

Section A
Notice of Intent

always the case in an exploration context. Higher exploration costs can reduce the likelihood that areas will be economically feasible to explore. Potentially productive areas that remain unexplored can prevent the nation and New Mexico from realizing the benefits of domestic energy production.¹³

Conclusion

As previously discussed, you have not identified inconsistencies with state resource-related plans, policies, and programs. Neither are your recommendations for federal public lands completely consistent with the management practices on state lands with oil and gas resources. Nevertheless, I have instructed the New Mexico BLM to take steps to further strengthen its support for the state plans, policies, and programs that you have noted. Among these steps are expanded protection for potential bighorn sheep habitat and an upland black-tailed prairie dog habitat in the planning area.

Also, I have reviewed your complete recommended alternative as you requested. In short, your recommendations would place some 1,538,911 acres (75% of the planning area), either off-limits to drilling completely or under stipulations that place significant barriers to effective exploration and development. Such a plan is unreasonable. Your recommended plan does not give reasonable consideration to the federal and state interest in domestic energy exploration and production in Sierra and Otero Counties, and it adds little significant protection for other natural resources. I therefore cannot approve your recommended alternative and must deny your appeal.

The BLM proposed plan allows a reasonable opportunity for exploration and development, but the plan does not ignore the important environmental interests of the area. The plan closes the six Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to leasing. It also closes eight areas that have been designated for ACEC status. As you previously recommended, the BLM proposed plan will not allow any fluid mineral leasing on the 35,796 acres of potential Aptomaida feline habitat located in the Nall and Otero Mesa grassland areas. The broader grassland areas are subject to protective stipulations, including the 5% maximum disturbance rule. All of this is under the umbrella of the RFD based analysis that anticipates short-term disturbance from oil and gas activities of 1,589 acres throughout this nearly 2.1 million acre planning area. That disturbance area is less than one-tenth of 1% of the entire planning area. The proposed plan also includes strict landscape reclamation standards that will be applied to any areas of disturbance. I believe the BLM proposed plan offers a reasonable balance between energy needs and environmental considerations and improves the management regime from the currently effective *Utah White Sands BLM*.

Under that plan, since 96% of the planning area would be open to leasing without any special stipulations.

Again, I thank you for your participation in the land use planning process for Sierra and Otero Counties. Your appeal is hereby denied, and I affirm the decision of the New Mexico State Director. Although I have denied this appeal, it is my hope that the New Mexico BLM and the State of New Mexico will continue to communicate and cooperate on future issues.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Clarke,

Director, Bureau of Land Management.

[FR Doc. 05-1315 Filed 1-24-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-44-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[INV-952-05-1420-BJ]

Filing of Plats of Survey; Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to inform the public and interested State and local government officials of the filing of Plats of Survey in Nevada.

EFFECTIVE DATES: Filing is effective at 10 a.m. on the dates indicated below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David D. Morlan, Chief, Branch of Geographer Sciences, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., P.O. Box 12000, Reno, Nevada 89520, 775-861-6541.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. The Plat of Survey of the following described lands was officially filed at the Nevada State Office, Reno, Nevada, on December 16, 2004:

The plat, in six (6) sheets, representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the south boundary of T. 14 N., R. 25 E.; a portion of the subdivision lines and Mineral Survey Nos. 4499, 4531, and 4578, and the subdivision of certain sections, Township 13 North, Range 25 East, Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada, under Group No. 806, was accepted December 14, 2004. This survey was executed to meet certain administrative needs of the Bureau of Land Management.

2. The above-listed survey is now the basic record for describing the lands for all authorized purposes. This survey has been placed in the open files in the BLM Nevada State Office and is available to the public as a matter of information. Copies of the survey and related field notes may be furnished to the public upon payment of the appropriate fees.

Dated: January 13, 2005.

David D. Morlan,

Chief Cadastral Surveyor, Nevada

[FR Doc. 05-1260 Filed 1-24-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-NC-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Contra Costa Water District Alternative Intake Project, Contra Costa and San Joaquin Counties, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) and notice of scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) intends to prepare an EIS to evaluate Contra Costa Water District's (CCWD)'s proposed Alternative Intake Project. The project purpose is to protect and improve water quality for CCWD's customers. The proposed action includes the construction of a new intake and fish screen in the Central Delta, a pumping plant, and an associated pipeline from the new intake to CCWD's Old River Pumping Plant on Old River. The proposed action would involve adding a new point of diversion to certain existing water rights held by CCWD and by Reclamation. In addition to the proposed action, other alternatives will be evaluated that may include different intake locations, desalination, and other treatment options. Potential Federal involvement may include the approval of an additional point of diversion pursuant to CCWD's water service contract with Reclamation, and operational changes. The EIS will be combined with an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared by CCWD pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

DATES: Three public scoping meetings will be held to solicit comments from interested parties to assist in determining the scope of the environmental analysis, including the alternatives to be addressed, and to identify the significant environmental issues related to the proposed action. The meeting dates are:

- Tuesday, February 15, 6–8 p.m. in Concord, California.
- Wednesday, February 16, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. in Sacramento, California.
- Thursday, February 17, 6–8 p.m. in Antioch, California.

¹³ For example, the unleased acre is closer to the successful Frontier Ranch well located on what is subject to the BLM stipulation 2 under your alternative. Under the *Proposed BLMPA-EIS* plan this area would be subject to stipulation 25, 50% of the 5% rule, that would allow for the possibility of limited exploration with both vertical and horizontal wells.

