Bay Delta. In addition, the low salinity water from the Delta makes our recycled water programs more sustainable.

Board of Directors

Ronald W. Sullivan, *President* Philip E. Paule, *Vice President* Stephen J. Corona Randy A. Record David J. Slawson

2270 Trumble Road • P.O. Box 8300 • Perris, CA 92572-8300

T 951.928.3777 • F 951.928.6177 www.emwd.org

Delta Conveyance Scoping Comments
Attention: Renee Rodriguez
March 20, 2020
Page 2

Water from the Sierra Nevada Mountains that flows through the Bay Delta provides the backbone water supply for millions of Southern Californians, our \$1.6 trillion economy, farms and our environment. Modernizing and upgrading our state's aging infrastructure with a single tunnel, properly sized to convey 6,000 cubic-feet-per-second of water supply through the State Water Project will allow us to more efficiently move water, restore the Delta ecosystem and manage our water supply through our increasingly variable climate.

There is widespread support for the Delta Conveyance project in Southern California and throughout the state from diverse and prominent interests, ranging from labor and business to public agencies, nonprofits and agriculture. We all recognize that a severe water shortage caused by a levee failure or other natural disaster in the Bay Delta would come with enormous economic consequences, hence the time to move forward on the project is now.

We understand Delta Conveyance is just one of many steps that need to be taken to ensure water resiliency in California, and EMWD and other agencies in Southern California have already invested heavily in development of local sustainable supplies, and continue to invest in such projects. Ensuring Southern California has a reliable water supply in the future requires a diverse portfolio including both imported and local supplies, and conservation. Despite the significant progress and investments being made on local projects and water use efficiency, the Delta conveyance project remains vitally important, for agencies like EMWD where the high quality, low salinity water supply is essential for the sustainability of local programs like water recycling. Every ton of salt imported in the water supply, must ultimately be removed and exported, which is resource and energy intensive.

EMWD supports the Newsom Administration's work to advance the planning process in a manner that achieves the goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration. With California's largest and most affordable supply at risk, we need the reliability the proposed Delta Conveyance project will provide. If EMWD can be a resource or provide additional information, please contact me at 951-928-6130, or by email at jonesp@emwd.org.

Sincerely,



Ronald W. Sullivan
President, Board of Directors



Paul D. Jones II, P.E.
General Manager

From: [julie bongers](#)
To: [DWR Delta Conveyance Scoping](#)
Subject: My two cents on the governor's water project
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 6:46:18 PM

To all concerned. I am a grad student in a University of California department that is still in finals week, and I'm a teaching assistant, so under the current conditions, I've not written until now because I've been working to complete all the final essays and other project I have due while attempting to assist seventy students make decisions about a novel their primary professor has given them with respect to finals given that they've all been asked, if possible to go home.

I can write an extended essay on why I think that the Delta Conveyance Project is a very bad idea. However your deadline for comments, according to what I've heard, is today. So, here I'm going to spill out that essay in a brief one.

I am from both Southern California and the extended SF Bay area, and I think it is time that California stop looking for more ways to send northern California's water south. Conservation is something we all learned to do a few years ago and can learn to do better -- including San Joaquin Valley agribusiness that appears to have drummed up this project and to be filling the governor's campaign coffers (I know the amounts donated by more than one multimillionaire and billionaire agribusiness owner, at least one one of whom already uses the Sacramento Delta water he procures from the State Water Project system of canals to refill natural groundwater reservoirs or banks that he uses to water his crops -- sources that he seems to have acquired at taxpayer expense). This project reeks with potential corruption and unquestionable immorality.

The governor argues that it is needed, a kind of insurance in anticipation of rising sea levels. Everyone knows that water flows to the lowest point so this argument does not stand on any reasonable logical grounds. If you divert Delta water in such large quantities as the DCP is planned to do, with a much weakened force of the Sacramento current running into San Pablo Bay, sea water will naturally extend in towards the delta!

Most importantly. NO one put these ideas into my mind.

I've been studying this situation, and I've concluded that most Californians and particularly those who think this DCP is a good idea, do not even remotely appreciate the current and especially the long term importance of salmon, and particularly but not only the importance of Chinook, for our state. I also suggest that this lack of appreciation is from many different perspectives which if we would examine them, make the DCP look like a very bad idea. Among other things, the DCP is not just likely to further endanger the Sacramento River watershed Chinook runs, it's super difficult to dispute the evidence that the DCP will definitely result in the almost immediate extinction of the already endangered Chinook winter run and the "threatened" and "of concern" fall and spring runs following in those footsteps within the lives of some of us (read on before you tell me that hatcheries can prevent that). Besides our existing financially very significant Chinook and other fish industry that will be harmed and in some cases destroyed by the DCP (but with no DCP, good management and a slew of appropriate protections, could be enhanced), we benefit from Chinook in other ways that are less obvious and more fundamental. For example, nearly all of Northern and Central California's rich agricultural soils,

including all those in the valleys of the Sacramento watershed are built of decomposed salmon bodies, millions of them decomposing seasonally over the millennia as a result of dying after running up their natal streams to spawn. It is estimated that there were two million Chinook *per run per year*, so a total of eight million (do the math, small Chinook weight >30 pounds) coming into the Sacramento watershed. So all the soils and all those Sacramento, Klamath, Russian River and other ecosystems are also built on the basis of California's keystone or umbrella salmon species, and particularly on the basis of the Chinook or King salmon, *because* they are so large.

Moreover, salmon are the inescapably irrefutable link between California's agricultural riches and the biodiversity that contributes (in your economic terms) to California's recreational economy. Besides having created our rich soils, over a hundred species eat salmon. I can name over thirty off the top of my head, and I'm not even in the sciences, let alone an environmental sciences specialization. Because of the destruction of salmon spawning grounds during the nineteenth century's gold rush and the twentieth century's obsession with dams, some of those beings who eat salmon are probably now endangered and some smaller ones probably forgotten and extinct. It's no longer morally or even long-term economically responsible to let what happened to Chinook as a consequence of the gold rush and the dam building eras to happen in some new way.

This DCP threatens to be such a new way. It will be at least as destructive to our Chinook as was the gold rush and all of the dams on northern California rivers, and while well-managed hatcheries may be possible, they are not the solution! Even the hatchery management's hired docents tell people that for salmon to survive, let alone thrive, the wild populations are critical. Moreover, hatcheries themselves have seriously endangered salmon populations. I'm pasting below a photo of a salmon deprived, and hence starving, wild black bear from the Broughton Archipelago in Canada. This bear's ribs are sticking out in the fall when the bear needs to be fat and fattening for the pending winter. It is starving because in 2019 one tenth of one percent of salmon returned last year. Why so few? Because of fish lice and an east coast virus that is thriving in hatcheries and has infected the wild population. So it's time you get it.

California's rich biodiversity, which contributes enormously to its recreational economy, and its immense agricultural wealth is largely due to two sources that are both near extinction: for the San Joaquin Valley, the animal and plant bodies of former seasonal marshlands that were once rife with amphibians, fish, birds, and reeds, and for the whole of the state from the Delta north, millennia of decomposed salmon bodies.

Besides the lucrative Chinook industry, which could be fostered and enlarged -- they are known to be super-resilient species -- humans' and over a hundreds other beings long term food security can be ensured if we protect the Chinook. Our food security is not ensured by means of the DCP plan that the governor, lured by the money the that excessively-wealthy water-hog San Joaquin valley agribusiness owners bring into his coffers. I imagine the governor and his supporters will attempt to counter this last truth saying that such agribusinessmen are massive contributors to the state's economy, but at what cost? The cost of the biodiversity of California's environment, the cost of those beings whose bodies created the soils upon which their farms depend, and even the cost of California taxpayer. I don't hear the agribusiness

owners offering to pay higher taxes or in some cases even their share, and I don't hear them offering to pay for the DCP that they want the state to build either. The rich soils their businesses depend on are there because of California's former, dying, and suffering ecosystems, and it's clear by their own greed for more water to sustain long-term unsustainable mono-cropping practices that those who favor this project do not appreciate these ecosystems. Massive water-heavy mono-cropping practices do not ensure long term food security. Respect for the biodiversity of the ecosystems that have given us our agricultural wealth does. We have a moral obligation to our grandchildren to live sustainably, and what's unsustainable for such species as the Chinook is, in the long term unsustainable for humans.

Best wishes,
Julie Bongers

From: [julie bongers](#)
To: [DWR Delta Conveyance Scoping](#)
Subject: Oops! appendix to the public on the DCP comment I just sent
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 7:00:51 PM
Attachments: [1584755846397blob.jpg](#)
[Salmon starved bear.docx](#)

To All Who are Concerned:

Here's the photo of the bear, mentioned in the comment I just emailed, who probably died this winter because last fall (2019) only one tenth of one percent of salmon returned to the Broughton Archipelago (British Columbia), so he could not find enough food:

Inline image



His or her ribs are not hard to see.
Best wishes,
Julie



1/10th of 1% of salmon return to Broughton Archipelago in 2019, and bears are suffering. We can avoid or



From: [Tom Williams](#)
To: [DWR Delta Conveyance Scoping](#)
Cc: renee.rodrique@water.ca.gov; Yee.Marcus@DWR; Buckman.Carolyn@DWR
Subject: Re: Public Scoping Comments for Delta Conveyance DEIR with attachment
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 3:19:12 PM

Although I had specifically requested an extension which was not responded to, the following was circulated on 031720:

<https://water.ca.gov/News/Blog/2020/March/March-17-2020-Update-From-Delta-Conveyance-Project>

The nature of the COVID-19 pandemic is rapidly evolving. As individuals, organizations and local governments are focusing their attention on the safety of their communities in response to this health emergency, the Department of Water

Resources (DWR) will be **extending the scoping period for the Delta Conveyance Project by four weeks. The new deadline for public comment will be at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2020.**

Thank you for the extension.

Dr Tom Williams

On Friday, March 20, 2020, 01:18:03 PM PDT, Tom Williams <ctwilliams2012@yahoo.com> wrote:

DATE: March 20, 2020

TO: Department of Water Resources

DeltaConveyanceScoping@water.ca.gov

Attn.: Renee Rodriguez, Dept. of Water Res., P.O. Box 942836,
Sacramento, CA 94236

renee.rodrique@water.ca.gov

CC: Marcus Yee, 916-651-6736 marcus.yee@water.ca.gov

Carolyn Buckman, DWR Env.Mngr. 03/19/20 Item No. 10c
Env.Mgr.Rept.

carolyn.buckman@water.ca.gov

Others

FROM: Dr. Tom Williams, Snr.Techn.Adviser, ctwilliams2012@yahoo.com,
323-528-9682

SUBJECT: Delta Conveyance DEIR/DEIS NOP/Scoping

RE: Public Comments for Scoping

The primary purpose of the scoping process is to identify important issues raised by the public and responsible and trustee public agencies related to the issuance of regulatory permits and authorizations and natural environment and resources protection. Public scoping comments are focused on:

Public accessible and understanding,
Significant Environmental Impacts,
Mitigation/Compensation of SEI, and
Alternatives

Comments:

Requested extension of the 032020 deadline which was not responded to or given.

See attached for other comments.

From: [Adrienne Register](#)
To: [DWR Delta Conveyance Scoping](#)
Subject: Re:water tunnel
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 4:34:59 PM

Unfortunately I have not been able to attend any of the meetings held so far so am delighted there is this option available.

I am very opposed to the tunnel being built to remove water from the Delta as I believe there are a number of other options available which are more cost effective and don't degrade a very important ecological area and the food bowl of America.

I originally come from Australia where the debate of taking water from one area to give to another was held a number of years ago. It was found to not be the best solution and so was not implemented. What was done instead were a number of things:

- water tanks were retro fitted under eave spaces and used to capture roof run off
- new developments are required to include underground tanks to collect roof water to be used for toilet flushing/laundry and hose use
- more smaller dams were built
- watering during droughts was restricted to odd street number/odd watering day with fines introduced for violations and changed as required ...during this last drought leading up to the fires watering with a watering can was allowed 2x a day for 15 mins a day between certain hours.

These things don't sound much in themselves but all make an enormous difference.

A Desalination plant was also built which has been very effective. So much so that they are looking to build a second one. This was more cost effective, meant water was produced close to where it was needed and didn't degrade another ecosystem. The area of sea around the desalination plant has been closely monitored since its construction and they have found that the higher salt concentration has actually increased the sea life in that area.

Removing water from the Delta will turn a Food Bowl into a Dust Bowl. There are lots of alternatives out there with much better outcomes. Please be open to looking at creative solutions that won't have the negative impact removing water from the Delta will.

Thank you for your time,

Adrienne

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Christina Davis](#)
To: [DWR Delta Conveyance Scoping](#)
Subject: Support Letter
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 3:34:24 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[3.20.20 Delta Conveyance Scoping Comments.doc](#)

Attached please find our letter of support.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Christina V. Davis

President/CEO

LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce

9100 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Ste. 210

Los Angeles, CA 90045

P: 310.645.5151 C: 310.529.7331

www.laxcoastal.com

14 Logo Sig





9100 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Ste. 210
Los Angeles, CA 90045
tel 310.645.5151
info@laxcoastal.com

Sent Via Email: DeltaConveyanceScoping@water.ca.gov

March 20, 2020

Ms. Renee Rodriguez
California Department of Water Resources
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236

RE: Delta Conveyance Scoping Comments

Dear Ms. Rodriguez:

On behalf of LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce (LAXCC) Board of Directors, I am pleased to provide input for the scoping process of the single-tunnel Delta conveyance project being advanced by the California Department of Water Resources. We appreciate Governor Newsom's leadership to help ensure, safe, affordable and reliable water supplies to much of California.

We are not alone in our support. There is widespread backing for the project in Southern California and throughout the state from diverse and prominent interests, ranging from labor and business to public agencies, nonprofits and agriculture. We all recognize that a severe water shortage would come with an enormous economic cost and the time to move forward is now.

This project is not the only step we must take to ensure water resiliency. Ensuring Southern California has a reliable water supply in the future requires a diverse portfolio of both imported and local supplies and conservation. Much progress and significant investments are being made on a wide range of local projects and water efficiency, but the Delta conveyance project remains vitally important.

We support the Newsom administration's work to move forward in the planning process in a manner that achieves the goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration. With our largest and most affordable supply at risk, we need the reliability the proposed Delta conveyance project will provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christina V. Davis", enclosed within a large, loopy blue circular scribble.

