

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
3500 INDUSTRIAL BOULEVARD
WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95691



June 22, 2021

Subject: Invitation to Informational Meeting for the California Department of Water Resources California Aqueduct-San Luis Canal Embankment and Liner Raise Project

Dear [Tribal Leader],

This letter serves as an invitation to [Tribe] (Tribe) to an informational meeting with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) regarding the DWR's proposed California Aqueduct-San Luis Canal Embankment and Liner Raise Project (Project). The segment of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) known as the San Luis Canal is part of the San Luis Joint-Use Complex, which serves the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project. It was designed and constructed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and is operated and maintained by DWR. The Aqueduct traverses portions of the Central Valley that have experienced land subsidence.

DWR is proposing to restore Aqueduct flow capacity in areas that are limited by the lack of lined freeboard due to land subsidence. This would include raising the existing embankment and concrete liner of the San Luis Canal to restore Pools 17, 18, 20, and 21 to their original operating capacity. The Project would also involve elevating existing structures affected by the embankment raise, such as bridge and utility pipeline crossings, turnouts/turn-ins, and Check Station 17. DWR and Reclamation are currently preparing a joint California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document to assess potential environmental impacts of the Project. DWR plans to construct the embankment and liner raise beginning in Summer 2023.

DWR is planning to hold a virtual informational meeting for Tribal representatives on July 15, 2021 from 4:00-5:30 pm. The purpose of the meeting is to provide Tribes affiliated with the Yokut Coalition with an overview of the Project and to provide an opportunity to ask questions about the Project. Your Tribe will be able to attend the meeting via Zoom using this link: <https://esassoc.zoom.us/j/87240620473> or join by phone at 888-788-0099 US Toll-free using Meeting ID: 872 4062 0473.

DWR has also created a website specifically for projects related to the larger California Aqueduct Subsidence Program (CASP), which includes the currently proposed Project. The website has a page devoted to Tribal Engagement, which provides a timeline of DWR's Tribal outreach, quick links to Tribal policies, and contact information for DWR's Tribal Policy Advisor. DWR invites your Tribe to review this website prior to the meeting. A PowerPoint presentation describing the Project will be added to the webpage prior to the meeting. The webpage can be found at this link: [Tribal Engagement \(ca.gov\)](https://www.water.ca.gov/tribal-engagement).

DWR is committed to working together with your Tribe consistent with its Tribal Engagement Policy and the California Natural Resources Agency's Tribal Consultation Policy, and with the Tribal Consultation Policy directives in Executive Order B-10-11 and N-15-19. A hard copy of this letter will follow. If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Angela Calderaro at 916-717-9831, or by email at Angela.Calderaro@water.ca.gov.

Respectfully,

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cc: Tribal Administrator

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