Written comments on the scope of the environmental document, alternatives, and impacts to be considered should be sent to Ms. Samantha Salvia at the address below. All comments are requested by March 4, 2005.

ADDRESSES: The scoping meetings will be held at:

- Council at the CCWD Board Room, Contra Costa Water District, 1331 Camino Avenue.

- Sacramento at the Federal Building Cafeteria Conference Room C-1001, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way.

- Antioch at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 815 Fulton Shipyard Road

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Samantha Salvia, Project Manager, Contra Costa Water District, P.O. Box 1120, Concord, CA 94524-2089, (925) 688-8057.

alternativintake@ccwrwater.com; or Mr. Robert Eckert, Supervisory Environmental Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region, 2800 Cottage Way, MP-152, Sacramento, CA 95825-1898, (916) 978-5051, *reckert@usbr.gov*. If you would like to be included on the EIS/ECR mailing list, please contact Ms. Salvia by e-mail at *alternativintake@ccwrwater.com*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

CCWD's mission is "to strategically provide its service area with a reliable supply of high-quality water at the lowest cost possible, in an environmentally responsible manner." CCWD relies entirely upon the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for its supply, which includes both Central Valley Project (CVP) water and water diverted under CCWD water rights. Water quality problems for CCWD result from elevated concentrations of salinity, minerals, bromide and organic carbon, and turbidity in Delta source water. These constituents can cause taste and odor problems for consumers and may contribute to health risks in some individuals. Water quality degradation in the Delta from increased diversions, upstream development, and runoff, have made it more difficult for CCWD to meet increasingly stringent drinking water regulations and the water quality objectives that CCWD has set for service to its customers.

To continue to protect and improve water quality delivered to its customers, CCWD is initiating a two-year planning study that will evaluate the benefits of CCWD adding a new, screened intake and conveyance system in the southwest portion of the central Delta, to access better source water quality.

The study will complete project planning, alternatives analysis, a joint EIR/EIS, permitting, and preliminary engineering design by mid-2006. At that point, it will be decided whether to proceed with design and construction of the recommended project.

The proposed project would add a new intake at a location with better quality water, but would not increase CCWD's total diversion capacity (rate or annual quantity). The existing Old River Intake and Pump Station, with a current capacity of 250 cubic feet per second (cfs), would remain in place. The new up to 250 cfs intake would provide CCWD with the operational flexibility to divert water from Old River or the new intake to provide the highest water quality for CCWD customers (the total maximum diversion rate of 250 cfs would not change). A new pipeline, approximately two to four miles in length, would convey water from the new intake, in the southwest portion of the Delta, to CCWD's existing Old River conveyance system.

The proposed project would involve adding a new point of diversion to certain existing water rights held by CCWD and by Reclamation. CCWD would not seek to increase its water rights, CVP contract amounts, or Los Vaqueros Reservoir filling or release rates through this project; CCWD and Reclamation would only seek to add a new point of diversion.

If implemented, it is anticipated that the project would help protect CCWD customers' future water quality, ensure that CCWD is able to meet or exceed future drinking water regulatory requirements, and provide increased operational flexibility. The project would be developed in a way that avoids or minimizes impacts, including impacts to Delta water users and to the environment.

Additional Information

The environmental review will be conducted pursuant to NEPA, CEQA, the federal and state Endangered Species Acts, and other applicable laws, to analyze the potential environmental impacts of implementing a range of feasible alternatives. There are no known Indian Trust Assets or environmental justice issues associated with the proposed action. Public input on the range of alternatives to be considered will be sought through the public scoping process.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home addresses from public disclosure, which

we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent's identity from public disclosure, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Dated: January 18, 2005.

Frank Michley,

Regional Environmental Officer, Mid-Pacific Region

EPA Doc. 05-1286 Filed 1-24-05; 8:45 am
BILLING CODE 4303-MN-P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[OVW Docket No. 0001]

Office on Violence Against Women; Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Office on Violence Against Women, Justice.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of the forthcoming public meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women (hereinafter "the Committee").

DATES: The meeting will take place on February 10, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on February 11, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Westin Embassy Row, 2100 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jana Simlar White, The National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women, 810 Seventh Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20531; by telephone at: (202) 307-6026; e-mail: *Jana.S.White@usdoj.gov*; or fax: (202) 307-3911. You may also view the Committee's Web site at: <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/naavoc/welcome.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of this meeting is required under section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Committee is chartered by the Attorney General, and co-chaired by the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services (the Secretary), to provide the Attorney General and the Secretary with practical and general policy advice concerning implementation of the

Section B

Notice of Preparation

CCWD Distribution List

**State Clearinghouse Acknowledgment of Receipt
and Distribution**

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

To: Agencies and Interested Parties

From: Contra Costa Water District

Date: January 25, 2005

Subject: **Announcement of: 1) Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report on the Alternative Intake Project; 2) Public Scoping Meetings to be held in Concord on February 15, Sacramento on February 16, and Antioch on February 17; and 3) Scoping Comments Due by March 4, 2005**

The quality of water in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the Contra Costa Water District's (CCWD's) sole source of water, continues to deteriorate despite efforts to improve it. In order to continue to provide high-quality water for its customers and meet increasingly stringent drinking water quality standards, CCWD is proposing the Alternative Intake Project (proposed project). The proposed project includes the construction of a new intake and fish screen in the Central Delta, a pumping plant, and an associated pipeline from the new intake to CCWD's Old River Pumping Plant on Old River. This new Delta location would provide CCWD with better source water quality than is currently obtained from its Old River and Rock Slough intakes. The proposed project would provide CCWD with increased flexibility in operations, including Los Vaqueros Reservoir filling and blending operations; would protect water customers from future Delta water quality degradation; and would help ensure that CCWD can meet or exceed future drinking water regulatory requirements. The proposed project would use CCWD's existing water supply and would involve adding a new point of diversion to withdraw water under certain existing water rights held by CCWD and by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation); the proposed project would not increase CCWD's total Delta diversion capacity (rate or annual quantity) but would change the location (and quality) of existing diversions.

