

October 27, 2020

Delta Conveyance Project Annual Tribal Informational Meeting: Soil Investigations for Data Collection in the Delta

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Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

LEAD AGENCY: Department of Water Resources

PROJECT OBJECTIVE: To determine the composition, location, and geotechnical properties of soil materials commonly found in the Delta which would inform the design, environmental analysis, and development of alternatives for a potential Delta conveyance project and contribute to DWR's overall understanding of Delta geology

PROJECT LOCATION: Within the legal Delta in Alameda, Contra Costa, Sacramento, Solano, San Joaquin, and Yolo Counties

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project/Delta-Conveyance/Environmental-Planning>



Proposed Project

103 Cone Penetration Tests (CPTs)

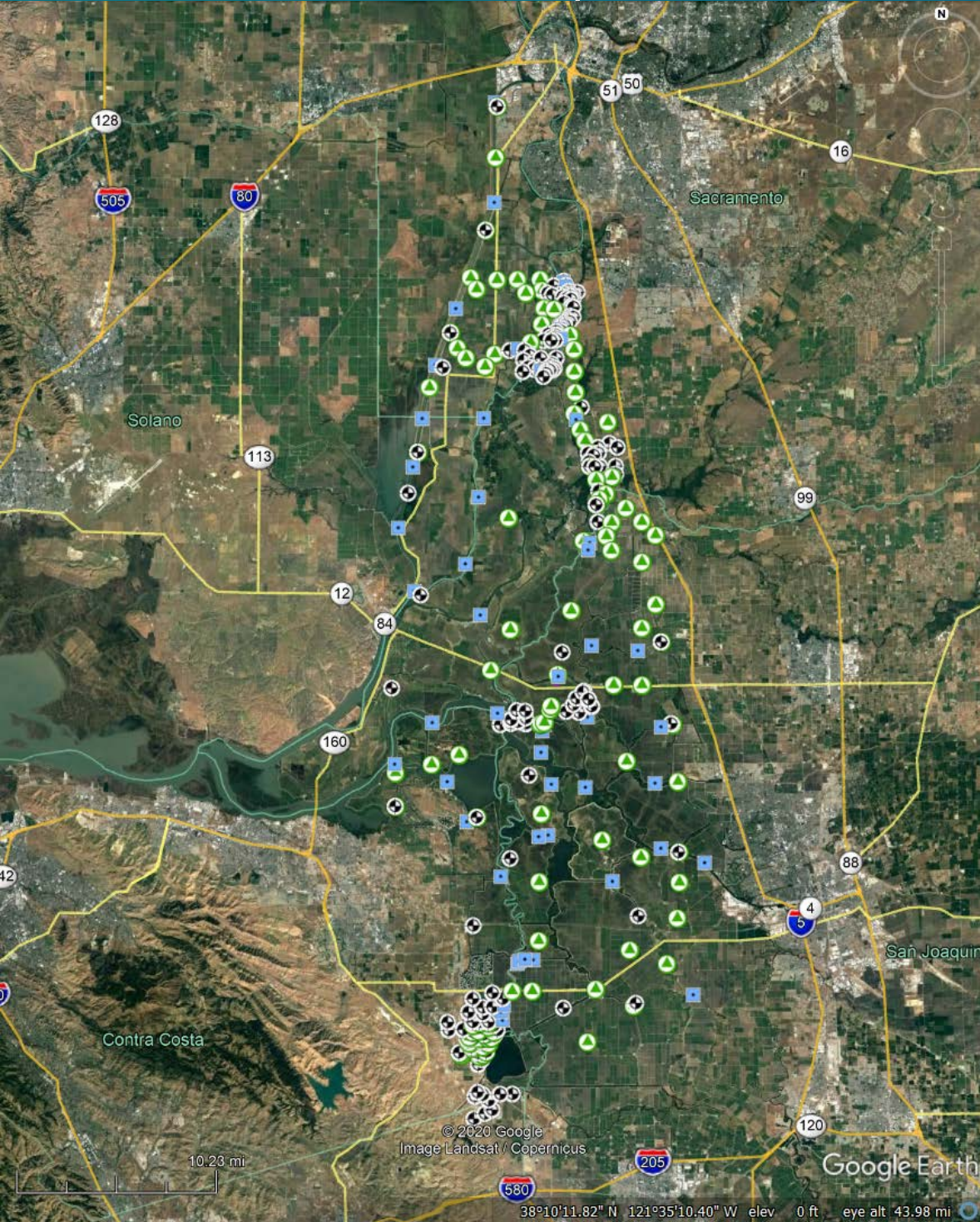
- up to 200 feet deep

Soil Borings

- 167 On land
 - 22 borings up to 50 feet deep
 - 145 borings up to 200 feet deep
- 56 Overwater borings up to 200 feet below mudline

5 Geophysical testing arrays on Bouldin Island

*As noted on our website, GIS and Google Earth (kmz) files of the proposed soil investigations locations may be requested by emailing Delta_Soil_ISMND@water.ca.gov.





Project Description

Soil Investigation

CPTs

- 1-2 inch rod pushed into ground; grouted from the bottom up

SOIL BORINGS

- 4-8 inch borehole; grouted from the bottom up
- Drilling fluids (drilling polymers and/or bentonite clay) and cuttings contained in recirculation tanks and drums and disposed of at an appropriate landfill
- for overwater borings drilling would occur in a casing

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS are noninvasive techniques that can be used to provide information on subsurface conditions and anomalies, such as buried casings or abandoned wells.