Christina V. Davis
President/CEO



1 ~~poverty. With this project, wouldn't~~
2 ~~we just be further proving their~~
3 ~~point and deteriorating our~~
4 ~~children's lives? It would be a~~
5 ~~shame, and I would be disappointed --~~
6 ~~disappointed for real if this project~~
7 ~~were to move forward. Environmental~~
8 ~~racism and injustice has made its~~
9 ~~dent in Stockton, our motherland, for~~
10 ~~far too long. I am not just a~~
11 ~~statistic to play with. We're here~~
12 ~~fighting for our lives. We are~~
13 ~~nature defending nature, and that's~~
14 ~~what it is.~~

15 **GLORIA ALONSO:** My name is Gloria Alonso, I am a
16 nineteen-year-old woman, a Mexican
17 woman immigrant. Coming from the
18 south side of Stockton, I am here
19 today as a community member to share
20 my concerns regarding the impacts
21 that the tunnel would have on the
22 city that I call home. I am here to
23 share with you, not the numbers, but
24 to remind you that they impact
25 historically marginalized

1 communities. As a daughter of Latino
2 farmworkers who work in the central
3 valley and who face language
4 barriers, I am a representation of
5 environmental justice communities,
6 those who bear the proportionate
7 environmental impacts and risk from
8 new developments like the tunnel. I
9 am a Delta region resident. I am a
10 person of color and low income
11 student and family member. I am one
12 of those who live in the quantifiable
13 distressed areas, those who you can
14 identify with a zip code 95206.
15 Those who suffer from air pollution
16 and water quality and water
17 pollution, sorry -- water quality, we
18 don't have that. But I, once again,
19 did not come to tell you how my life
20 is shaped by the numbers. I came to
21 demand that you show us that you
22 care. I came to demand that you show
23 us and show my community democratic
24 access. But more than that, to show
25 us that you actually care about the

1 nature in which we're living, to show
2 us that the decision making process,
3 that it's impacting the geographical
4 area which I call home, has a way to
5 achieve this development with an
6 equitable approach. Because the lack
7 of -- and going back to the history,
8 because the lack of participatory
9 design has showed us that it has the
10 power to marginalize communities
11 through the red lining policies.
12 Because today we're here to prevent
13 you from forgetting that without
14 community input, public policy and
15 urban and environmental design has
16 the potential to neglect communities
17 and prevent their access to public
18 spaces. They already lack the access
19 to recreational spaces such as the
20 Delta, makes the life in the south
21 side an interesting area. But guess
22 what? We know why it is this way.
23 As I already said, we're standing
24 here as the youth that lives and has
25 survived formally the conditions and

1 formally the red line neighbors.
2 We're here surviving the
3 environmental repercussions of the
4 public policies that destroy our
5 communities, which is how we know --
6 how I know that we are not
7 constructing just the tunnel, but
8 constructing the future of the
9 environment and the future of
10 historically marginalized
11 populations.

12 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you. Before you start though,~~
13 ~~I am going to call the next three up.~~
14 ~~You can go ahead. Tifani Lee, Bill~~
15 ~~Wells, and Roger Kelly, if you can~~
16 ~~get prepared.~~
17 ~~And please proceed.~~

18 ~~JEFF BALMORES: Good evening, council. I am Jeff~~
19 ~~Balmores, a seventeen year old,~~
20 ~~Little Manila After-School Program.~~
21 ~~I am here to discuss the consequences~~
22 ~~of approving the Delta Tunnel~~
23 ~~Project. Personally, I have concerns~~
24 ~~with how this project will affect the~~
25 ~~youth of our city, how it revolves~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2

3 CERTIFIED COPY

4

5

6

7

8

9 PUBLIC MEETING

10 STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

11 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19 ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
20 (800) 288-3376
21 www.depo.com

22 REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696

23 FILE NO.: AE014C7

24

25

1 ~~formally the red line neighbors.~~
2 ~~We're here surviving the~~
3 ~~environmental repercussions of the~~
4 ~~public policies that destroy our~~
5 ~~communities, which is how we know --~~
6 ~~how I know that we are not~~
7 ~~constructing just the tunnel, but~~
8 ~~constructing the future of the~~
9 ~~environment and the future of~~
10 ~~historically marginalized~~
11 ~~populations.~~
12 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you. Before you start though,~~
13 ~~I am going to call the next three up.~~
14 ~~You can go ahead. Tifani Lee, Bill~~
15 ~~Wells, and Roger Kelly, if you can~~
16 ~~get prepared.~~
17 ~~And please proceed.~~
18 **JEFF BALMORES:** Good evening, council. I am Jeff
19 Balmores, a seventeen year old,
20 Little Manila After-School Program.
21 I am here to discuss the consequences
22 of approving the Delta Tunnel
23 Project. Personally, I have concerns
24 with how this project will affect the
25 youth of our city, how it revolves

1 around how the Delta Tunnel Project
2 will negatively impact our air and
3 water quality and the health of our
4 youth. The Delta Tunnel Project
5 detrimentally affects our air quality
6 due to variables such as construction
7 sites, causing more bacteria and the
8 HABs bacteria in our waterways. The
9 construction increases the emission
10 of carbon dioxide and other
11 pollutants. The bacterium is
12 airborne and detrimental to our
13 bodies. This project also affects
14 our water quality due to the dumping
15 of polluted sledge soil such as
16 borons and mercury, which is immoral.
17 These toxins will bioaccumulate in
18 many of the wildlife in the Delta and
19 affect the area's residents' rights
20 to have access to the waterways and
21 disallow them to have a form of
22 recreation, which is granted under
23 the California Constitution. As a
24 result, our health is affected. Our
25 life expectancy, which is 78.6 years,

1 which is short, considering that most
2 of us will retire in our sixties.
3 For air pollution, we can easily
4 breath in toxins and have respiratory
5 problems such as asthma. As for
6 water pollution, the toxins can be
7 transmitted to those who come in
8 contact with the Delta water,
9 drinking tap water, and through
10 seafood that they're eating, such as
11 the fisherman eating the fish in the
12 Delta, and cause illnesses such as
13 diarrhea, cholera, and hepatitis.
14 You should be ashamed if you allow
15 this project to move on. I know that
16 we have family that live near the
17 Delta. And if this project is
18 approved, they will become ill. Many
19 of our water sources come from the
20 Delta. How would we know that the
21 water we drink is safe if this
22 project moves forward? My generation
23 and the generations that come after
24 me will be affected. We won't be
25 able to live as long as we want to

1 live. The generations that come
2 after us will not live that long. We
3 won't be healthy anymore. We'll soon
4 become a city of sick people. We
5 don't want to become the next Flint,
6 Michigan. How is poisoning our
7 people benefiting us? Who does this
8 project really benefit? As far as I
9 can see, this project does not
10 benefit us. So, therefore, I
11 conclude this speech: Whenever you
12 see water, whether you drink, swim,
13 shower, whenever you go outside,
14 think about how this project will
15 affect you and your loved one's
16 health. Thank you.

17 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you.~~

18 ~~Tafari Lee.~~

19 ~~TAFARI LEE: Hi, my name is Tafari Lee. And I'm~~
20 ~~sure you heard tonight, you heard all~~
21 ~~of the statistics, and you heard the~~
22 ~~impacts and the things that can~~
23 ~~happen. So what I'm going to do is~~
24 ~~I'm going to talk to you about some~~
25 ~~possibilities that appeal to your~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2

3 CERTIFIED COPY

4

5

6

7

8

9 PUBLIC MEETING

10 STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

11 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19 ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
20 (800) 288-3376
21 www.depo.com

22 REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696

23 FILE NO.: AE014C7

24

25

1 toxins they were never meant to
2 encounter and shouldn't have to
3 overcome. Our water though never
4 perfect progressively worsens Delta
5 sloughs. Made home to algae left
6 unchecked to fester and ferment.
7 What goes unseen shall rise like
8 another body face down and ferment
9 algal blooms to damage and sabotage,
10 not only the green community, but the
11 lower income areas you won't give a
12 second thought to. We choke on the
13 failure you promised to dump upon us.
14 And our firm opinion, some things
15 just don't need to be touched. This
16 place is not yours to destroy. I end
17 with a question, what makes you think
18 we deserve our water served like
19 poison in a dirty glass?"
20 PROGRAM MANAGER: Before you go, I'm going to call the
21 next three up.
22 Tama Brisbane, Sharon Jarvis, and
23 Phillip Merlo.
24 Please proceed.
25 **MINIYA JO BRISBANE**: Good evening. My name is Miniya

1 Jo Brisbane. I am a
2 nineteen-year-old African-American
3 woman, old enough to vote and tall
4 enough to stare down environmental
5 racism. The fact that I have to
6 stand here again tells me that you
7 didn't hear me the first time. Last
8 I stood before a water board was to
9 raise my voice against the dumping of
10 more polluted water into the Delta,
11 and my voice was lost to the silent
12 but deadly PowerPoint presentation
13 decorated with dishonesty and
14 decimals.
15 So here I am, dressed differently,
16 but still having to address the same
17 issue. Maybe you are too busy
18 analyzing the data that you missed
19 the simple point that we don't need
20 any more poison in our water. So
21 maybe if you won't hear my voice,
22 you'll hear me wheezing as I'm
23 struggling to breath. The air
24 quality on its own is already bad
25 enough, and you want to try to add

1 bacteria from toxic algal blooms to
2 the mix? Are you serious? To you
3 all, it must sound like an angry
4 teenager coming to yell at adults.
5 But as someone who spent the first
6 seven years of my life on inhalers
7 and nebulizers, this is something I
8 just can't stay silent on. I want to
9 believe that you made this time to
10 truly listen to the voices of the
11 central valley and the Delta.
12 Because I'd hate to leave here
13 thinking that I wasted my breath.

14 ~~TAMA BRISBANE: Good evening and welcome to Stockton.~~
15 ~~I'm Tama Brisbane, Executive~~
16 ~~Director, With Our Words, a nonprofit~~
17 ~~that engages youth and young adults~~
18 ~~with their environment through~~
19 ~~literary and performing arts. Their~~
20 ~~words have come to matter nationally.~~
21 ~~I really hope their words about the~~
22 ~~Delta matter tonight. Two words~~
23 ~~we've been hearing quite a bit,~~
24 ~~"Delta Conveyance." That's a cute~~
25 ~~linguistic filler. A more honest~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2

3 CERTIFIED COPY

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

PUBLIC MEETING

STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
(800) 288-3376
www.depo.com

REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696
FILE NO.: AE014C7

1 ~~more people come and more people~~
2 ~~would visit, we have another thing to~~
3 ~~do in Stockton, something big,~~
4 ~~something we can be proud of,~~
5 ~~something that we can show off, and~~
6 ~~not some waterway that is being~~
7 ~~drained off to SoCal. Thank you.~~

8 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you.~~

9 ~~Next, Mr. Wells.~~

10 **BILL WELLS:** Thank you very much. I appreciate
11 being here. My name is Bill Wells.
12 I'm with the California Delta Chamber
13 and Admissions Bureau. We've been
14 around for about 51 years in the
15 Delta here. I'd like to direct your
16 attention to your own documents down
17 here. Item number two, the last
18 sentence says, "The infrastructure
19 that enables the conveyance or
20 movement of California's water supply
21 is critical to the health of local
22 communities." I totally agree. It's
23 critical to Stockton, Isleton, Walnut
24 Grove and all of the other little
25 towns on to the Sacramento River. So

1 I think protecting that would be a
2 very -- very good thing to do.
3 Item number three, "Why is this
4 project needed?" With the intakes in
5 the southern Delta are only three
6 feet above today's sea level, okay,
7 I've been involved in this process
8 for at least 15 years since Arnold
9 Schwarzenegger announced his plan to
10 divert the Sacramento River around
11 the Delta, which he said would cost
12 55 billion dollars. The original --
13 and I sat on the BDCP public panel
14 for two and a half years, and I've
15 testified countless times. I can't
16 even -- I have no recollection of
17 that. But, anyway, when it started,
18 they wanted to divert the river
19 because they thought earthquakes were
20 going to destroy the Delta. Well, we
21 spent a few years debunking that
22 totally. And then Jerry Merrell,
23 (ph) decided that the Delta is going
24 to be destroyed by an arch storm,
25 atmospheric river storm. So we

1 debunked that too. So this whole
2 thing, I question the sea level rise.
3 If it's going to happen, then we need
4 to build a dam in Carquinez Straits
5 or the Golden Gate to prevent that,
6 or increase the water coming down the
7 river to make sure it flushes out the
8 saltwater.

9 Item number four, "How is the current
10 environmental review process
11 different than before?" I don't
12 think it is. It looks quite similar
13 to the last one.

14 Here's what somebody else testified
15 in -- a taxpayer in one of the
16 earlier meetings: Extensive
17 evidentiary showings in the prior
18 State Water Resources Control Board
19 hearings and Delta stewardship
20 council hearings show that neither of
21 these agencies can approve intakes in
22 these locations, i.e, Hood and where
23 they plan to put them in, because it
24 would not be consistent with the
25 Public Trust Doctrine or the Delta

1 Reform Act from the Delta Stewardship
2 Council.

3 Okay. I know quite a bit about that,
4 because I was the one who testified
5 that Hood would be a bad location to
6 put the intakes. And the water board
7 agreed, so here we are, right, deja
8 vu all over again with the same
9 thing.

10 So one of the things we ask over and
11 over is give us a few examples where
12 something like this has worked. And
13 there are plenty where it hasn't. I
14 direct your attention to the Colorado
15 River Delta, Mono Lake, Tulare Lake,
16 Buena Vista Lake, all destroyed by
17 water diversions.

18 So if I can just add one thing, Wade
19 Crowfoot, the Natural Resource
20 Secretary, can't let his -- have his
21 daughter wear a gas mask because the
22 California air is unfit to breath --

23 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you. Thanks for your comment.~~

24 ~~Okay. Before you start, I'm going to~~

25 ~~call the next three. Orian Camero,~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2

3 **CERTIFIED COPY**

4

5

6

7

8

9 PUBLIC MEETING

10 STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

11 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19 ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
20 (800) 288-3376
www.depo.com

21

22 REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696

23 FILE NO.: AE014C7

24

25

1 ~~already over exceeded its level. The~~
2 ~~time is done. We need new solutions.~~
3 ~~This one has got to get scrapped.~~
4 ~~Thank you.~~
5 PROGRAM MANAGER: ~~Thank You.~~
6 ORION CAMERO: People and camera, if you can hear
7 me, say Yay. Shouts out. Okay.
8 Hi everybody. My name is Orion
9 Camero. I'm a visual storytelling
10 educator and arts organizer that
11 works at the intersection of social
12 economic and ecological issues. So
13 that's why I'm here today.
14 And I have been at this work for
15 over -- a little less than a decade.
16 And I decided to bring forward a
17 visual compliment. So this is a
18 mural that we worked on for the last
19 four years. It talks about social
20 and economic and ecological issues in
21 California. And, actually, if you
22 can -- let me point to this. This is
23 actually the Delta Conveyance
24 Project. It has a corporate frog
25 shaking hands with a public official.

