

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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Date: August 17, 2020

To: Erik Vink, Executive Director, Delta Protection Commission

From: Patricia Clark, Program Analyst, CA Department of Water Resources, Delta Conveyance Office

Re: Summary of August 2020 Delta Conveyance Updates to County Supervisors

I am writing to follow up on your request for an email summarizing the update this office provided to your Board of Supervisors Office during the week of August 10. Our goal is to keep your office informed as the environmental review and planning effort for the Delta Conveyance Project proceeds.

As you'll recall from my previous updates, soil survey work is proceeding. This work typically includes investigation of subsurface materials to determine suitability for possible construction work on the surface or below the surface and to evaluate potential impacts from construction activities as part of the environmental review of the proposed Delta Conveyance Project.

We plan to investigate each site with either a bore hole drilling technique, a Cone Penetration Test (CPT), or both. Bore hole testing will involve drilling a 6.5- 8-inch diameter boring and collecting samples at various depth intervals, while the Cone Penetration Test has a 2 ½-inch diameter probe that does not remove the subsurface material. Both tests are anticipated to descend to a depth of up to 200 feet. After each site is investigated, the boring and CPT, holes will be backfilled with cement-bentonite grout in accordance with California regulations and industry standards (DWR 74-81 and 74-90). Pre-activity surveys will be conducted to confirm location of the soil surveys away from sensitive environmental resources. An environmental monitor will be stationed near the work areas during all drilling and CPT activities. The environmental monitor will observe the immediate area for potentially sensitive environmental resources. Prior to beginning fieldwork, all borehole and CPT locations will be cleared for underground utilities.

You will probably also recall that there are three categories of soil exploration activity that are planned: court ordered, publicly owned land, and privately-owned land.

1. Court Ordered Sites—This activity is currently under way in Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties and is moving forward as planned.
2. Public Right-of-Way (ROW) Sites—These are parcels within County, Caltrans or The Nature Conservancy ROWs. We are currently working to obtain encroachment permits. There are 11 sites planned for Sacramento and San Joaquin counties. Environmental surveys are tentatively planned for October with soil explorations tentatively scheduled for November.
3. The final category includes approximately 38 private landowners within Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Yolo counties. We intend to negotiate agreements with willing landowners and enter into Temporary Entry Permits (TEP) for performing soil explorations on private land. The TEPs have prescribed steps to follow consistent with state law and the process outlined in the soil exploration project as presented in our

recent CEQA document (Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration). These private landowners will be contacted by DWR, and then by a DCA Real Estate specialist, acting on behalf of and as an agent for DWR, to discuss the details of the TEP for their specific property. A compensation package is included as part of the TEP. The estimated timeline for the first contact with the landowners is mid-late August, and the tentative timeline for the soil work is October 2020-March 2021, but only after TEPs are finalized and all environmental approvals are obtained.

- a. Activity (approximate) by county:
 - Contra Costa District 3: 6 parcels
 - Sacramento District 5: 15 parcels
 - San Joaquin District 3: 11 parcels
 - San Joaquin District 4: 7 parcels
 - Yolo District 1: 2 parcels

In addition, I would like to call your attention to two recent email updates that DWR sent out to our Delta Conveyance Project e-mail list last week on [August 4th](#) and [August 6th](#). One was a general program update and the other was about the start of a process called “validation.” Please let me know if you have any questions about the information contained in the notifications.

Lastly, I wanted to let you know there may be some limited traffic studies this fall, including the possibility of the placement of pneumatic tubes or the use of video cameras. I anticipate being able to contact you again in a few weeks when more detail is available on these activities, including likely locations and more exact timing.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached at patricia.clark@water.ca.gov or 916-607-0706 cell. Thank you.