PURPOSE OF THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) specifies that a public agency must prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) on any project that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant direct or indirect impact on the environment (Public Resources Code Section 21100[a]). CCWD has determined that the proposed project may have significant impacts on the environment. CCWD, acting as the lead agency for CEQA compliance, intends to prepare an EIR on the proposed project. CCWD anticipates that a joint EIR and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance document (environmental assessment [EA] and/or environmental impact statement [EIS]), with Reclamation serving as the lead federal agency, will be prepared.

The purposes of this notice are to:

1. briefly describe the proposed project and the anticipated content of the draft EIR to be prepared for the proposed project;
2. announce three public scoping meetings to facilitate public input and to be held:
 - a. Tuesday, February 15, 2005, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the CCWD Board Room, Contra Costa Water District, 1331 Concord Avenue, Concord, CA;
 - b. Wednesday, February 16, 2005, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Federal Building Cafeteria Conference Room C-1001, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA; and
 - c. Thursday, February 17, 2005, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 815 Fulton Shipyard Road, Antioch, CA; and
3. solicit input by March 4, 2005, from interested agencies, organizations, and individuals about the content and scope of the draft EIR, including the alternatives to be addressed and the potentially significant environmental impacts.

PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT

BACKGROUND

CCWD is a public agency formed in 1936 by local Contra Costa County, California residents. CCWD serves treated and raw (untreated) water to approximately 500,000 people in central and eastern Contra Costa County. CCWD provides treated water to Clayton, Clyde, Concord, Pacheco, and Port Costa, and parts of Martinez, Pleasant Hill, and Walnut Creek. In addition, CCWD sells wholesale treated water to the city of Antioch and the California Cities Water Company in Bay Point. CCWD treats water at the Randall-Bold Water Treatment Plant in Oakley for delivery to the Diablo Water District (DWD) and the city of Brentwood. CCWD sells raw water to the cities of Antioch, Martinez, and Pittsburg, DWD in Oakley, and the California Cities Water Company in Bay Point, as well as 22 major industrial customers and a number of smaller industrial customers.

CCWD is a Central Valley Project (CVP) contractor, historically relying almost entirely on Reclamation to supply its water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. CCWD diverts Delta water at three locations: the Mallard Slough intake at Mallard Slough, the Contra Costa Canal intake at Rock Slough, and the Old River (Los Vaqueros Reservoir) intake in Old River near Highway 4. These intakes are subject to variations in water quality caused by salinity intrusion, Delta hydrodynamics, and discharges into the Delta and its tributary streams from both point and nonpoint sources. The Old River intake is used most frequently because it has the best quality water of the three locations. CCWD uses the Old River intake to capture Delta flows when water quality is high, transfer the higher-quality water into Los Vaqueros Reservoir, and later blend the

stored reservoir water with supplies obtained directly from the Delta when Delta water quality is poor. The Old River intake is also used for direct delivery to customers. Rock Slough is used as CCWD's other option for diversions, and relatively minor diversions are made from Mallard Slough in most years due to high salinity levels at this intake.

NEED FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Need to Protect Water Quality

Several factors have degraded water quality at CCWD's Old River and Rock Slough intakes. First, increased salinity concentrations in water entering the Delta from upstream are exacerbated by upstream water use; increased Delta export pumping by the CVP and the State Water Project (SWP) reduces the freshwater outflow to San Francisco Bay that provides a barrier to salty San Francisco Bay water. Second, during dry conditions, the amount of runoff from the Sierra Nevada is well below normal, and water releases from storage reservoirs upstream of the Delta are also reduced. As a result, freshwater flow into the Delta is reduced further, allowing large amounts of the higher-salinity water from San Francisco Bay to intrude farther east into the Delta. Third, California's continued population growth in the Central Valley is increasing diversions of water from the Delta as well as increasing runoff and discharge from wastewater treatment plants and stormwater. Finally, agricultural runoff from the Sacramento and San Joaquin watersheds, as well as local agricultural runoff and drainage from lands surrounding the channels leading to the two existing intakes, contribute to degradation of water quality at these intakes.

The Delta is an estuary with naturally salty water that is high in organics. Concentrations of salinity, organic carbon, and other drinking water constituents of concern can vary not only temporally but spatially. CCWD's primary intake at Old River is subject to greater salinity concentrations than are present in some other channels in the Delta. As conditions in the Delta degrade, the Old River intake will not be able to consistently meet CCWD source water quality objectives as well as it can today.