1 That's actually the Metropolitan.
2 Water District in a vest. So they're
3 making a deal, and the conveyance
4 project is sucking up water from our
5 river. So that's really cute. It's
6 a little sample. But, yeah, I will
7 get my notes out because I'm a little
8 nervous.

9 Okay. I only have two minutes.

10 Okay. So, for years in my organized
11 work, I've spoken out against the Bay
12 Delta Conservation Plan, the
13 California WaterFix, and now here to
14 oppose the Delta Conveyance Project
15 in its current form. As a delegate
16 that represented California at the UN
17 Climate Negotiations for four years,
18 I see our local issues as globally
19 significant and also influential
20 nationally. And so what the means is
21 addressing this crises means
22 fundamentally shifting away that we
23 relate to our burdened waterways.
24 The solutions that secure water
25 resources need to reduce reliance on

1 the Delta. The Delta Reform Act
2 explicitly says so. And so this
3 whole project essentially is a -- as
4 I see, is a total failure. Mainly,
5 because time and time again, we've
6 seen it with the peripheral tunnel,
7 the peripheral canal in the '80s, the
8 many other water construction
9 projects. A tunnel and diversion is
10 not going to work. What we need to
11 do is invest in regional water
12 technologies and avoid the massive
13 redirection and extraction of fragile
14 rivers that are already on the
15 precipice of destruction. And the
16 environmental justice issues, this
17 project would aggravate air quality
18 by truck emissions for construction,
19 as I mentioned, increase algal
20 blooms, that would severely harm the
21 waterways irreparably and directly
22 complicate the local water supply in
23 the Delta region. At the end of the
24 day, the estuary is at risk. And its
25 beauty and importance to the entire

1 state needs to be preserved and
2 stewarded for future generations, not
3 rapidly deteriorated as a public
4 resource for the benefiting water
5 contractors of this project.
6 Now, I've -- as you can hear from
7 everyone that has spoken, I feel like
8 everyone said a piece of this massive
9 beautiful mosaic of this community
10 that says no to this project, and
11 that you actually listened to folks
12 that are directly impacted for us to
13 create the solutions. Thanks.

14 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you.~~

15 ~~Niria Alicia -- I'm sorry. I~~
16 ~~probably butchered that. Go ahead.~~

17 ~~NIRIA ALICIA GARCIA: So I just want to start by~~
18 ~~acknowledging the ancestors,~~
19 ~~indigenous ancestors on whose land~~
20 ~~we're gathered here today. I want to~~
21 ~~give a shout-out to Chief Caleen Sisk~~
22 ~~of the Winnemem Wintu Tribe who have~~
23 ~~been tireless advocates in protecting~~
24 ~~their water.~~

25 ~~I am Niria Alicia Garcia. I am one~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2

3 CERTIFIED COPY

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

PUBLIC MEETING

STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
(800) 288-3376
www.depo.com

REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696
FILE NO.: AE014C7

1 PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you.

2 Please proceed.

3 JASMINE DELAFROST: She said she wasn't a great
4 speaker, and that was amazing.
5 My name is Jasmine Delafrost. Today,
6 I'm here to speak really briefly and
7 also to recognize that I am here to
8 learn and understand more about this
9 process as it develops to ensure that
10 we all do that here in Stockton.
11 I'm a community organizer that works
12 directly with young people around
13 educational equity, juvenile justice
14 work, and other intersectional issues
15 that have pressed our communities for
16 decades.
17 We recognize that through this
18 process, we wanted to be more
19 equitable. I'm here to talk about
20 the collateral damages when we make
21 decisions without understanding the
22 full impacts it can have on our
23 people here in Stockton.
24 And this is not an isolated issue.
25 We understand that. We also know

1 that there are deeply other impacts
2 of quality of life, particularly,
3 families in south Stockton and in
4 Stockton. The tunnel fails to
5 address that climate change is
6 surrounding these communities.
7 My question to you is do you want to
8 create an additional layer of
9 barriers for youth that I work with
10 everyday who face -- who contribute
11 to life expectancies and around
12 health outcomes and more?
13 I'm asking that this plan ensures
14 there's equity in the plan that
15 creates, otherwise -- I'm asking that
16 this plan ensures there's more equity
17 in the plan. Otherwise, our
18 community pays the price, both
19 environmentally and economically.
20 And, lastly, can this all be
21 mitigated?
22 Can all of these challenges that the
23 tunnel proposal be included in this
24 process? If not, we run the risk of
25 making this final plan a disaster.

1 We run the risk of a disaster.
2 And although I may not understand
3 climate change or, like, do this work
4 by myself, I understand that when I
5 work with young people, these are
6 consequences that impact them every
7 single day of our lives. And that
8 when you fail to address young people
9 and all that they're facing, the
10 consequences can be damaging and
11 unreparable [sic].
12 So I'm opposed to this whole plan,
13 that we must find other alternative
14 ways.
15 And I hope that we can also -- like
16 if we look around this room, there's
17 a lot of young people and other
18 people who are not here today, and
19 that we do come back to make sure
20 that those who live in our
21 communities and those who are most
22 impacted are in the part of the
23 conversations. I know that you're
24 here today, obviously, to do that.
25 But that we do it again to meet with

1 more folks. And there's people in
2 the room who want to ensure that
3 young people and families that aren't
4 represented in this room today are
5 here at this conversation.

6 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you very much.~~

~~7 MARCO PRAUS: My name is Margo Praus. And I'm
8 here, I'm a member of the Sierra
9 Club, and I came with their email in
10 mind, as well as Restore the Delta.
11 I really appreciate the speakers'
12 comments about the irreparable damage
13 you're doing.
14 For years, California has had a long
15 history of redistributing water in
16 the valley. Our waterways and our
17 groundwater have been heavily
18 impacted. And we see this constant
19 like surface water that has been over
20 allocated. Doesn't matter what the
21 voluntary agreement says. It's been
22 over allocated, and groundwater has
23 been depleted.
24 The valley always seem to be on the
25 end of receiving the leftovers, the~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2

3 **CERTIFIED COPY**

4

5

6

7

8

9 PUBLIC MEETING

10 STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

11 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19 ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
20 (800) 288-3376
www.depo.com

21

22 REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696

23 FILE NO.: AE014C7

24

25

1 ~~state needs to be preserved and~~
2 ~~stewarded for future generations, not~~
3 ~~rapidly deteriorated as a public~~
4 ~~resource for the benefiting water~~
5 ~~contractors of this project.~~
6 ~~Now, I've -- as you can hear from~~
7 ~~everyone that has spoken, I feel like~~
8 ~~everyone said a piece of this massive~~
9 ~~beautiful mosaic of this community~~
10 ~~that says no to this project, and~~
11 ~~that you actually listened to folks~~
12 ~~that are directly impacted for us to~~
13 ~~create the solutions. Thanks.~~

14 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you.~~

15 ~~Niria Alicia -- I'm sorry. I~~
16 ~~probably butchered that. Go ahead.~~

17 **NIRIA ALICIA GARCIA:** So I just want to start by
18 acknowledging the ancestors,
19 indigenous ancestors on whose land
20 we're gathered here today. I want to
21 give a shout-out to Chief Caleen Sisk
22 of the Winnemem Wintu Tribe who have
23 been tireless advocates in protecting
24 their water.
25 I am Niria Alicia Garcia. I am one

1 of the organizers of the Run4Salmon
2 Prayerful Run, and I've been on that
3 river for the past five years praying
4 and praying for that water and seeing
5 all of the pollution that goes into
6 there. I'm the great-granddaughter
7 of Maximiliano Miranda who was
8 probably out here with your
9 grandparents harvesting tomatoes here
10 in Stockton, so it's a pleasure to be
11 back here on these lands. And it's
12 very sad that water continues to be
13 stolen from the northern watersheds
14 for the benefit of big GMO farmers
15 and oil companies that continue to
16 frack. And I have some alternatives
17 for you guys actually. Why don't you
18 end all fossil fuel projects that are
19 very water intensive down in the
20 Southern part of California? Why
21 don't you stop growing GMO crops and
22 actually grow crops that are for that
23 land, you know. And if we could all
24 just be a little more humble, and by
25 all, I mean, the corporations and the

1 big farmers that are so arrogant,
2 think they can just come into this
3 landscape and destroy it and change
4 it for profit. I mean, who grows
5 water intensive crops in the desert?
6 Let's not be fooled. This project is
7 a money-making project. There's so
8 much lingo in there about climate
9 change. I want to see the scientific
10 analysis and the scientific studies
11 that prove that this is actually a
12 climate change because our language
13 from our climate justice movement has
14 been incredibly co-opted, and we're
15 not going to be fooled. Period. And
16 I want everyone in this room to look
17 to your left and look to your right,
18 because this project is not going to
19 happen. And we're sending that
20 message. There's too many people in
21 this room that care about our water
22 and care about our children. I'm an
23 aspiring mother -- and I know you
24 guys have children. What are you
25 going to tell your children and your

1 grandchildren when they say, oh, why
2 do I have to learn about salmon next
3 to dinosaur bones? Why do I have to
4 learn about the Delta smell in
5 museums? What were you doing when
6 they were selling our water? And I'm
7 not going to be -- I'm not going
8 to -- I'm going to say, you know
9 what? I was standing with hundreds
10 of people that were saying no with
11 thousands of people, because there's
12 thousands of people that couldn't
13 make it out here tonight.
14 And so I want us to take this
15 opportunity to meet each other,
16 because we're going to be out there.
17 We're not going to let this project
18 go through. Am I right? And,
19 lastly, I want to sing a song because
20 this is how we stay strong in this
21 movement to protect our mother earth.
22 And I want you to sing it with me.
23 (Singing.)
24 When your daughter's thirsty and the
25 river's dry, and there's no blue left

1 in the sacred sky. It will be too
2 late to try, when you're on the wrong
3 side. Now's the time to turn the
4 tide. Now's the time to turn the
5 tide.

6 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: If you can hand over the mic, that~~
7 ~~will be great. Thank you.~~
8 ~~Kathleen? Kathleen? No Kathleen~~
9 ~~Capusan? Okay. Kathleen changes her~~
10 ~~mind. I will leave that over there.~~
11 ~~The next three are Darvis Waiters,~~
12 ~~Anthony Orosco, and Miniya Brisbane.~~
13 ~~You can come up.~~
14 ~~I'm just trying to keep track of time~~
15 ~~here.~~

16 ~~DARIUS WAITERS: I just wanted to share my thoughts on~~
17 ~~the tunnels with a little poem I~~
18 ~~wrote:~~
19 ~~"And yet again, the Delta and its~~
20 ~~people have been overlooked,~~
21 ~~disregarded, stepped upon from people~~
22 ~~that don't even care to know who~~
23 ~~they're stealing from.~~
24 ~~Tunnels take so much from my~~
25 ~~community. Youth from schools and~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2

3 CERTIFIED COPY

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

PUBLIC MEETING

STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
(800) 288-3376
www.depo.com

REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696
FILE NO.: AE014C7

1 ~~by the water contractors that may~~
2 ~~receive water.~~
3 ~~DAVID FRIES:~~ ~~Thank you.~~
4 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER:~~ ~~Other questions?~~
5 ~~Okay. Okay. So I think we'll go~~
6 ~~ahead and move into comments.~~
7 ~~And what I think I will do, I will~~
8 ~~call you up three at a time, which is~~
9 ~~what I've been doing at other~~
10 ~~meetings. That seems to work really~~
11 ~~well. And you can either sit in one~~
12 ~~of these front things, or you can cue~~
13 ~~up here where Annie is, and just stand~~
14 ~~here and use the mic that way. As~~
15 ~~these ladies were suggesting, put the~~
16 ~~mic real close, project, so that they~~
17 ~~can hear and our court reporter can~~
18 ~~hear.~~
19 ~~So we'll do three at a time. So I~~
20 ~~have Nicholas Hatten, Martha Valdez~~
21 ~~and David Scatena. And I apologize~~
22 ~~now if right there -- I apologize~~
23 ~~now if I mispronounce your name.~~
24 ~~Sorry, and this will be your timer.~~
25 **NICHOLAS HATTEN:** So hello, I'm Nicholas Hatten. I'm

1 the Founder and Principal of LGBT
2 Social Justice Initiative. Yeah, I'm
3 a big pop culture fanatic. This past
4 weekend was a big day for pop culture
5 with the Oscar show airing on Sunday.
6 The show was a little boring.
7 Something happened towards the end of
8 that show.
9 First, Bong Joon-ho, I hope I said
10 that right, won Best Director. And
11 then Parasite became the first
12 non-English speaking film to win Best
13 Picture.
14 Well, look at Stockton and as the --
15 as the "Parasite" of cities. You
16 see, our history, just like in
17 Hollywood, is rich with stories and
18 legacies by people of color and our
19 LGBT community. But just like in
20 Hollywood, those stories went
21 ignored.
22 For instance, if you happen to know
23 that one of the first transgender
24 public figures lived in Stockton.
25 His name was Jack Bee Garland, and he

1 was a reporter for the precursor to
2 the record and was breathed by this
3 community in the early 1900s.

4 PROGRAM MANAGER: Keep the mic up.

5 NICHOLAS HATTEN: That story was ignored for many
6 years. But just like policy and
7 legislation that will elevate our
8 marginalized people, when ignored,
9 these today we're facing once again.
10 Well, unlike those times, we're here
11 to say "Enough." You know, and
12 unlike the members of the academy, we
13 have science as a tool to guide us
14 through this process.
15 Please be mindful that the direction
16 that we go to or go through has
17 greater impact for people of color
18 and our LGBT people and the people of
19 south Stockton.
20 We already know that these
21 population's quality of life are less
22 than Stockton, and that their actual
23 life expectancy is even less than
24 their peers throughout the State of
25 California.

1 We know the challenges we have with
2 our levees, the threat of climate
3 change, and the ever returning
4 poisonous algae issue, none of which
5 this proposal addresses yet.
6 And what do we have to say about the
7 impact this proposal will have on our
8 quality of air, which is already
9 rated the fourth worse in our nation?
10 The story of Parasite is how South
11 Korea is quickly becoming a class of
12 two system -- or a two-class system.
13 Let's fix this process so the end
14 result, there's equity. Mediate,
15 appoint a receiver, do whatever you
16 have to do to make this equitable.
17 If you don't, our very own director
18 will be making a movie about Stockton
19 and the Delta region and how it's at
20 the receiving end of California's new
21 two-class system.