IS/MND

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: November 20, 2019 - January 15, 2020

PROJECT APPROVAL: July 9, 2020

- Including Notice of Determination, Response to Comments, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Documents can be found at: <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project/Delta-Conveyance/Environmental-Planning>

Video on soil exploration under the "Deep Dive Videos" option:
<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project/Delta-Conveyance/Public-Engagement>



IS/MND Consulting Tribes

AB 52:

- Wilton Rancheria
- United Auburn Indian Community
- Ione Band of Miwok Indians

DWR's TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT POLICY:

- California Valley Miwok Tribe (Sheep Ranch Rancheria of Me-wuk Indians of California)
- North Valley Yokuts Tribe

ADDITIONAL TRIBAL PARTICIPATION: Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation





Brief Summary of Cultural/Tribal Mitigation Measures

MM CUL-1: tribal representative invited to participate in pre-activity surveys with archaeologists

MM CUL-2: notification of Tribes of unanticipated discoveries and consultation with Tribes on plan of action

MM CUL-3: stop work if human remains encountered, notifications, and coordination with MLD

MM CUL-4: provide cultural sensitivity training





Project Description

Pre-activity

OBTAIN PERMISSIONS to access site and all required permits

- Work with landowners to confirm appropriate access routes and final locations of soil investigation sites

SITE CLEARANCE

- Biologist, Archaeologist, Tribal Representative, Geologist, Real Estate Representative, and Drilling Contractor
- If necessary, identification minor disturbances to vegetation needed for access (i.e. mowing, limbing, or trimming of bushes)

Average boring/CPT site will consist of a drill rig/CPT rig and passenger vehicles for geologist(s) and environmental monitor(s)



Near-term Planning Efforts

Geophysical Surveys on Bouldin Island

Borings and CPTs

- Bouldin Island: 3 borings
- Public ROW: 3 borings and 8 CPTs
- Other: 3 borings and 10 CPTs

Schedule dependent on acquisition of entry permits



Near-term Planning: Tribal Coordination

MONTHLY MEETING

- To confirm tribal representative availability for clearance surveys, discuss fieldwork for the following month, and discuss outcomes of the surveys

BI-WEEKLY EMAIL UPDATE

MONTHLY SITE CLEARANCE SURVEYS



PERMIT	TYPE	STATUS
CEQA – Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration	All	July 9, 2020 Project approval, Notice of Determination, Response to Comments, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program adopted
Clean Water Act Section 401: Water Quality Certification (Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board)	All Overwaters	August 14, 2020, permit issued
Clean Water Act Section 404: Nationwide Permit 6 (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps))	All Overwaters	July 30, 2020, permit issued for non-Section 408 locations, a subsequent 404 will have to be issued for Section 408 overwater locations at a later date.
Fish and Game Code Section 1602: Streambed Alteration Agreement (California Department of Fish and Wildlife)	All Overwaters	October 19, 2020, agreement finalized.
Rivers and Harbors Act Section 408: 408 permissions (Corps via Central Valley Flood Protection Board)	Overwater and on-land locations within CVFPB jurisdiction	Application materials are still in development.
Management of Public Trust lands/State Lands	Public Trust Lands	October 15, 2020, letter from SLC concurring with coverage under the MOU.



September 2020

Questions?

Cultural/Tribal Mitigation Measures

MM CUL-1:

- a. All Impact Area would be reviewed by a qualified archaeologist to evaluate the potential for impacts, if any, to cultural resources.
- b. Locations that have no previous survey coverage must be surveyed by, or under the direct supervision of a qualified archaeologist prior to the start of any ground disturbing activities.
- c. If the archaeologist observes cultural or potential tribal cultural resources within the Impact Area or associated resource buffer as identified by a qualified archaeologist, the location will be shifted the minimum distance necessary to reduce the potential for significant cultural resource impacts without significantly increasing potential impacts to other resources.



Cultural/Tribal Mitigation Measures

MM CUL-1 (continued):

d. A tribal representative from the consulting tribes will be invited to participate in the pre-activity field visits and archaeological surveys in Impact Areas specified as an area of interest/concern during consultation by that consulting tribe/tribes.

e. Consulting tribes will be informed of any potential tribal cultural resources located within the study area specified as an area of interest/concern by a consulting tribe/tribes.

f. If a suitable location cannot be determined within adjacent areas, then the soil investigation at that location would not be conducted. passenger vehicles for geologist(s) and environmental monitor(s)



Cultural/Tribal Mitigation Measures

MM CUL-2:

- a. Should any unexpected cultural resources be exposed during project activities, all work would immediately stop in the immediate vicinity (e.g. 100 feet [30 meters]) of the find until it can be evaluated by a qualified archaeologist and an appropriate plan of action can be determined in consultation with the State Office of Historic Preservation, as necessary.
- b. If the resource is associated with Native American contexts or is a potential Tribal Cultural Resource and is within a region specified as an area of interest/concern by a consulting tribe/tribes, the appropriate consulting tribal entity/entities will be contacted and consulted with to produce an appropriate plan of action.



Cultural/Tribal Mitigation Measures

MM CUL-3:

Should human remains be discovered during the course of project activities, all work would stop immediately in the vicinity (e.g. 100 feet [30 meters]) of the finds until they can be verified. The coroner would be contacted in accordance with Health and Safety Code section 7050.5(b). Protocol and requirements outlined in Health and Safety Code sections 7050.5(b) and 7050.5(c) as well as Public Resources Code section 5097.98 would be followed.



Cultural/Tribal Mitigation Measures

MM CUL-4:

Cultural sensitivity training will be provided for the environmental monitors and individuals conducting the field activities and geological analysis to ensure awareness about cultural resources, including identification of and proper protocol for handling any unexpected finds.