Need to Improve Water Quality

CCWD's source water quality ultimately influences the quality of its treated water, as well as its ability to protect public health and meet drinking water standards and CCWD treated water quality goals. CCWD's treated water quality goals are designed to provide customers with the highest water quality that is reasonably achievable and to ensure that constituents of major health concern are kept to the lowest levels that are technically feasible and not merely at levels to meet existing regulatory limits. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Department of Health Services (DHS) are the primary regulatory agencies charged with setting and enforcing drinking water standards to protect public health. The most important recent water quality regulations relevant to CCWD are four of EPA's Microbial/Disinfection Byproducts (DBPs) rules, promulgated in 2001 and 2003. The overall goal of this group of regulations is to balance the health risks from microbial pathogens with those from carcinogenic DBPs. The rules include new requirements for treatment efficacy and *Cryptosporidium* inactivation/removal (proposed), as well as new standards for DBPs, disinfectants, and potential contaminants. In addition to federal requirements, regulatory requirements have been

established by DHS in accordance with the California Safe Drinking Water Act and Related Laws, referred to as the “blue book.” On the horizon for May 2005 are changes to the DBP Rules and the Long-Term Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, which are in the regulatory review process. CCWD’s commitment to protecting public health, together with the trend in increasingly more restrictive water quality requirements, necessitate that CCWD continue to strive to improve the quality of its source water so, in turn, CCWD can improve the water quality delivered to its customers. A proactive approach is proposed to ensure that CCWD water sources, facilities, and operations anticipate and meet future regulatory requirements and CCWD treated water quality goals.

PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

CCWD is implementing a comprehensive water quality strategy to protect and improve source and treated water quality for its customers. CCWD’s multi-pronged approach includes seeking improved water quality sources, reducing impacts of Delta agricultural drainage on source water quality, participating in collaborative research on advanced water treatment of Delta water, and supporting regulatory and legislative initiatives for source water protection. As part of this multi-pronged approach, CCWD is proposing the Alternative Intake Project to add a new intake to access source water having a higher quality than occurs at CCWD’s existing intakes during certain times of the year. CCWD’s existing intakes are all located in the western Delta, where water quality can be diminished due to seawater intrusion into the Delta and other reasons. An additional intake in the Delta would increase CCWD’s flexibility to access better quality water than is currently available at CCWD’s existing intakes during certain time periods. The basic project purpose is to protect and improve water quality for CCWD’s raw water customers and treated water customers. Key objectives of CCWD’s project purpose are as follows:

- 1. Improve Water Quality, Especially During Drought Periods.** Improve source water quality and ensure delivered water quality remains high, particularly in late summer/fall months and during drought periods, when Delta water quality declines dramatically and source water quality is most degraded.
- 2. Protect and Improve Health and/or Aesthetic Benefits to Consumers.** Enable CCWD to consistently meet or exceed current and future drinking water regulations and CCWD water quality goals to provide high-quality water and protect public health by reducing salinity and disinfection byproduct (DBP) precursors in source water.
- 3. Improve Operational Flexibility.** Increase operational flexibility to help improve source water quality and maximize the benefits of Los Vaqueros Reservoir by enabling CCWD to extend the time periods during which Delta water of sufficient quality is available for: 1) filling Los Vaqueros, and 2) direct use without the need for blending with higher-quality Los Vaqueros Reservoir water to meet source water quality goals.
- 4. Protect Water Quality During Emergencies.** Help protect CCWD source water quality during emergency situations by enabling CCWD to avoid diverting water from areas of the Delta affected by a levee failure, chemical or hazardous spill, or other potentially catastrophic events.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE INTAKE PROJECT

PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project would be located in Contra Costa and San Joaquin Counties (Figure 1). CCWD would construct a new water intake facility and fish screens in the South Central Delta vicinity. A potential location for the new intake is in the lower third portion of Victoria Canal. Additionally, a pipeline would be constructed approximately 2–4 miles across agricultural lands from the new intake to the existing Old River conveyance system to the west (Figure 2).

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project would add a new intake at a location with better quality water, but would use CCWD's existing water supply and would not increase CCWD's total diversion capacity (rate or annual quantity). The existing Old River Intake and Pump Station, with a current capacity of 250 cubic feet per second (cfs), would remain in place. The new intake (with a capacity up to 250 cfs) and fish screen would provide CCWD with the operational flexibility to divert water from Old River or the new intake to provide the best water quality for CCWD customers (the maximum diversion rate of 250 cfs would not change). Delta water would be conveyed from the new intake approximately 2 to 4 miles across agricultural lands through a pipeline. The pipeline would cross Old River; it would either be tunneled under the river and its adjacent levees or would cross over the top of the levees and be buried just beneath the bottom of Old River. The pipeline would tie into the existing Old River conveyance facilities.

The proposed project would involve adding a new point of diversion for withdrawal of water under certain existing water rights held by CCWD and by Reclamation. CCWD would not seek to increase its water rights, contract amounts, or reservoir filling or release rates through this project; CCWD would only seek to add a new point of diversion.

TYPE OF CEQA DOCUMENT

The Alternative Intake Project will be analyzed in a project-specific EIR. The EIR will examine the environmental impacts of the proposed project and several alternatives, focusing primarily on the changes in the environment that would result from project implementation. A joint EIR/EIS or EIR/EA is anticipated because NEPA compliance will also be required for implementation of the proposed project.

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE EIR

The Alternative Intake Project EIR will describe the direct adverse and beneficial environmental effects of implementing the proposed project. The EIR will also evaluate any indirect effects of implementing the project, such as potential growth-inducing effects, and the cumulative effects of the project when considered in conjunction with those of other related past, present, and

reasonably foreseeable future projects. The EIR will evaluate a No-Project Alternative and other project alternatives as required to comply with CEQA.