22 Thank you.

23 PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you.

24 ~~DAVID SCATENA: I'm Dave Scatena, and I belong to a~~
25 ~~number of organizations. And I want~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2
3 CERTIFIED COPY
4
5
6
7
8

9 PUBLIC MEETING

10 STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

11 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

19 ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
20 (800) 288-3376
21 www.depo.com

22 REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696

23 FILE NO.: AE014C7
24
25

1 ~~communities of color. So I hope you~~
2 ~~haven't come here with a mind that's~~
3 ~~only half way open, is already made~~
4 ~~up, and with empty hands and pockets.~~
5 ~~Tell us what you are prepared to do~~
6 ~~to offer, tell us what kinds of~~
7 ~~funding you're prepared to allocate~~
8 ~~to help Stockton alleviate this~~
9 ~~environmental injustice; but don't~~
10 ~~you dare keep telling us, "Oh, well.~~
11 PROGRAM MANAGER: ~~Sharon Jarvis.~~

12 SHARON JARVIS: My name is Sharon Jarvis. I'm a
13 resident of Stockton. I live on the
14 Smith Canal, and I moved here about
15 17 years ago to live on the water.
16 Well, I wouldn't want you to eat any
17 fish that swim in the Smith Canal.
18 My chief concern is about the water
19 for Stockton. And, particularly, for
20 our underserved community, south
21 Stockton, where people are already
22 swimming in the sloughs with the
23 toxic green algae.
24 If this project goes through, we're
25 going to have more of that algae.

1 We're going to have more of that
2 algae dust in the air that we're all
3 going to be breathing. It will be
4 even worse in south Stockton. I'm
5 sure it will get to the Smith Canal
6 and all of the other canals that we
7 have in this area. We're going to
8 have peat dust from the construction.
9 This is not going to go away. It's
10 going to get worse.

11 And I just think that I agree with
12 everybody here. I feel like fraud
13 has been perpetrated on us. Oh, we
14 were going to have the twin tunnels.
15 I spent a lot of time writing a
16 comment about that. Oh, well, now,
17 just change it, and we'll just have
18 one tunnel, and now we'll all be
19 fine. I don't think so.

20 I'm concerned about the impact of the
21 increased water diversion, that it
22 will cause damage to our local
23 groundwater and our wells, and the
24 diversion will divert fresh water
25 from our Stockton water system and

1 make it even more expensive and more
2 difficult for people in our community
3 to have clean water. Thank you.

4 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you.~~

~~5 PHILLIP MERLO: Thanks. My name is Phillip Merlo,
6 and I'm the Director of Education at
7 the San Joaquin Historical Museum in
8 Stockton and Lodi. And my training
9 is in history and education, which I
10 feel are two fields that the
11 Department of Water Resources and
12 Delta Conveyance Authority would
13 benefit from studying.
14 According to the Notice of
15 Preparation and the DWR, this project
16 is needed because the existing water
17 system is not prepared for a future
18 with climate change and the rising
19 sea levels. And, furthermore, new
20 diversions in the northern Delta will
21 promote a more resilient and flexible
22 state water project in the face of
23 unfavorable conditions.
24 Again, the DWR states in section two,
25 what is the importance of Delta~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2
3 CERTIFIED COPY
4
5
6
7
8

9 PUBLIC MEETING

10 STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

11 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

19 ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
20 (800) 288-3376
21 www.depo.com

22 REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696

23 FILE NO.: AE014C7
24
25

1 ~~the cumulative impacts are.~~
2 ~~This community must see an in-depth~~
3 ~~analysis of potential for increased~~
4 ~~algal blooms as a result of changes~~
5 ~~in hydrology for construction and~~
6 ~~operations.~~
7 ~~We at Restore the Delta oppose the~~
8 ~~project. We do not believe that you~~
9 ~~can't mitigate all the negative~~
10 ~~consequences.~~
11 ~~But I will stress what my friends and~~
12 ~~colleagues have said here. The~~
13 ~~community, if you are going to do~~
14 ~~this, should be made better. And I~~
15 ~~don't think you can do it. But you~~
16 ~~can't start by leaving it behind.~~
17 PROGRAM MANAGER: ~~Thank you.~~
18 ~~Our next three. Earl Jones, Jack~~
19 ~~Saunders, and Clarence Kooi.~~
20 SAL JOBRACK: Hello, my name is Sal Jobrack. I'm a
21 Stockton City Council Member. So I'm
22 one of those people that's a policy
23 maker that's connected to this. I'm
24 not a water expert, but my whole
25 life, I've lived here in Stockton on

1 the Delta. I title my speech,
2 "Stockton is Going to be a Tough
3 Place to Get By." I think looking
4 around the room, you're going to have
5 a hard time getting anybody to come
6 up and speak in favor of this. I
7 deal with a lot of policy makers in
8 the area, and I haven't met one
9 around here that says I'm really
10 excited about any water being
11 diverted.

12 I know you guys are in a tough place.
13 I often sit on your side and have
14 to hear the public and how angry they
15 can be at some of the decisions we
16 have to make. But we often see
17 people supporting and not supporting.
18 I have a hard time thinking ya'll are
19 going to get support for this project
20 in this region.

21 Growing up in the Delta, I've fished
22 it, I've boated on it, I've hunted
23 it. So I have a lot of experience
24 being on these waterways and the
25 beauties that they offer.

1 One of the things of being on the
2 council, we often have to make tough
3 decisions. And I served four years
4 on the Planning Commission. And
5 during my time on the Planning
6 Commission, we had to redo our
7 general plan. A lot of that was
8 because of due to poor planning. So
9 we ended up having to be the ones
10 that cleaned up the messes of the
11 past. And I try to take that and
12 those feelings into my role as a
13 council member in the decisions I
14 make today. Those past decisions
15 have current impacts.

16 We recently adopted a new groundwater
17 sustainability plan. And one of my
18 immediate concerns is what's the
19 impact on that. Like I said, I'm not
20 a water expert, but something tells
21 me if you divert water away, and I
22 looked at that map, it completely
23 avoids Stockton. Water surface water
24 and groundwater are connected. So if
25 you're diverting water away from our

1 ground basin water which we rely on
2 for farming, and in the event of a
3 drought, we're relying on that water
4 to support our communities. What's
5 going to happen to those basins? Are
6 we going to have to change our
7 groundwater sustainability plan now
8 because we have to divert water?
9 I often take the ACE train to the Bay
10 area. People are very familiar with
11 that. One of the places that you go
12 through is the salt water plains that
13 are out there.
14 And I would often talk to old timers
15 that had a lot of experience out
16 there, and they tell me how great it
17 used to be a long time ago with all
18 the hunting, the wildlife and
19 everything that went out there. And
20 if you look at what policy makers are
21 having to do out there now is they're
22 having to make drastic and expensive
23 changes. They're trying to fix the
24 side effects of what happened with
25 all the saltwater intrusion. So if

1 that were to happen here, are we
2 going to look like what it looks like
3 out there? That's not a community I
4 want to live in.
5 One of the things that I really pride
6 myself in as a council member, I'm
7 not a forever politician. What I
8 really want to do is leave a legacy
9 that the next council member doesn't
10 have to make the tough decisions I
11 have to make, whether that be
12 financial or environmental, which is
13 a lot of reasons that people are here
14 right now. And what I don't want to
15 do is leave that legacy where 20 or
16 30 years from now, somebody is
17 cleaning up my mess. I have one year
18 on the council, three to go. I will
19 never support this. And, God
20 willing, I have four more years after
21 that, so seven years of no votes that
22 you're going to get from at least one
23 of the council members. Thank you.
24 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you.~~
25 ~~Mr. Jones.~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2
3 CERTIFIED COPY
4
5
6
7
8

9 PUBLIC MEETING

10 STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

11 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

19 ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
20 (800) 288-3376
21 www.depo.com

22 REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696

23 FILE NO.: AE014C7
24
25

1 EARL JONES:

2 Hello, my name is Earl Jones. And
3 I'm here because -- well, you say
4 that you'll be addressing -- well,
5 partly, that this project is intended
6 to address climate change. I don't
7 think you're considering it
8 adequately. I further don't think
9 that you're able to consider it
10 adequately at this point, because
11 climate change is an ongoing thing;
12 and we have no idea how far and in
13 what directions it will take us until
14 we see what the planet does or does
15 not decide to do about it.

16 And this tunnel project is going to
17 be a big deal. It's going to cost a
18 lot. It's going to have construction
19 impacts. It's going to damage things
20 as it's built through, and it does no
21 good whatsoever unless it's used; and
22 beyond that, used to a substantial
23 amount of its capacity. And we don't
24 know right now whether that water is
25 going to be there and whether it's
most efficient -- whether the most

1 efficient use of the water that is
2 there is for wasteful agricultural
3 practices and/or wasteful residential
4 use.

5 There is one and only one source of
6 water which can be considered
7 reliable at this point. It's called
8 the Pacific Ocean. And when people
9 are ready to face up to the need for
10 large scaled desalinization, ready to
11 open their wallets for it, that's
12 when we can get something useful done
13 about water supply.

14 Right now, we're pouring sand on the
15 riptide. It's -- I want to see
16 alternatives that are not just no
17 action alternatives. I want to see
18 alternatives that are no diversion
19 alternatives.

20 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you.~~

21 ~~CLARENCE KOOI: I'm Clarence Kooi, and I would like~~
22 ~~to propose an alternative to the twin~~
23 ~~pipes. And to do that, I'll go over~~
24 ~~to this map.~~

25 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Make sure you speak into the mic.~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2

3 CERTIFIED COPY

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

PUBLIC MEETING

STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
(800) 288-3376
www.depo.com

REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696
FILE NO.: AE014C7

1 ~~Niria Alicia, and Kathleen Gapusan,~~
2 ~~if you can get yourselves ready.~~

3 ~~And please proceed.~~

4 **ROGER KELLY:** My name is Roger Kelly. I'm a
5 life-long resident of Stockton who
6 lives on the Calaveras River. I
7 recreate and volunteer to help
8 improve the quality of the Delta. I
9 oppose any Delta tunnel proposal. We
10 need water from the Sac to help flush
11 out the Delta. The water quality is
12 getting worse every day. We can't
13 afford to give up any more water.
14 When I recreate out there, there's
15 many areas we can't even go to
16 because of the toxic algae. They
17 have to put signs out. The people
18 who don't have the ability to be out
19 on a boat and maybe get the better
20 quality water, small children down
21 there swimming downtown, they're
22 going to become sick. We need the
23 water to flush this stuff out.
24 There's other problems that
25 contribute.

1 But I also do water testing for the
2 California Water Quality Board, and
3 the equali level in many parts of
4 Stockton including the Calaveras
5 River is at the highest recordable
6 levels. And it's only going to get
7 worse if we start taking all of the
8 water from Sacramento, and then we're
9 going to start stretching out the
10 water from the Hogan and different
11 reservoirs; and the water quality is
12 going to become -- we're going to
13 have a toxic cesspool out there, and
14 the salt intrusion. What about our
15 farmers? What about this water that
16 I'm talking about that -- the algae
17 bloom, the equali, when it spreads
18 out into the main channel and we're
19 irrigating our crops? Why is it fair
20 to rob Peter to pay Paul? We're just
21 as important. And there's not enough
22 water to give.
23 They need do decel -- we need to come
24 up with other solutions. We can't
25 keep pilfering from a source that's

1 already over exceeded its level. The
2 time is done. We need new solutions.
3 This one has got to get scrapped.
4 Thank you.

5 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank You.~~

~~6 ORION CAMERO: People and camera, if you can hear
7 me, say Yay. Shouts out. Okay.
8 Hi everybody. My name is Orion
9 Camero. I'm a visual storytelling
10 educator and arts organizer that
11 works at the intersection of social
12 economic and ecological issues. So
13 that's why I'm here today.
14 And I have been at this work for
15 over -- a little less than a decade.
16 And I decided to bring forward a
17 visual compliment. So this is a
18 mural that we worked on for the last
19 four years. It talks about social
20 and economic and ecological issues in
21 California. And, actually, if you
22 can -- let me point to this. This is
23 actually the Delta Conveyance
24 Project. It has a corporate frog
25 shaking hands with a public official.~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2

3 CERTIFIED COPY

4

5

6

7

8

9 PUBLIC MEETING

10 STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

11 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19 ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
20 (800) 288-3376
21 www.depo.com

22 REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696

23 FILE NO.: AE014C7

24

25

1 ~~efficient use of the water that is~~
2 ~~there is for wasteful agricultural~~
3 ~~practices and/or wasteful residential~~
4 ~~use.~~

5 ~~There is one and only one source of~~
6 ~~water which can be considered~~
7 ~~reliable at this point. It's called~~
8 ~~the Pacific Ocean. And when people~~
9 ~~are ready to face up to the need for~~
10 ~~large scaled desalinization, ready to~~
11 ~~open their wallets for it, that's~~
12 ~~when we can get something useful done~~
13 ~~about water supply.~~

14 ~~Right now, we're pouring sand on the~~
15 ~~riptide. It's -- I want to see~~
16 ~~alternatives that are not just no~~
17 ~~action alternatives. I want to see~~
18 ~~alternatives that are no diversion~~
19 ~~alternatives.~~

20 PROGRAM MANAGER: ~~Thank you.~~

21 CLARENCE KOOI: I'm Clarence Kooi, and I would like
22 to propose an alternative to the twin
23 pipes. And to do that, I'll go over
24 to this map.

25 PROGRAM MANAGER: Make sure you speak into the mic.

1 CLARENCE KOOI: At the present time, a lot of the
2 water from the San Joaquin River
3 flows over to the pumping plants
4 through other channels instead of
5 going down the river. This is the
6 San Joaquin River. Okay. This is
7 the San Joaquin River. A lot of the
8 water goes over here to these pumping
9 plants which are right down here from
10 the San Joaquin River.
11 So my proposal is to block out those
12 entries here and all along, block
13 them off so water flows down the
14 river. That way, the salmon follow
15 the river, instead of getting lost in
16 here.
17 And then, of course, the Sacramento
18 River would be -- flow as it does
19 now. What's wrong -- and then to
20 these back channels, the water would
21 flow to the pumping stations. What's
22 wrong with that? Well, saltwater
23 intrusion. When you have the water
24 flowing back down to the pump, you
25 have saltwater intrusion. So then we

1 use a saltwater barrier way down here
2 in the Carquinez Straits. This was
3 proposed in 1929, but not built
4 because it was considered that the
5 flushing action of the rivers would
6 be sufficient to keep the saltwater
7 at bay. Well, it isn't anymore. So
8 we put in the saltwater barrier, and
9 we have all the water flowing down
10 the rivers to this point, and then
11 flow back here without saltwater
12 intrusion. And that's perfectly
13 feasible.

14 And, as a matter of fact, in bulletin
15 22, 27 of the Department of Water
16 Resources, this has all been worked
17 out. And we evidently have forgotten
18 that. At that time, it wasn't built
19 because the flow from the -- in the
20 rivers was considered sufficient to
21 keep the saltwater at bay.

22 So my proposal is to cut off these
23 exits from the river. Let the water
24 flow back to the pumps through these
25 various channels, like right here --

1 and saltwater barrier.

2 CLARENCE KOOI: Thank you.

3 ~~Mr. Saunders.~~

~~4 JACK SAUNDERS: Yes.~~

~~5 PROGRAM MANAGER: Okay.~~

~~6 JACK SAUNDERS: Thank you. And I am appreciative
7 that you're here today. And I hope~~

~~8 that this particular process will~~

~~9 help you get to a conclusion that~~

~~10 doesn't include a tunnel.~~

~~11 A little bit of history: We're~~

~~12 talking about the San Joaquin River.~~

~~13 Really, the San Joaquin River is --~~

~~14 river, in name only. The San Joaquin~~

~~15 River actually runs south down the~~

~~16 valley. And over the years,~~

~~17 beginning in the Gold Rush, water has~~

~~18 been diverted just about every place~~

~~19 you can imagine. And in doing so,~~

~~20 we've created a situation where we've~~

~~21 become so dependent on water that we~~

~~22 don't have, because we're in drought~~

~~23 a third of the time, we've become to~~

~~24 depend on it; and we've gotten into~~

~~25 wars. And you're certainly all~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2
3 CERTIFIED COPY
4
5
6
7
8

9 PUBLIC MEETING

10 STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

11 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

19 ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
20 (800) 288-3376
21 www.depo.com

22 REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696

23 FILE NO.: AE014C7
24
25

1 ~~construction starts. And then full~~
2 ~~transparency for the project and~~
3 ~~planning construction and operation~~
4 ~~must be observed. This includes~~
5 ~~financial costs, as well as~~
6 ~~monitoring and adaptive management~~
7 ~~events. And monitoring of adaptive~~
8 ~~management must include members of~~
9 ~~all concerned persons.~~

10 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you.~~

11 ~~Thank you. Ms. Wagner-Tyack.~~

12 JANE WAGNER-TYACK: Thank you. I'm Jane Wagner-Tyack.
13 I'm a board member of the Legal Women
14 Voters of San Joaquin County. I'm
15 also Water Program Codirector for the
16 League of Women Voters of California.
17 The League of California has
18 long-standing policies supporting
19 nonstructural alternatives for water
20 supply in California.
21 With respect to the Delta, these
22 policies align with principles
23 established by the 2009 Delta Reform
24 Act that are now part of the
25 California Water Code and the Public

1 Resources Code. Earlier iterations
2 of the Delta Conveyance Plan
3 beginning with BDCP and WaterFix
4 failed to meet the League's criteria
5 for supporting new conveyance
6 infrastructure of the Delta and to
7 conform to established law. Despite
8 the substitution of a single tunnel
9 for two tunnels, we do not see
10 important changes in the conveyance
11 plan since 2015. Specifically, we do
12 not see that real limits have been
13 placed on the amount of water to be
14 exported. In recognition of the fact
15 that the state has approved at least
16 five acre feet of consumptive water
17 rights claims for every acre foot of
18 unimpaired flow in the Sacramento and
19 San Joaquin River basins, under these
20 circumstances, protecting existing
21 supplies consistent with existing
22 water rates -- water rights is not a
23 sustainable strategy. We do not see
24 that strategy such as water
25 conservation and waste water

1 reclamation have been employed at the
2 fullest extent possible by export
3 users to minimize reliance on the
4 Delta as required by the Delta Reform
5 Act. We do not see that high water
6 quality standards will be protected
7 in the Delta and the estuary, or that
8 strong binding environmental
9 safeguards will protect all in-stream
10 uses. We do not see that the full
11 economic social and environmental
12 costs and benefits of the project
13 have been fully assessed for areas of
14 water origin. It is significant that
15 no public hearings or scoping
16 meetings have been scheduled until
17 just now, north of the Delta in the
18 Trinity, Klamath, and Sacramento
19 River watersheds. And, as Ms.
20 Barrigan clearly pointed out, the
21 Trinity and Klamath watersheds are
22 not necessarily all that close to
23 Redding. Finally, the League of
24 Women Voters of California has not
25 seen any good faith effort on the

1 part of those promoting Delta
2 conveyance to consider alternatives
3 to conveyance for meeting the state's
4 21st Century water challenges. We
5 hope you're serious about considering
6 real alternatives to conveyance.

7 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Before you start, I'm going to call~~
8 ~~the next three folks up. Margie~~
9 ~~Fries, James McCraw, and Elaine~~
10 ~~Baret.~~
11 ~~Please proceed.~~

12 ~~DAN NOMEILLINI, JR: Dan Nomellini, Jr. I'm with the~~
13 ~~Central Water Agency. We will be~~
14 ~~preparing detailed comments, but I'm~~
15 ~~going to just wing it tonight.~~
16 ~~We are absolutely opposed to the~~
17 ~~preferred project. Under no~~
18 ~~circumstances will we tolerate that.~~
19 ~~I wanted to highlight some of the~~
20 ~~most disturbing things that I see.~~
21 ~~And the first is a predetermination.~~
22 ~~I believe you need to have your~~
23 ~~head -- your head has been in the~~
24 ~~sand if you think the decision has~~
25 ~~not already been made to build a~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2

3 CERTIFIED COPY

4

5

6

7

8

9 PUBLIC MEETING

10 STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

11 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19 ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
20 (800) 288-3376
www.depo.com

21

22 REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696

23 FILE NO.: AE014C7

24

25

1 ~~live. The generations that come~~
2 ~~after us will not live that long. We~~
3 ~~won't be healthy anymore. We'll soon~~
4 ~~become a city of sick people. We~~
5 ~~don't want to become the next Flint,~~
6 ~~Michigan. How is poisoning our~~
7 ~~people benefiting us? Who does this~~
8 ~~project really benefit? As far as I~~
9 ~~can see, this project does not~~
10 ~~benefit us. So, therefore, I~~
11 ~~conclude this speech: Whenever you~~
12 ~~see water, whether you drink, swim,~~
13 ~~shower, whenever you go outside,~~
14 ~~think about how this project will~~
15 ~~affect you and your loved one's~~
16 ~~health. Thank you.~~

17 PROGRAM MANAGER: ~~Thank you.~~

18 ~~Tafari Lee.~~

19 TAFARI LEE: Hi, my name is Tafari Lee. And I'm
20 sure you heard tonight, you heard all
21 of the statistics, and you heard the
22 impacts and the things that can
23 happen. So what I'm going to do is
24 I'm going to talk to you about some
25 possibilities that appeal to your

1 humanity.

2 So I actually visited Lodi Lake for

3 the first time in maybe two or three

4 years last weekend. I had found that

5 it was completely dried out. The

6 trees in the area were dying and the

7 grass was starting to dry out. And

8 that is the last thing that I want to

9 happen to the Delta. This is the

10 last thing I want for Stockton. And

11 with a project like this, as people

12 have told you, no, you're not going

13 to find many people that are going to

14 want to back it. And I personally

15 believe that this -- the money that

16 we're going to use for this and the

17 resources that are going to be put

18 into this can actually be put into

19 something that can help us and

20 benefit us more locally, rather than

21 something that's going to help the

22 people down in L.A. and not actually

23 help the people of Stockton.

24 And another thing I wanted to address

25 was what's going on with the people

1 from the south side and the people --
2 like the people who live in the
3 areas, the people who's ancestors
4 help to create these waterways, the
5 people who are -- the people who are
6 not going to benefit from this at all
7 are the people who should be
8 benefiting from it the most. They're
9 the people who their ancestors helped
10 create this waterway. They are the
11 people who are the reason that this
12 waterway exists, and it's being
13 drained away from them. If anything,
14 this isn't going to help them. It's
15 going to make it worse for them.
16 It's going to make it harder for them
17 to acquire clean water, and it's
18 going to make it hard for them to
19 acquire water in general.
20 And another possibility, something I
21 want to talk about, how come we never
22 see people going out onto the Delta,
23 you know? The first time I went onto
24 the Delta was probably a few years
25 ago. And I was scared to get into

1 the water because I thought it was
2 going to be dirty. I thought it was
3 going to be polluted and stuff. And
4 while it wasn't as bad as I thought
5 it would be, if this is the direction
6 that we're going in, it might end up
7 being as bad as I thought it would
8 be. We're going to start seeing less
9 people going onto the Delta boating,
10 less people fishing. And the people
11 who are fishing are going to be
12 getting fish from contaminated waters
13 and possibly eating -- possibly
14 eating contaminated meat. The people
15 who rely on fishing, the people who
16 can't really afford to go out and
17 just buy fancy foods, the people who
18 need to fish the most are going to be
19 hurting from this tremendously. So
20 if we were to take like the money and
21 the resources that we were to use for
22 this instead of putting it into
23 something that would maybe help clean
24 up the Delta to make it more
25 appealable to people, so that way,

1 more people come and more people
2 would visit, we have another thing to
3 do in Stockton, something big,
4 something we can be proud of,
5 something that we can show off, and
6 not some waterway that is being
7 drained off to SoCal. Thank you.

8 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you.~~

~~9 Next, Mr. Wells.~~

~~10 BILL WELLS: Thank you very much. I appreciate
11 being here. My name is Bill Wells.
12 I'm with the California Delta Chamber
13 and Admissions Bureau. We've been
14 around for about 51 years in the
15 Delta here. I'd like to direct your
16 attention to your own documents down
17 here. Item number two, the last
18 sentence says, "The infrastructure
19 that enables the conveyance or
20 movement of California's water supply
21 is critical to the health of local
22 communities." I totally agree. It's
23 critical to Stockton, Isleton, Walnut
24 Grove and all of the other little
25 towns on to the Sacramento River. So~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2
3 CERTIFIED COPY
4
5
6
7
8

9 PUBLIC MEETING

10 STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

11 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

19 ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
20 (800) 288-3376
21 www.depo.com

22 REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696

23 FILE NO.: AE014C7
24
25

1 ~~Jaelyn? Okay, you'll be next.~~
2 ~~Gloria Alonso and Jeff Balmores, if~~
3 ~~you can get yourselves prepared.~~
4 ~~And, Ms. Baret, if you can please~~
5 ~~proceed.~~

6 **ELAINE BARET:** Hi, my name is Elaine Baret, and I am
7 the Program Manager for Little Manila
8 Rising. I am also born and raised in
9 south Stockton. Stockton is my home.
10 I'm here today to advocate for the
11 protections of our community of
12 Stockton and the community
13 surrounding the Delta.
14 What would it mean to move forward
15 with a project on the Delta without
16 considering our community health and
17 need? This would impact our home
18 even more and change the course of
19 our community's health. Stockton,
20 especially south Stockton, has
21 already disproportionately higher
22 rates of poor environmental and
23 health outcomes, from ninety-five to
24 a hundred percent pollution burden,
25 high diesel particulate matter, and

1 particulate matter to high poverty
2 rates and extremely high asthma rates
3 based on CalEnviroscreen indicators.
4 When we look at history, we recognize
5 that many of those health outcomes
6 are a result of historic
7 disinvestment dating back to the
8 1930's red lining practices that have
9 been done, and in Stockton, building
10 the cross town freeway right through
11 marginalized communities and
12 communities of color and more
13 specifically, the community of Little
14 Manila. Little Manila was home to
15 the largest Filipino population
16 outside of the Philippines from the
17 1920's to the 1960's. We have a rich
18 history in the Delta. A lot of my
19 ancestors, our moms worked in the
20 fields; but, also, they did a lot of
21 the labor work to build the levee
22 surrounding the Delta. If we move
23 forward with this project, there will
24 be heavy truck traffic to all of the
25 major construction sites competing on

1 the I5 Highway corridor. And right
2 now, 30,000 people commute from
3 Stockton to Sacramento, and 40 K and
4 more to the Bay area. Where are the
5 regional traffic studies? This will
6 increase air pollution impacts on
7 urban and rural communities like my
8 home in Stockton. It's a domino
9 effect on our air quality -- it's a
10 domino effect on our quality of life
11 from policies put into place. It's
12 like we're experiencing historic
13 amnesia for our communities like what
14 happened with the cross town freeway.
15 A lot of our communities I work with
16 is new to environmental justice. And
17 that's because environmental justice
18 unfortunately, it is not a concern on
19 them. Our communities are already
20 suffering, and we're more worried
21 about surviving and living day to
22 day. How much more pollution are we
23 expected to live with? A no tunnel
24 alternative would be best for our
25 community. Thank you.

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2

3 CERTIFIED COPY

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

PUBLIC MEETING

STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
(800) 288-3376
www.depo.com

REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696
FILE NO.: AE014C7

1 ~~—a no tunnel alternative.~~

~~2 PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you.~~

~~3 Mr. McGraw.~~

4 JAMES MCGRAW: Hello, everybody. My name is James
5 McGraw. First, I would like to ask
6 you two to put a smile across your
7 guys's faces. You've been frowning
8 almost this whole night. Secondly,
9 you're going a great job typing. No
10 one has said anything about that.
11 Now I'm going to start off with a pro
12 and the cons list. Now, the pro of
13 the tunnels: Los Angeles gets water.
14 That's it. That's all I've seen,
15 really.
16 Now, let's talk about the cons.
17 Because, really, I had something
18 written down, but I can't really do
19 that. I don't want that.
20 Anyways, what I've looked at and I've
21 been hearing all around everybody is
22 everybody is saying not to build
23 these tunnels. Yet, like other
24 people are mentioning, you guys have
25 it set in your heads that oh, we're

1 building the tunnels. We're going to
2 hold this little thing to look like
3 we're doing something. Record it as
4 proof and evidence that we did
5 something. But we're still going to
6 pass this because we're the
7 government.

8 But besides from that, I'm looking at
9 the cons. You're killing tons and
10 tons of animals and fish that you may
11 not consider animals, like others
12 have said. You're destroying so much
13 land. Water that used to be okay,
14 but because of actions of you guys,
15 it's no longer -- you can't even swim
16 in it without, you know, seeing
17 mutated fish or something like that.

18 But I don't know. I'm kind of up
19 here disappointed. Because you guys,
20 you still frown me. But this entire
21 time, I just notice you guys don't
22 care. And the entire time, you're
23 taking all of this documented
24 information and you're making this
25 big old scene like you guys care.