On the basis of preliminary consideration of the project, CCWD has determined that implementing the proposed project could result in significant or potentially significant environmental impacts as summarized below. These issues will be evaluated in the EIR:

- **Aesthetics.** Temporary and long-term changes in scenic views or visual character of project sites.
- **Agricultural Resources.** Conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use.
- **Air Quality.** Temporary increases in pollutant emissions associated with construction activities or pump operation.
- **Biological Resources.** Disturbance of riparian vegetation, jurisdictional wetlands, or other sensitive natural communities for the construction of project facilities; construction or operational effects on special-status terrestrial or fish species or their habitats; and evaluation of fish screen design and operation.
- **Cultural Resources.** Potential for disturbance of significant known or undiscovered cultural resources, if present.
- **Geology and Soils.** Temporary erosion conditions during construction, risks related to the placement of facilities in areas subject to seismic activity or having unstable soils.
- **Hazards and Hazardous Materials.** Potential spills of hazardous materials or waste during construction.
- **Hydrology and Water Quality.** Modification of local drainage, hydraulic effects in Delta channels, effects on Delta water quality, and effects on CCWD operations.
- **Land Use.** Conflicts with existing land uses and zoning, if any.
- **Noise.** Temporary increases in ambient noise levels during construction, long-term increases in noise associated with operation of a new pumping plant.
- **Recreation.** Temporary disturbance of recreational activities in areas adjacent to construction activities.
- **Transportation/Traffic.** Temporary construction effects on local traffic circulation.
- **Utilities and Service Systems.** Potential disruption of service and need for the relocation of utilities, energy consumption during project operations.

On the basis of preliminary consideration of the project elements, no environmental impacts are anticipated for the following resource areas: mineral resources, population and housing, and

public services (fire and police protection, schools, parks, and other public facilities). There are no known mineral resources in the project area. The project also would have no features that would increase population growth, displace substantial numbers of existing residences, create the need for a substantial amount of new housing, or increase demands on existing or future public services.

PROJECT SCOPING AND AGENCY ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES

PROJECT SCOPING

Scoping is an initial and critically important component of CEQA and of the proposed project. Scoping will assist in identifying the final range of actions, alternatives, site design options, environmental resources, and mitigation measures that will be analyzed in the EIR. The scoping process will help to eliminate from detailed study those issues that are not critical to the decision at hand. Scoping is also an effective way to bring together and resolve the concerns of interested federal, state, and local agencies; specific stakeholder groups; and the general public.

ROLE OF CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT

As the local agency for CEQA compliance, CCWD will continue to coordinate with CEQA responsible and trustee agencies, the relevant federal agencies, and other interested parties. CCWD will be principally responsible for conducting the environmental review process, including scoping, preparing appropriate environmental documentation, and deciding whether to certify the EIR and approve the proposed project.

OTHER AGENCY ROLES

Reclamation has a major role serving as the federal lead agency for NEPA. The following other public agencies may have jurisdiction over elements of the proposed project or have responsibility for resources that could be affected by construction or operation of the project:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)
- California State Water Resources Control Board
- California Department of Water Resources
- California Department of Boating and Waterways
- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Department of Health Services
- California Environmental Protection Agency

- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (5)
- State Lands Commission
- The Reclamation Board and local reclamation districts
- California State Office of Historic Preservation
- California Department of Transportation
- Contra Costa and San Joaquin Counties
- Bay Area and/or San Joaquin Valley Air Quality Management District
- Delta Protection Commission

SCOPING MEETINGS

Three public scoping meetings on the proposed Alternative Intake Project will be held as specified above under “Purpose of the Notice of Preparation.” The objectives of the meetings are to brief interested parties on the proposed project, and obtain the views of agency representatives and the public on the scope and content of the draft EIR, including the alternatives to be addressed and the potentially significant environmental impacts.

PROVIDING COMMENTS ON THE NOP

Interested parties are encouraged to provide comments on the NOP at the scoping meetings described above or provide CCWD with written comments. Because of time limits mandated by state law, written comments must be provided to CCWD no later than 5 p.m. on March 4, 2005. Agencies that will need to use the EIR when considering permits or other approvals for the proposed project should provide CCWD with the name of a contact person. Please send all written comments to:

Ms. Samantha Salvia, Project Manager
 Contra Costa Water District
 2411 Bisso Lane
 P.O. Box H2O
 Concord, CA 94524-2099
 Telephone: (925) 688-8057
 Fax: (925) 686-2187
 Email: alternativeintake@ccwater.com
 Website: www.ccwater-alternativeintake.com