1 But, really, you're not going to do
2 anything.
3 I've lived on the Delta for seven
4 years and just turned eighteen. But
5 I've seen enough out there to know
6 that you guys just don't care about
7 it. The people that dump stuff over
8 there on eight-mile road all the
9 time, nothing is ever done about
10 that. And whenever something goes
11 wrong out there and we have to call
12 the police or we have to get the fire
13 department, no one comes out because
14 it takes so long.
15 The Delta has been neglected for a
16 really, really long time. And I
17 think you are guys are finally just
18 trying to put the kid out of the
19 house. That's all I have to say.
20 Thank you.
21 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you.~~
22 ~~Ms. Baret.~~
23 ~~And before you start, I'm going call~~
24 ~~the next group up. And I'm sorry if~~
25 ~~I can't read the last name. Is it~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2
3 CERTIFIED COPY
4
5
6
7
8

9 PUBLIC MEETING

10 STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

11 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

19 ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
20 (800) 288-3376
21 www.depo.com

22 REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696

23 FILE NO.: AE014C7
24
25

1 ~~—Mariah Looney, Barbara Barrigan~~
2 ~~Parilla and Sal Jobreck.~~
3 ~~Sorry if I'm mispronouncing.~~
4 ~~Go.~~

5 CHRIS NEUDECK: Good evening. My name is Chris
6 Neudeck. I work with an engineering
7 firm, Kjeldsen, Sinnock & Neudeck.
8 And by way of the alignments, the two
9 alignments being proposed, our firm
10 represents many of those islands or
11 what's known as reclamation districts
12 and have been for the last sixty-plus
13 years.
14 I've testified before the state board
15 on the WaterFix and the issue of the
16 impacts.
17 And tonight I'm only going to mention
18 two areas that I think need be looked
19 at as other alternatives.
20 As Mr. Nomellini stated, he was quite
21 excited about the fact that you might
22 be considering other alternatives, in
23 particular, no project alternatives.
24 So I'll will start with the no
25 project alternative.

1 On item 16 in your questions and
2 answers, you speak to nonstructural
3 alternatives or one better said is no
4 project alternatives.
5 I've worked in the Delta since the
6 early '80's. And in the early '90s,
7 the Department of Water Resources
8 came to one of my clients, through
9 what's known as the South Delta
10 Improvement Program down in the west
11 Delta. This was known as Reclamation
12 District Number 800 Byron Tract,
13 which is just north of the Clifton
14 Court Forebay. And through that
15 South Delta Improvement Program,
16 there was a series of representations
17 as to what they were going to do to
18 improve conveyance to the forebay to
19 get better conveyance and capacity.
20 Meanwhile, at the end of that kind of
21 ten-year period, they came to the
22 reclamation district and said, you
23 know, the real impact of pumping is
24 the fish impacts. And they proposed
25 a stream up on the north side of

1 Clifton Court Forebay that was going
2 to allow for sweeping flows and
3 taking care of the fish impact. So
4 I'd like to see that being brought
5 back in. It was dropped without any
6 real explanation. We worked very
7 seriously on negotiating the terms
8 and conditions of a right of entry
9 and so forth.

10 The second alternative I would like
11 to have looked at as well, if we're
12 talking about alternatives, two
13 alignments that are next to each
14 other really aren't alternatives.
15 They're still in the Delta. You've
16 taken that -- the purple one and
17 thrown it in as a discussion item.
18 What we really need to do is look
19 outside the Delta. Maybe look to the
20 west Delta. So I'd ask that be
21 considered as well.

22 The Delta is a very sensitive area,
23 and it's a very severe area when it
24 comes to impacts, and I seek to have
25 that done as well. Thank you.

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2

3 CERTIFIED COPY

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

PUBLIC MEETING

STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
(800) 288-3376
www.depo.com

REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696
FILE NO.: AE014C7

1 ~~part of those promoting Delta~~
2 ~~conveyance to consider alternatives~~
3 ~~to conveyance for meeting the state's~~
4 ~~21st Century water challenges. We~~
5 ~~hope you're serious about considering~~
6 ~~real alternatives to conveyance.~~

7 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Before you start, I'm going to call~~
8 ~~the next three folks up. Margie~~
9 ~~Fries, James McCraw, and Elaine~~
10 ~~Baret.~~
11 ~~Please proceed.~~

12 **DAN NOMELLINI, JR:** Dan Nomellini, Jr. I'm with the
13 Central Water Agency. We will be
14 preparing detailed comments, but I'm
15 going to just wing it tonight.
16 We are absolutely opposed to the
17 preferred project. Under no
18 circumstances will we tolerate that.
19 I wanted to highlight some of the
20 most disturbing things that I see.
21 And the first is a predetermination.
22 I believe you need to have your
23 head -- your head has been in the
24 sand if you think the decision has
25 not already been made to build a

1 tunnel. And that's sad, because, as
2 we all know, there's a lot of ways
3 that reliability can be improved with
4 the existing system, and that money
5 can be used in a lot better places.
6 So that's unfortunate.
7 And as far as scoping comments, the
8 game is to design the project
9 objective so it rules out these other
10 broader solutions, so I would urge
11 you not to do that; but I know you're
12 going to do that.
13 The second thing I want to talk
14 about, the most disturbing thing to
15 me is the abandonment of maintaining
16 Delta water quality. Right now, as
17 you know, so long as the projects
18 export water from Tracy, they need to
19 keep the entire Delta fresh, because
20 that's where they're pulling their
21 water from. Once you build a
22 physical facility that lets them take
23 the water to north Delta, you've
24 destroyed that common interest in
25 keeping the Delta fresh, and we can't

1 allow that to happen. We're not
2 going to be able to legally control
3 how they operate that facility. So
4 the goal is to not allow them to
5 physically construct it. Now, this
6 has been our fear that once they
7 construct it, all of a sudden,
8 they're going to stop caring about
9 Delta levees; they're going to start
10 changing the water quality criteria.
11 They have the political power to do
12 that. We believe they will. So that
13 was our fear. But now, I believe
14 they're taking the gloves off and
15 they're coming out and saying, yes,
16 our plan is to abandon maintaining
17 Delta water quality in the wake of
18 sea level rise. So now they're
19 claiming with sea level rise, there's
20 going to be greater intrusion of
21 salinity, and their solution, as I
22 understand it, and I'm waiting to see
23 how much they admit it; but their
24 solution is not to release more fresh
25 water to keep the Delta fresh, which

1 half a century of laws and promises
2 were made to ensure that they would.
3 Instead, their plan is to take that
4 water that we need to keep the Delta
5 fresh and put it in the tunnel. And
6 so that's devastating to our area.
7 And for the scoping comments, I would
8 request that you explain how not one
9 drop of water will be exported with a
10 tunnel that is needed to maintain
11 adequate Delta water quality. And I
12 would suggest that you include
13 alternatives that will ensure that
14 not one drop of water is exported
15 that is needed to maintain adequate
16 Delta water quality. Now, to us,
17 that means you need non-tunnel
18 alternatives, and a lot of them.

19 Thank you.

20 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you.~~

21 ~~Proceed.~~

22 ~~MARJIE FRIES: I'm Margie Fries, representing the~~
23 ~~San Joaquin County Climate Action~~
24 ~~Coalition and the Peace and Justice~~
25 ~~Network. For decades of~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2
3 CERTIFIED COPY
4
5
6
7
8

9 PUBLIC MEETING

10 STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

11 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

19 ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
20 (800) 288-3376
21 www.depo.com

22 REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696

23 FILE NO.: AE014C7
24
25

1 ~~were large enough to accommodate, and~~
2 ~~based on histories of where people~~
3 ~~have come and participated in the~~
4 ~~meetings. So we tried to get a~~
5 ~~pretty broad representation.~~
6 ~~We did receive comments that we are~~
7 ~~missing areas to the north. So we~~
8 ~~added that Redding meeting to try to~~
9 ~~address that concern.~~
10 ~~For the environmental justice~~
11 ~~communities, specifically, we're~~
12 ~~really interested in trying to reach~~
13 ~~out to communities in ways that are~~
14 ~~easy for them, and we recognize that~~
15 ~~coming to scoping meetings isn't~~
16 ~~always easy for people.~~
17 ~~So that's what the Ag Innovations~~
18 ~~folks are trying to figure out ways~~
19 ~~where we can go to their meetings or~~
20 ~~do things in a way that is as easy as~~
21 ~~possible for people to help make~~
22 ~~comments.~~

23 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER:~~ ~~Other questions?~~

24 DANTE JOHN **NOMELLINI, SR.**: I'm Dante John Nomellini,
25 Sr. Did I hear you correctly, that

1 you are going to consider
2 alternatives that don't include a
3 tunnel?

4 FACILITATOR: So at the moment, we're looking for
5 alternatives. So if you have a
6 preference about an alternative
7 specifically that doesn't include a
8 tunnel, please submit that as part of
9 your scoping comments.

10 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Other questions?~~

11 ~~DAVID FRIES: Thank you. My name is Dave Fries.~~
12 ~~I'm with San Joaquin Audubon. I know~~
13 ~~in the WaterFix scenario, Governor~~
14 ~~Brown set it up so that there would~~
15 ~~be no public money, only rate payer~~
16 ~~money to pay for the project.~~
17 ~~Therefore, there would be no~~
18 ~~statewide vote.~~

19 ~~Is this project set up the same way?~~

20 ~~FACILITATOR: This is a beneficiary project, so~~
21 ~~those that receive the water would~~
22 ~~pay for it.~~

23 ~~DAVID FRIES: So Metropolitan Water is paying for~~
24 ~~your salary now; is that right?~~

25 ~~FACILITATOR: So right now, that is being paid for~~

1 ~~communities and the ecosystem. Thank~~
2 ~~you.~~

3 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you.~~

4 ~~Mr. Nomellini.~~

5 DANTE JOHN NOMELLINI, SR.: Thank you very much. Dante
6 John Nomellini again. This is almost
7 51 years that I've been dealing with
8 the same subject going through at
9 least three diversions of these types
10 of meetings and hearings.
11 The Delta project that's proposed
12 will clearly destroy the Delta.
13 There's no question about it. We
14 cannot sustain ten years of a
15 construction project. Wildlife is
16 going to be totally devastated by the
17 activity. Our farming and the
18 traffic is going to be terrible.
19 And, of course, the worst thing would
20 be to take too much water out of the
21 Delta.
22 The projects have been operating for
23 70 years, running water through the
24 channels of the Delta. The problem
25 has developed to try and take more

1 water than the system can provide.
2 And the law is clear, that the areas
3 of origin are entitled to recapture
4 the water from the projects as demand
5 develops. So the water supply
6 available to the projects is going to
7 diminish over time.
8 This is a huge expenditure and money
9 for almost no benefit. And the
10 problems of the state are far
11 greater. This is like the last fix
12 for a drug addict to have thinking
13 that they're going to be able to get
14 a lot of drugs later.
15 There needs to be a major difference
16 in approach. The fact that you guys
17 are actually conceding that this is
18 not a predetermined tunnel project,
19 that you're going to look at
20 alternatives, that's a major step in
21 the right direction.
22 And what we need to do is do what we
23 can in the interim to get more water
24 out of the Delta. But the projects
25 are at least five million acre feet

1 short by reason of a failure to
2 develop north coast watershed water.
3 So we've got five million acre feet
4 of shortage and we've got the San
5 Luis project that adds on top of it.
6 So the problem in this state is going
7 to have to be addressed in a real way
8 to look at demand and reducing demand
9 on other resources. And the areas
10 that are importing water are going to
11 have to get self-sufficient. It's
12 not going to be available. We will
13 try and help on a solution. We'll
14 submit written comments. But by no
15 means, would we ever accept an
16 isolated facility such as a tunnel.
17 Thank you.

18 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you.~~

19 ~~Before you start, I'll call the next~~
20 ~~three up. David Fries, Jane Wagner~~
21 ~~Tyack, and Dan Nomellini, Jr.~~
22 ~~Please proceed.~~

23 ~~JULIA RAPOZA: My name is Julia Rapoza. I'm a~~
24 ~~substitute teacher. And this month~~
25 ~~I'm wearing the hat of earth science~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2
3 CERTIFIED COPY
4
5
6
7
8

9 PUBLIC MEETING

10 STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

11 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

19 ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
20 (800) 288-3376
21 www.depo.com

22 REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696

23 FILE NO.: AE014C7
24
25

1 in the sacred sky. It will be too
2 late to try, when you're on the wrong
3 side. Now's the time to turn the
4 tide. Now's the time to turn the
5 tide.

6 PROGRAM MANAGER: If you can hand over the mic, that
7 will be great. Thank you.
8 Kathleen? Kathleen? No Kathleen
9 Capusan? Okay. Kathleen changes her
10 mind. I will leave that over there.
11 The next three are Darvis Waiters,
12 Anthony Orosco, and Miniya Brisbane.
13 You can come up.
14 I'm just trying to keep track of time
15 here.

16 DARIUS WAITERS: I just wanted to share my thoughts on
17 the tunnels with a little poem I
18 wrote:
19 "And yet again, the Delta and its
20 people have been overlooked,
21 disregarded, stepped upon from people
22 that don't even care to know who
23 they're stealing from.
24 Tunnels take so much from my
25 community. Youth from schools and

1 the prisons, fathers into jails are
2 familiar resources and welfare, our
3 hope for a brighter future.
4 And now the water right from the tips
5 of our tongue, minority cultures have
6 always been parched.
7 Why do you think we learned to rain
8 dance?
9 Why do you think our throats are
10 cracked and dry screaming for equity
11 and the right to be heard?
12 Do the greedy possess no ears, no
13 hearts?
14 When you pollute the environment the
15 people live in, you pollute the
16 people in the environment.
17 When you pollute the ground from
18 under the community, the community is
19 devastated.
20 Are you aware of the reparations?
21 Do you even care?
22 Do you think we don't see your
23 thirst?
24 You can ignore the science, but you
25 cannot ignore us. We are not fools.

1 We know a parched tongue when we see
2 one. We know a dry mouth when we see
3 one.

4 If you take our water, you take us
5 with you.

6 You should fear the bloods that
7 Stocktonians know how to make.

8 If it's water you wish for, then I
9 offer you the sweat and tears of our
10 humble struggling city.

11 You will drown in our protest, be
12 taken by the wave of our beating
13 hearts.

14 What is your thirst and greed to a
15 community that will fight for the
16 only thing that it has left?"

17 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you.~~

18 ~~ANTHONY OROSCO: My name is Anthony Orosco. And like~~

19 ~~him, I'm just going to do a poem:~~

20 ~~"I've been a south Stockton native~~

21 ~~for 22 years. Fought past the city's~~

22 ~~limits of care. I'm from the~~

23 ~~darkness beyond the cross town. To~~

24 ~~put it simply, I can't breathe.~~

25 ~~Asthmatic lung struggles fighting~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2

3 CERTIFIED COPY

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

PUBLIC MEETING

STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
(800) 288-3376
www.depo.com

REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696
FILE NO.: AE014C7

1 ~~more folks. And there's people in~~
2 ~~the room who want to ensure that~~
3 ~~young people and families that aren't~~
4 ~~represented in this room today are~~
5 ~~here at this conversation.~~

6 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you very much.~~

7 MARGO PRAUS: My name is Margo Praus. And I'm
8 here, I'm a member of the Sierra
9 Club, and I came with their email in
10 mind, as well as Restore the Delta.
11 I really appreciate the speakers'
12 comments about the irreparable damage
13 you're doing.
14 For years, California has had a long
15 history of redistributing water in
16 the valley. Our waterways and our
17 groundwater have been heavily
18 impacted. And we see this constant
19 like surface water that has been over
20 allocated. Doesn't matter what the
21 voluntary agreement says. It's been
22 over allocated, and groundwater has
23 been depleted.
24 The valley always seem to be on the
25 end of receiving the leftovers, the

1 throwaways. And the disadvantaged
2 communities in the valley often do
3 not have a voice. They do not
4 deserve to be harmed more and more.
5 And, yet, that's what seems to be
6 occurring.

7 One of your primary rationals listed
8 is sea level rise. It's an
9 interesting image that we're worried
10 about the sea level rise and how it
11 will affect the pumping station. But
12 we're not really addressing how it
13 will affect our valley and our low
14 lying areas. It needs to be
15 addressed. And I know that's not in
16 your scope, but it ought to be part
17 of the whole picture.

18 And one of the stated purposes is to
19 minimize the disruption of water
20 delivery south of the Delta that
21 might result from a major earthquake
22 that might cause breaching of Delta
23 levees and the inundation of brackish
24 water into the area of the pumping
25 plants. None of us wants to see our

1 levees break. Will the EIR address
2 any levee structures, what's needed
3 to support them?

4 The tunnel will divert up to
5 two-thirds of the fresh water flowing
6 into the Delta from the Sacramento
7 River. That will have a huge impact
8 on Delta water quality. This is our
9 neighborhood. The EIR should assess
10 all the water areas and determine
11 protections that would be necessary
12 for all resources.

13 We will be impacted. The EIR should
14 do its analysis of the economic and
15 environmental cost and benefits of
16 the single tunnel project. But, most
17 importantly, include a no tunnel
18 alternative as well; and perhaps give
19 some thought to a desalination
20 project or two or three for
21 California. We do have an extensive
22 coastline.

23 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you.~~

24 ~~I will call the next three folks up,~~

25 ~~if you can make yourselves ready.~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2
3 CERTIFIED COPY
4
5
6
7
8

9 PUBLIC MEETING

10 STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

11 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

19 ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
20 (800) 288-3376
21 www.depo.com

22 REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696

23 FILE NO.: AE014C7
24
25

21 JULIA RAPOZA: Hi, my name is Julia Rapoza, and I am
22 with Sustainable Stockton. And I
23 wanted to know what other sources of
24 water have you considered besides the
25 Delta?

1 FACILITATOR: So that sounds a little bit like a
2 suggestion for alternatives to me.
3 We really are looking for ideas of
4 other suggestions. So if there are
5 places and things that you think we
6 should consider, we would really
7 encourage you to submit those in your
8 scoping comments.

9 JULIA RAPOZA: I take it, that means, you don't have
10 any other ideas?

11 FACILITATOR: Well, what we've put out is a
12 proposed project that identifies the
13 project that is the basis for
14 analysis. And we're looking for
15 other ideas, so we are collecting.
16 We may add to those based on our own
17 technical understanding; but right
18 now, we're looking at a proposed
19 project.

20 ~~AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can we have people hold the mic a~~
21 ~~little closer to the mouth on both of~~
22 ~~them?~~

23 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Yeah, so if you have a question,~~
24 ~~maybe, Barbara, just come up, stand~~
25 ~~up and come up. And then hold the~~

1 ~~short by reason of a failure to~~
2 ~~develop north coast watershed water.~~
3 ~~So we've got five million acre feet~~
4 ~~of shortage and we've got the San~~
5 ~~Luis project that adds on top of it.~~
6 ~~So the problem in this state is going~~
7 ~~to have to be addressed in a real way~~
8 ~~to look at demand and reducing demand~~
9 ~~on other resources. And the areas~~
10 ~~that are importing water are going to~~
11 ~~have to get self-sufficient. It's~~
12 ~~not going to be available. We will~~
13 ~~try and help on a solution. We'll~~
14 ~~submit written comments. But by no~~
15 ~~means, would we ever accept an~~
16 ~~isolated facility such as a tunnel.~~
17 ~~Thank you.~~

18 PROGRAM MANAGER: ~~Thank you.~~

19 ~~Before you start, I'll call the next~~
20 ~~three up. David Fries, Jane Wagner~~
21 ~~Tyack, and Dan Nomellini, Jr.~~
22 ~~Please proceed.~~

23 JULIA RAPOZA: My name is Julia Rapoza. I'm a
24 substitute teacher. And this month
25 I'm wearing the hat of earth science

1 teacher, so I'm doing a lot of rapid
2 learning about the environment, a lot
3 of things I didn't know about before.
4 And I must say, you're facing a
5 terrible dilemma. I would not want
6 to be in your shoes. You're looking
7 at the needs of a massive population
8 of Los Angeles and downward from us,
9 and then you're looking at the
10 smaller population, and you're saying
11 the needs of the greater number or
12 the needs of the few. But you might
13 be mislooking at the project.
14 One of the things that I learned this
15 week in one of the documentaries
16 I watched was about -- called
17 the -- it's called, "The Gateway to
18 the Underworld in the Permafrost."
19 It started with a simple project in
20 the 1960's. They were just going to
21 build a road through the permafrost.
22 They cut a few trees down. But that
23 triggered an effect, an unanticipated
24 effect that they didn't expect, that
25 the permafrost was going to start

1 melting beneath it. And then more
2 and more trees just kept caving in
3 and caving in until they had this
4 massive, massive and ever growing
5 crater. You're going to create a
6 legacy that you will not see the end
7 of. You won't live to the time that
8 you find out what your legacy is.
9 But the impact will -- we're all
10 mortal. I'm mortal; you're mortal.
11 And I've only recently come to the
12 conclusion that the earth is mortal
13 too. The question is will the
14 consequences of what you do make the
15 earth half an extra ten years, an
16 extra 20 years or less a hundred
17 years or a few thousand years? Our
18 ecosystems are delicate. Our
19 ecosystems are fragile. The Delta is
20 where migrating birds from all over
21 the world come. The more you meddle
22 with the Delta, the more you meddle
23 with the ecosystems of the entire
24 planet, because it's a migratory
25 place for birds, for fish. This week

1 I was learning about the salmon.
2 Each salmon lays 4,000 eggs. Do you
3 know how many salmon return each year
4 to spawn? Two. No, two. Two out of
5 4,000 eggs. What do you think is
6 going to happen in our Sacramento
7 River, your Sacramento River, when
8 you start dredging up silt and soils?
9 Maybe you're a vegan already. Maybe
10 you don't eat salmon, so maybe you
11 think they don't matter. What about
12 the bears? What about the forest?
13 Oh, yeah, I forgot about that. When
14 the salmon die, they fertilize the
15 forest. So if we're having all of
16 these wild fires and the salmon
17 aren't returning to fertilize our
18 forest, what will happen? This is
19 your forest. This is your Delta.
20 This is not us against Los Angeles.
21 This is for you. And when you
22 disrupt an ecosystem, it does not
23 recover. This is your legacy. Have
24 the courage, have the courage to say
25 no. I know if you are in a terrible

1 dilemma and you care about those
2 people down south. They will find a
3 way. There are hundreds of billions
4 of people that within 30 years will
5 be displaced all over the world.
6 Maybe Los Angeles was not the place
7 to settle in the place--

8 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: --thank for your comments.~~

~~9 DAVID FRIES: Thank you. My name is David Fries.
10 I'm the Conservation Chair for the
11 San Joaquin Audubon Society. And the
12 Audubon Society submits the following
13 concerns relative to construction of
14 a single tunnel water conveyance
15 structure through the heart of our
16 Sacramento San Joaquin Delta.
17 First of all, there needs to be
18 protection for all the bird species
19 there. The project proponents cannot
20 rely on the California Natural
21 Diversity Database to determine
22 whether species are present.
23 Thorough surveys must be done before
24 the project design is determined and
25 the EIR is written, so that the~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2

3 CERTIFIED COPY

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

PUBLIC MEETING

STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
(800) 288-3376
www.depo.com

REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696
FILE NO.: AE014C7

1 ~~mic close so that everybody can hear.~~

2 BARBARA BARRIGAN PARILLA: Thank you for coming to
3 Stockton. Thank you for the series
4 of meetings you've done. You had the
5 map up, figure two of the NOP. The
6 project runs from Trinity County to
7 the Mexican border. If that's the
8 total impacted area of the project, I
9 am curious why there isn't a scoping
10 meeting in Trinity, because it takes
11 two to three hours to get from
12 Trinity County to Redding. Why isn't
13 there a scoping meeting in San Diego
14 where you have rate payers paying the
15 highest rates of water in the state?
16 And why weren't there scoping
17 meetings for East L.A., Compton,
18 South Central L.A., Maywood, Downey
19 and Paramount, are other
20 environmental justice brothers and
21 sisters in California.

22 FACILITATOR: So we selected scoping meetings based
23 on locations where people expressed
24 interest in having a scoping meeting,
25 based on availability of spaces that

1 were large enough to accommodate, and
2 based on histories of where people
3 have come and participated in the
4 meetings. So we tried to get a
5 pretty broad representation.
6 We did receive comments that we are
7 missing areas to the north. So we
8 added that Redding meeting to try to
9 address that concern.
10 For the environmental justice
11 communities, specifically, we're
12 really interested in trying to reach
13 out to communities in ways that are
14 easy for them, and we recognize that
15 coming to scoping meetings isn't
16 always easy for people.
17 So that's what the Ag Innovations
18 folks are trying to figure out ways
19 where we can go to their meetings or
20 do things in a way that is as easy as
21 possible for people to help make
22 comments.

23 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Other questions?~~

24 ~~DANTE JOHN NOMELLINI, SR.: I'm Dante John Nomellini,~~
25 ~~Sr. Did I hear you correctly, that~~

1 ~~their right to recreation guaranteed~~
2 ~~under the California Constitution.~~
3 ~~If the state insists on the project,~~
4 ~~there must be equity for Stockton~~
5 ~~that includes improvement in air~~
6 ~~pollution and water quality, not just~~
7 ~~minimum mitigation. Because our~~
8 ~~people are already starting at an~~
9 ~~environmental and economic~~
10 ~~disadvantage. And we're almost the~~
11 ~~worse in the state.~~
12 ~~There must be a commitment that is~~
13 ~~planned now to protect drinking water~~
14 ~~supply and improve surface water~~
15 ~~quality conditions for access to~~
16 ~~recreation for environmental justice~~
17 ~~communities. But it's questionable~~
18 ~~that any amount spent will mitigate~~
19 ~~the impacts on public health and a~~
20 ~~sustainable economically -- sorry.~~
21 ~~I'm just going to end it there.~~
22 ~~Thank you.~~

23 BARBARA BARRIGAN PARILLA: Barbara Barrigan Parilla,
24 Restoring the Delta. I'm really
25 happy that my mentor, Dante

1 Nomellini, Sr., asked the question
2 about alternatives. And in your
3 answer, you talked that you were
4 looking for additional alternatives
5 rather than this project. That's
6 what the Governor's Water Resilience
7 Portfolio was supposed to cover, but
8 it didn't.

9 Comments for loading water projects
10 to create regional sustainability
11 through other regions of California
12 were ignored. The science from the
13 state's fourth climate change
14 assessment was ignored.

15 And so now you're saying that you're
16 looking for other solutions via this
17 process.

18 We're totally confused.

19 The fourth climate change assessment
20 shows that there is going to be
21 extended periods of drought that will
22 impact water quality. You're
23 proposing a project that cannot be
24 operated during extreme flood.

25 You're building it to a

1 two-hundred-year flood plane
2 standard. But you have not completed
3 full analysis on the Sacramento River
4 side and taking a look at elevations
5 on Delta lands, on what the total
6 flood impact could be during high
7 water events and the storm surge and
8 with sea level rise. So we're
9 disturbed because climate change is
10 continuously used as the reason for
11 the project, but you are not going
12 deep enough. You're not doubling
13 down. You're not looking at the
14 science to get to the real solutions.
15 As far as impacts, we really insist
16 from this community that the analysis
17 has to be at a cumulative impact in
18 relation to urban populations on air
19 quality in relation to disturbed peat
20 soils for construction, diesel
21 emissions for small trucks, traffic,
22 emissions from concrete batch sites,
23 real traffic and barging.
24 It can't be separated. It has to be
25 put together. We have to see what

1 the cumulative impacts are.

2 This community must see an in-depth
3 analysis of potential for increased
4 algal blooms as a result of changes
5 in hydrology for construction and
6 operations.

7 We at Restore the Delta oppose the
8 project. We do not believe that you
9 can't mitigate all the negative
10 consequences.

11 But I will stress what my friends and
12 colleagues have said here. The
13 community, if you are going to do
14 this, should be made better. And I
15 don't think you can do it. But you
16 can't start by leaving it behind.

17 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you.~~

18 ~~Our next three. Earl Jones, Jack~~
19 ~~Saunders, and Clarence Kooi.~~

20 ~~SAL JOBRACK: Hello, my name is Sal Jobrack. I'm a~~
21 ~~Stockton City Council Member. So I'm~~
22 ~~one of those people that's a policy~~
23 ~~maker that's connected to this. I'm~~
24 ~~not a water expert, but my whole~~
25 ~~life, I've lived here in Stockton on~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2

3 CERTIFIED COPY

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

PUBLIC MEETING

STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
(800) 288-3376
www.depo.com

REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696
FILE NO.: AE014C7

1 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you.~~

2 **MARIAH LOONEY:** Hello, again. My name is Mariah
3 Looney, and I'm the Campaign
4 Coordinator for **Restore the Delta**.
5 First of all, I'd like to thank you
6 all for coming to Stockton. I'm a
7 born-and-raised Stocktonian, and my
8 family has been here a long time. I
9 grew up in east Stockton and spent
10 most of my childhood in Gianonni
11 Park, which is located in the zip
12 code 95205.
13 For those of you unfamiliar with
14 Stockton, CalEnviroScreen shows that
15 this zip code is in the ninety-fifth
16 percentile for degraded environmental
17 conditions. Unfortunately, this is
18 not an uncommon statistic for
19 Stockton environmental justice
20 communities. Most neighborhoods in
21 south of east Stockton share these
22 degraded environmental conditions.
23 According to the 2018 report on the
24 Status of Women in Stockton done by
25 Mayor Michael Tubb's office and other

1 community leaders, thirty-nine point
2 six percent of the City of Stockton's
3 population is under the age of
4 twenty-five.

5 Many young people in the Delta area
6 will also often tell you that they
7 don't want contact with the water,
8 especially used in south and east
9 Stockton. They can see the
10 degradation of our rivers and sloughs
11 for themselves. And they see our
12 degraded waterways as a
13 representation of how the world at
14 large does not value them.