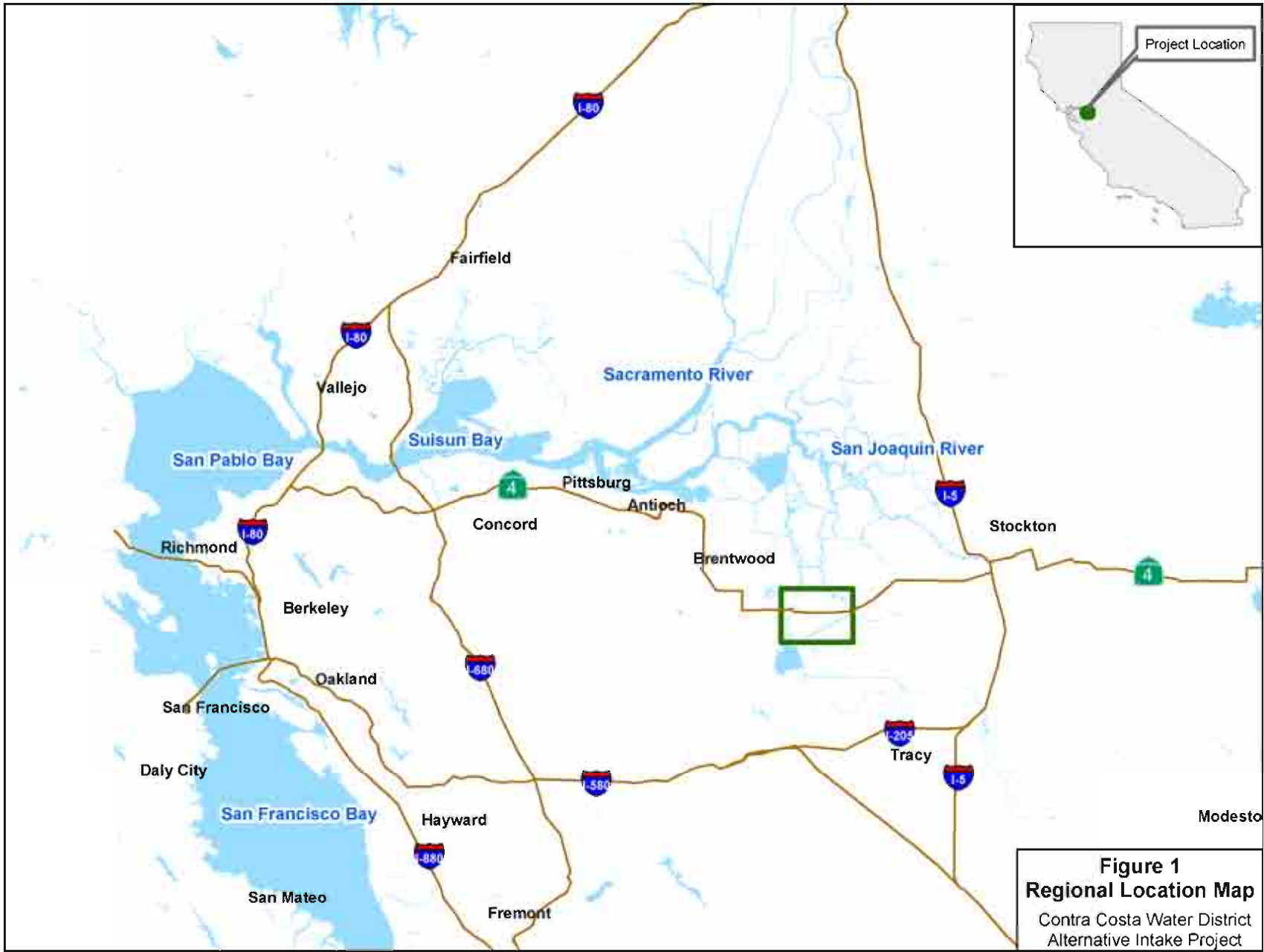
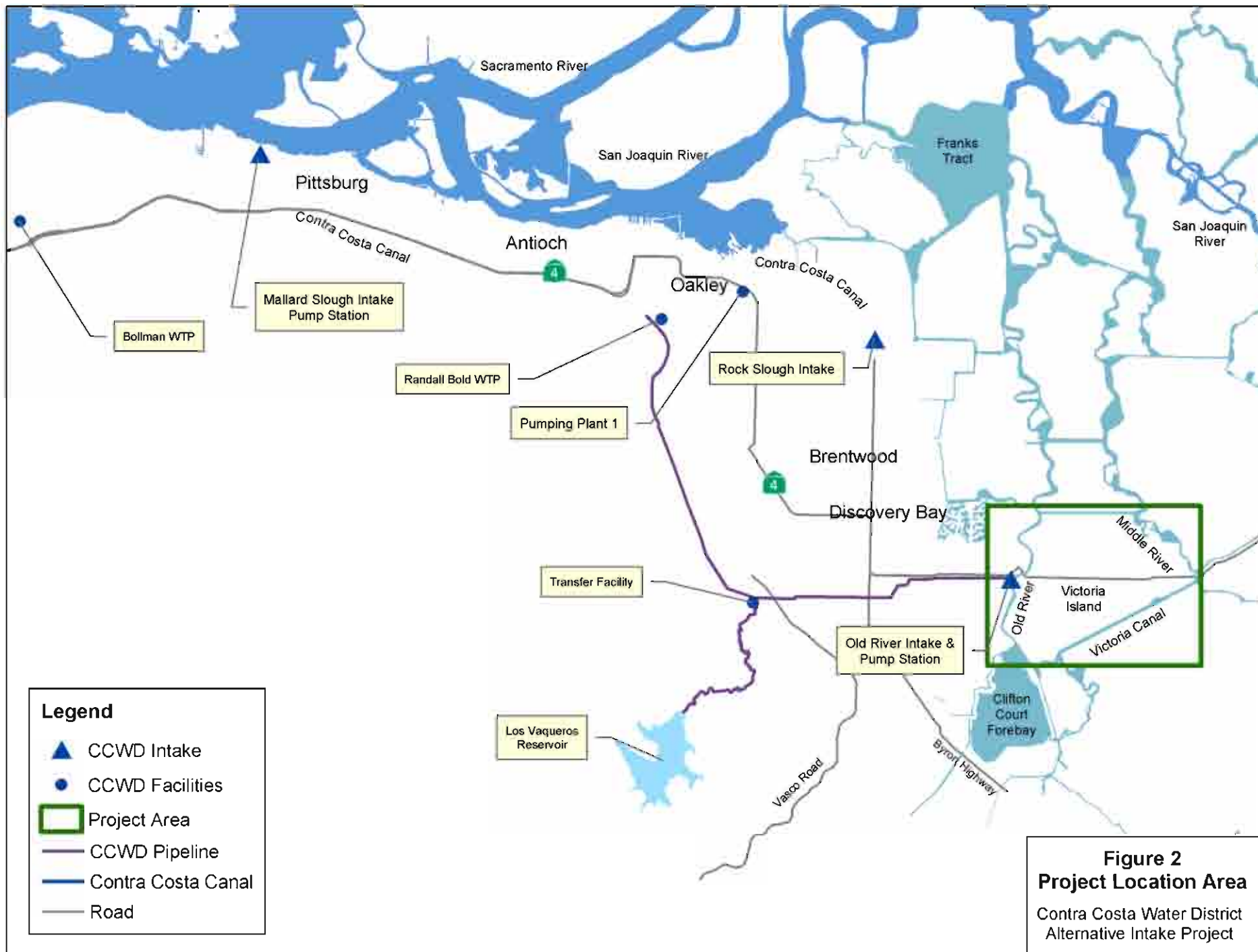