15 There's also a great body of research
16 that shows the link between degraded
17 environmental conditions and the
18 increase in the school prison
19 pipeline.

20 There are also 40,000 substance
21 fissures in the Delta with a great
22 number of these fissures residing in
23 Stockton. Pollution will
24 bioaccumulate, particularly mercury
25 in fish populations during

1 construction.
2 Residents from disadvantaged
3 communities, however, will continue
4 to catch and eat polluted fish,
5 despite education efforts, because
6 there are no other available and
7 affordable food sources for them.
8 The new eastern alignment released by
9 the DCA relocating the Delta tunnel
10 just a few miles east of the Port of
11 Stockton and much closer to the
12 entire city, the DCA plans to run
13 barges, trains and trucks at full
14 capacity from the port to the north
15 Delta for construction. And while
16 hundreds of trucks a day making new
17 runs from the port is being sold as
18 jobs, it can actually interfere with
19 the commutes for thirty thousand
20 residents who already drive daily to
21 Sacramento, and push business away
22 from downtown Stockton, which is in
23 the kind of a revitalization period.
24 Area residents will also be further
25 cut off from access at waterways and

1 their right to recreation guaranteed
2 under the California Constitution.
3 If the state insists on the project,
4 there must be equity for Stockton
5 that includes improvement in air
6 pollution and water quality, not just
7 minimum mitigation. Because our
8 people are already starting at an
9 environmental and economic
10 disadvantage. And we're almost the
11 worse in the state.
12 There must be a commitment that is
13 planned now to protect drinking water
14 supply and improve surface water
15 quality conditions for access to
16 recreation for environmental justice
17 communities. But it's questionable
18 that any amount spent will mitigate
19 the impacts on public health and a
20 sustainable economically -- sorry.
21 I'm just going to end it there.
22 Thank you.

23 ~~BARBARA BARRIGAN PARILLA: Barbara Barrigan Parilla,~~
24 ~~Restoring the Delta. I'm really~~
25 ~~happy that my mentor, Dante~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2

3 CERTIFIED COPY

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

PUBLIC MEETING

STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
(800) 288-3376
www.depo.com

REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696
FILE NO.: AE014C7

1 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you very much.~~

2 **JAELYN SANIDAD:** Hello, my name is Jaelyn Sanidad. I
3 am Filipino, and I am only nineteen
4 years old. I was born and raised in
5 Stockton, and there is actually a lot
6 about my city that I don't know.
7 And one of the main reasons to blame
8 is environmental injustice. I am
9 speaking to you as a Stocktonian, a
10 young woman and just a normal kid
11 from the south side. The thing about
12 children is that every kid has dreams
13 of traveling to new places and making
14 new adventures filled with green
15 fields and blue waters. Except for
16 that in today's society, a lot of our
17 children have grown up too fast in
18 order to fight for their lives. Zena
19 Abdul Karu, (ph) eighteen years old,
20 Muslim environmental activist;
21 Amarianna Copeny, Little
22 Ms. Flint, thirteen years old, black
23 environmental activist; Minita
24 Flaco, (ph) twenty-three years old,
25 environmental activist of the Amazon

1 Rainforest, whoever said that we
2 aren't here hasn't been paying
3 attention. Our youth are ready to
4 go. What we are doing by going
5 forward with these projects is
6 snatching away our children's dreams
7 and hopes. The older generation may
8 be the ones making the decisions now.
9 But we need to remember that it is
10 the youth and our future generation
11 that will be the ones living in your
12 consequences. Children are forced to
13 grow up too fast in order to repair
14 and fix problems that they never even
15 created. But why is that? Just a
16 few days ago, on February 12th, ABC
17 News published a report revolving
18 around Stockton and our opportunities
19 offered to our children. Stockton
20 was ranked among one of the worse
21 places with opportunities for our
22 youth. Reporters in the publication
23 stated that there's a pattern with
24 central valley metro areas and how
25 they are the most very vulnerable to

1 poverty. With this project, wouldn't
2 we just be further proving their
3 point and deteriorating our
4 children's lives? It would be a
5 shame, and I would be disappointed --
6 disappointed for real if this project
7 were to move forward. Environmental
8 racism and injustice has made its
9 dent in Stockton, our motherland, for
10 far too long. I am not just a
11 statistic to play with. We're here
12 fighting for our lives. We are
13 nature defending nature, and that's
14 what it is.

15 ~~GLORIA ALONSO: My name is Gloria Alonso, I am a~~
16 ~~nineteen-year-old woman, a Mexican~~
17 ~~woman immigrant. Coming from the~~
18 ~~south side of Stockton, I am here~~
19 ~~today as a community member to share~~
20 ~~my concerns regarding the impacts~~
21 ~~that the tunnel would have on the~~
22 ~~city that I call home. I am here to~~
23 ~~share with you, not the numbers, but~~
24 ~~to remind you that they impact~~
25 ~~historically marginalized~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2

3 **CERTIFIED COPY**

4

5

6

7

8

9 PUBLIC MEETING

10 STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

11 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19 ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
20 (800) 288-3376
www.depo.com

21

22 REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696

23 FILE NO.: AE014C7

24

25

Public Meeting
February 13, 2020

1 familiar with the water wars that
2 have gone in in California. Well,
3 fortunately, the Delta has one of the
4 prime targets of all of those wars.
5 And we've allocated more water to
6 more people than exists or ever will
7 exist. And in doing so, we've
8 degraded the Delta tremendously. And
9 actually even thinking about draining
10 more water from the Delta is, in my
11 opinion, insanity; because there's no
12 more water to give you. There just
13 really isn't.

14 And, like I said, I'm happy to have
15 you here; but I'm a little bit
16 suspicious, especially since we went
17 through the WaterFix, which was a
18 fix, in my opinion. And I think that
19 we're going to be watching to see
20 what happens in this. And the person
21 who was up here before me or up here
22 a minute ago anyway, said that
23 probably you're not going to find a
24 very good reception here in this
25 area, because it's just happened to

1 us so many times. We've had to fight
2 so many battles to maintain the water
3 that should be flowing through the
4 Delta. And we're constantly reading
5 about people who are saying all of
6 this water is going in -- wasted
7 going out to the Delta into the
8 ocean. Well, the fact is that's what
9 makes our environment work. It is
10 not working anywhere as near as well
11 as it should because we're having
12 chemicals spewed into the Delta.
13 We're going to have more flowing down
14 the San Joaquin River because of some
15 policies that have been initiated
16 that are going to harm the Delta even
17 more. So continuing to take water
18 out of the Delta is just a no-go for
19 me. And I'm pretty sure it is for
20 everybody else in this room, although
21 I don't speak for everybody,
22 obviously.
23 There are alternatives. And Restore
24 the Delta has been in the forefront
25 of bringing those to the attention of

1 individuals who are thinking about
2 water. But they get ignored fairly
3 quickly.
4 And, in my opinion. I'm tired of the
5 grabs going on. When you look at
6 where the water is going to go and
7 why the water is being treated the
8 way it is, it all has to do with
9 money. And there are agencies that
10 basically have to do what they're
11 told to do to keep their jobs and so
12 forth. And so there are farmers --
13 not farmers, but big ag, I guess I
14 want to say, and developers who would
15 really like to get their hands on
16 this water.
17 What we know is there is some land
18 that's going to be taken out of
19 farming, and but they're still going
20 to get the same amount of water. So
21 what is going to happen is a great
22 deal for them. They're going to be
23 able to sell it at market price, and
24 we're going to be subsidizing all of
25 that.

1 Anyway, I'm glad you're here. We're
2 going to be keeping an eye on you.
3 And I hope it never happens. Thank
4 you.

5 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: I'm going to call the next three.~~
~~6 Brandon Dawson, Dan Nomellini, and~~
~~7 Julia Rapoza, if you can come up.~~
~~8 BRANDON DAWSON: Hello, Brandon Dawson, staff member~~
~~9 for Sierra Club California, here on~~
~~10 behalf of our half a million members~~
~~11 statewide, many of them live in the~~
~~12 Delta. Just here to urge you to~~
~~13 consider a no tunnel alternative~~
~~14 thoroughly.~~
~~15 The proposed project unfortunately is~~
~~16 currently being considered in a~~
~~17 vacuum. There's a larger context~~
~~18 though. The state currently has~~
~~19 numerous regulatory programs to~~
~~20 improve air quality and water quality~~
~~21 in low income and disadvantaged~~
~~22 communities, reduce the state's~~
~~23 energy footprint and greenhouse gas~~
~~24 emissions and reinvigorate~~
~~25 California's diversity. But the~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2

3 CERTIFIED COPY

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

PUBLIC MEETING

STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
(800) 288-3376
www.depo.com

REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696
FILE NO.: AE014C7

1 ~~We know the challenges we have with~~
2 ~~our levees, the threat of climate~~
3 ~~change, and the ever returning~~
4 ~~poisonous algae issue, none of which~~
5 ~~this proposal addresses yet.~~
6 ~~And what do we have to say about the~~
7 ~~impact this proposal will have on our~~
8 ~~quality of air, which is already~~
9 ~~rated the fourth worse in our nation?~~
10 ~~The story of Parasite is how South~~
11 ~~Korea is quickly becoming a class of~~
12 ~~two system -- or a two-class system.~~
13 ~~Let's fix this process so the end~~
14 ~~result, there's equity. Mediate,~~
15 ~~appoint a receiver, do whatever you~~
16 ~~have to do to make this equitable.~~
17 ~~If you don't, our very own director~~
18 ~~will be making a movie about Stockton~~
19 ~~and the Delta region and how it's at~~
20 ~~the receiving end of California's new~~
21 ~~two-class system.~~
22 ~~Thank you.~~
23 PROGRAM MANAGER: ~~Thank you.~~
24 DAVID SCATENA: I'm Dave Scatena, and I belong to a
25 number of organizations. And I want

1 to begin by saying that the
2 conveyance and neither of the
3 alignments are acceptable to me as a
4 person who lives in this area.
5 This tunnel will not create one
6 additional drop of water. The
7 science and the scientists tell us
8 that this conveyance will cause
9 issues with the Delta as well as San
10 Francisco Bay.
11 The project is too disruptive to
12 farming along the path, whichever one
13 is chosen. If the tunnel is
14 installed, I predict that the Delta
15 protections will be pushed aside as
16 the result of increased water shift
17 south.
18 I am concerned about the effects of
19 the construction, increased truck
20 traffic throughout our area, the
21 economic impact to our area, and the
22 pollution of air and water.
23 I am also concerned that California
24 taxpayers will end up paying the
25 bill, which then causes us to

1 subsidize the water grabbers south of
2 the pump.
3 The taxpayers should vote prior to a
4 final decision to use taxpayer money.
5 Now, I also want to voice my concern
6 about the algae blooms. They already
7 occur, and construction will
8 undoubtedly increase the frequency
9 and magnitude which is destructive to
10 the Delta.
11 Finally, my opinion is, is that the
12 Delta Project is a boondoggle to
13 ultimately drain the Delta.
14 I suggest that the money that is to
15 be spent should be spent on projects
16 that produce more water, like
17 desalinization, water conservation
18 effects, and the planting of less nut
19 trees in our state.
20 Thank you.
21 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: I'm going to call the next three up:~~
22 ~~Jasmine D., Chris Neudeck, and Margo~~
23 ~~Praus, if you can get yourselves~~
24 ~~ready, and please proceed when you're~~
25 ~~ready.~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2

3 CERTIFIED COPY

4

5

6

7

8

9 PUBLIC MEETING

10 STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

11 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19 ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
20 (800) 288-3376
www.depo.com

21

22 REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696

23 FILE NO.: AE014C7

24

25

1 ~~Anyway, I'm glad you're here. We're~~
2 ~~going to be keeping an eye on you.~~
3 ~~And I hope it never happens. Thank~~
4 ~~you.~~

5 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: I'm going to call the next three.~~
6 ~~Brandon Dawson, Dan Nomellini, and~~
7 ~~Julia Rapoza, if you can come up.~~

8 BRANDON DAWSON: Hello, Brandon Dawson, staff member
9 for Sierra Club California, here on
10 behalf of our half a million members
11 statewide, many of them live in the
12 Delta. Just here to urge you to
13 consider a no tunnel alternative
14 thoroughly.
15 The proposed project unfortunately is
16 currently being considered in a
17 vacuum. There's a larger context
18 though. The state currently has
19 numerous regulatory programs to
20 improve air quality and water quality
21 in low income and disadvantaged
22 communities, reduce the state's
23 energy footprint and greenhouse gas
24 emissions and reinvigorate
25 California's diversity. But the

1 proposed project is antithetical to
2 all of those programs. During
3 imposed construction, this project,
4 whether operated to take 3,000 cfs,
5 6,000 cfs, or 7500 cfs of desperately
6 needed water from the Delta ecosystem
7 and its residents will worsen the air
8 and water quality for the
9 communities, increase the state's
10 energy footprint as it facilitates
11 more Delta exports and decimate much
12 of the state's biodiversity including
13 among others, Sandhill cranes.
14 So we ask that the EIR thoroughly
15 consider a no tunnel alternative and
16 the state's use of investment in
17 local programs in Southern California
18 and all over the state that reduce
19 measures that take away water from
20 the Delta, as well as state
21 investment in restoring existing
22 Delta levees and infrastructure.
23 Whether or not the tunnel gets built,
24 those projects do need to get done
25 for the safety of the Delta

1 communities and the ecosystem. Thank
2 you.

3 ~~PROGRAM MANAGER: Thank you.~~

4 ~~Mr. Nomellini.~~

5 ~~DANTE JOHN NOMELLINI, SR.: Thank you very much. Dante~~

6 ~~John Nomellini again. This is almost~~

7 ~~51 years that I've been dealing with~~

8 ~~the same subject going through at~~

9 ~~least three diversions of these types~~

10 ~~of meetings and hearings.~~

11 ~~The Delta project that's proposed~~

12 ~~will clearly destroy the Delta.~~

13 ~~There's no question about it. We~~

14 ~~cannot sustain ten years of a~~

15 ~~construction project. Wildlife is~~

16 ~~going to be totally devastated by the~~

17 ~~activity. Our farming and the~~

18 ~~traffic is going to be terrible.~~

19 ~~And, of course, the worst thing would~~

20 ~~be to take too much water out of the~~

21 ~~Delta.~~

22 ~~The projects have been operating for~~

23 ~~70 years, running water through the~~

24 ~~channels of the Delta. The problem~~

25 ~~has developed to try and take more~~

1 SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2

3 CERTIFIED COPY

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

PUBLIC MEETING

STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
(800) 288-3376
www.depo.com

REPORTED BY: MARY GONZALEZ CORBITT, CSR NO. 6696
FILE NO.: AE014C7