Figure 1
Regional Location Map
Contra Costa Water District
Alternative Intake Project



Contra Costa Water District
NOP Mailing List - Alternative Intake Project
Mailed on January 25, 2005

Sal.	First	Last	Title	Organization
Mr.	Michael	Accituno	Supervisor, Sacramento Area	NOAA Fisheries, Southwest Division
Ms.	Margrit	Aramburu	Executive Director	Delta Protection Commission
Mr.	Dennis	Barry	Community Development Director	Contra Costa County
Mr.	Victor	Carniglia	Deputy Director	City of Antioch Planning Department
Mr.	Jeff	Conway	District Manager	Reclamation District 800
Mr.	Gary	Darling	General Manager	Delta Diablo Sanitation District
Mr.	Bob	Eckart	Environmental Affairs	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Ms.	Ann	Farrell	Director of Engineering	Central Contra Costa Sanitary District
Mr.	Michael	Finan		U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mr.	Rob	Floerke	Regional Manager, Central Coast Region	California Department of Fish and Game
Mr.	Jim	Forsberg	Director of Planning & Economic Development	City of Concord Planning Department
Mr.	Rick	Gilmore	General Manager	Byron Bethany Irrigation District
Mr.	Jeremy	Graves	Director	City of Clayton Planning Department
Mr.	Roger	Guinee	Supervisor, Water Operations	US Fish and Wildlife, Sacramento Office
Mr.	Bill	Guthrie		U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mr.	Mike	Healey		California Department of Fish and Game
Mr.	John	Herrick	Counsel	South Delta Water Agency
Mr.	Alex	Hildebrand	Farmer/Engineer	South Delta Water Agency
Mr.	Randy	Jerome		City of Pittsburg Planning Department
Ms.	Kathy	Kelly	Chief, Office of SWP Planning	California Department of Water Resources
Mr.	Russel	Knight		Western Area Power Administration
Mr.	Virgil	Koehne	General Manager	Discovery Bay Municipal Advisory Council
Mr.	Ken	Landau	Assistant Executive Officer	Central Valley Region Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB)
Mr.	Mike	Leana	Planning Department	City of Brentwood Planning Department
Mr.	Dick	Leonard	Superintendent	California Cities Water
Mr.	Casey	McCann	Deputy Director	City of Pleasant Hill Planning Department
Ms.	Sandra	Meyer	Planning Manager	City of Walnut Creek Planning Department
Mr.	Mike	Monroe		US Environmental Protection Agency
Mr.	Chris	Neudeck	District Engineer	Reclamation District 2040 Kjeldsen, Sinnock & Neudeck
Mr.	Chris	Neudeck	District Engineer	Reclamation District 800 Kjeldsen, Sinnock & Neudeck
Mr.	Graydon	Nichols	Business Manager	Victoria Island Farms
Mr.	Dante	Nomellini, Sr.	General Manager and Co-Counsel	Central Delta Water Agency Nomellini, Grilli & McDaniel
Mr.	Dante	Nomellini, Sr.	Attorney	Reclamation District 2040 Nomellini, Grilli & McDaniel
Mr.	Tim	Raney	Interim Director	City of Oakley Planning Department

Contra Costa Water District

NOP Mailing List - Alternative Intake Project

Mailed on January 25, 2005

Sal.	First	Last	Title	Organization
Mr.	Dwight	Sanders	Division Chief, Environmental Planning	California State Lands Commission
Mr.	Kerry	Sullivan	Community Development Director	San Joaquin County
Ms.	Dina	Tasini	Deputy Director	City of Martinez Planning Department
Mr.	Tom	Williams	General Manager	Ironhouse Sanitary District
Mr.	Greg	Wilson	Division of Water Rights	California State Water Resources Control Board
Ms.	Carolyn	Yale		US Environmental Protection Agency
Mr.	Mike	Yeraka	General Manager	Diablo Water District



Arnold
Schwarzenegger
Governor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit



Jan Hoel
Acting Director

Notice of Preparation

January 27, 2005

To: Reviewing Agency:

Re: Alternative Intake Project
SCH# 2005012301

Attached for your review and comment is the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Alternative Intake Project draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Responsible agencies must transmit their comments on the scope and content of the NOP, focusing on specific information related to their own statutory responsibility, within 30 days of receipt of the NOP from the Lead Agency. This is a courtesy notice provided by the State Clearinghouse with a reminder for you to comment in a timely manner. We encourage other agencies to also respond to this notice and express their concerns early in the environmental review process.

Please direct your comments to:

Samantha Salvia
Contra Costa Water District
P.O. Box 1120
2411 Blyss Lane
Concord, CA 94524-2099

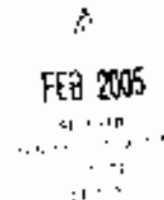
with a copy to the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Planning and Research. Please refer to the SCH number noted above in all correspondence concerning this project.

If you have any questions about the environmental document review process, please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan
Senior Planner, State Clearinghouse

Attachments
cc: Lead Agency



**Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

SCH# 2005012101
Project Title Alternative Intake Project
Lead Agency Contra Costa Water District

Type **NOP** Notice of Preparation

Description Construction of a new intake and fish screen at a site along the lower third of Victoria Canal (in the south-central part of the Delta), a pumping plant, and an associated pipeline across Victoria Island from the new intake to CCWD's Old River Pumping Plant. The project would provide CCWD with better source water quality than is currently obtained from its existing intakes. The project would provide CCWD with increased flexibility in operations, protect water customers from future Delta water quality degradation, and help ensure that CCWD can meet or exceed future drinking water regulatory requirements. The project would not increase CCWD's total Delta diversion capacity (rate or annual quantity), but would change the location (and quality) of existing diversions.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Samantha Sarna
Agency Contra Costa Water District
Phone (925) 688-8057 **Fax**
email
Address P.O. Box 429
2411 Reso Lane
City Concord **State** CA **Zip** 94524-2098

Project Location

County Contra Costa, San Joaquin
City Brentwood
Region
Cross Streets
Parcel No.
Township **Range** **Section** **Base**

Proximity to:

Highways
Airports
Railways
Waterways Old River, N. Victoria Canal, Victoria Canal, Middle River, Italian Slough
Schools Discovery Bay Elementary
Land Use General Agriculture and Open Space, Resource Conservation

Project Issues Aesthetic/Visual; Agricultural Land; Air Quality; Archaeology/Historic; Biological Resources; Drainage/Waterplum; Flood Plain/Flooding; Geologic/Seismic; Noise; Public Services; Recreation/Parks; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Toxic/Hazardous; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Water Quality; Water Supply; Wetland/Riparian; Wildlife; Growth Inducing; Landuse; Cumulative Effects

Reviewing Agencies Resources Agency; Department of Routing and Waterways; Department of Conservation; Department of Parks and Recreation; Reclamation Board; Department of Water Resources; Department of Fish and Game - Region 2; Department of Fish and Game, Region 3; Department of Fish and Game, Marine Region; Department of Health Services; Delta Protection Commission; Native American Heritage Commission; State Lands Commission; Caltrans, District 4; Caltrans, District Int; State Water Resources Control Board; Division of Water Quality; State Water Resources Control Board; Division of Water Rights; Regional Water Quality Control Bd., Region 5 (Sacramento)

Date Received 01/27/2005 **Start of Review** 01/25/2005 **End of Review** 03/04/2005

TOP Distribution List

Resources Agency

- Resources Agency
Nadell Gayou
- Dept. of Boating & Waterways
David Johnson
- California Coastal Commission
Elizabeth A. Fuchs
- Colorado River Board
Gard R. Zinswiler
- Dept. of Conservation
Hesanna Taylor
- California Energy Commission
Environmental Office
- Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection
Allen Robinson
- Office of Historic Preservation
Wayne Olsonson
- Dept. of Parks & Recreation
B. Noel Tighman
Environmental Stewardship Section
- Reclamation Board
DoeCee Jones
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Paul Edelman
- S.F. Bay Conservation & Dev't. Comm.
Steve McAuliffe
- Dept. of Water Resources
Resources Agency
Nadell Gayou

Fish and Game

- Depart. of Fish & Game
Scull Frit
Environmental Services Division
- Fish & Game Region 1
Clayton Koch
- Fish & Game Region 2
Betsy Curtis

- Fish & Game Region 3
Robert Floerke
- Fish & Game Region 4
William Lundemilk
- Fish & Game Region 5
Don Chadwick
Habitat Conservation Program
- Fish & Game Region 6
Gabriela Gatchal
Habitat Conservation Program
- Fish & Game Region 8/10
Tammy Allen
Inyo/Mono, Habitat Conservation Program
- Dept. of Fish & Game M
George Isaac
Marine Region

Other Departments

- Food & Agriculture
Steve Shaffer
Dept. of Food and Agriculture
- Depart. of General Services
Public School Construction
- Dept. of General Services
Robert Sleppy
Environmental Services Section
- Dept. of Health Services
Veronica Ramirez
Dept. of Healthy Drinking Water

Independent Commissions, Boards

- Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
- Delta Protection Commission
Debby Foy
- Office of Emergency Services
Dennis Castrillo
- Governor's Office of Planning & Research
State Clearinghouse
- Native American Heritage Comm.
Debbie Treadway

Country. WATER BOARD & STATE DEPARTMENT

- Public Utilities Commission
Ken Luvix
- San Gabriel & Lower LA Rivers
- San Joaquin River Conservancy
- State Lands Commission
Jean Salvo
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)
Cherry Jacques

Business, Trans & Housing

- Caltrans - Division of Aeronautics
Sandy Masnard
- Caltrans - Planning
Teri Pancove
- California Highway Patrol
John Gajnik
Office of Special Projects
- Housing & Community Development
Lisa Nichols
Housing Policy Division

Dept. of Transportation

- Caltrans, District 1
Mike Eagan
- Caltrans, District 2
Dore Anderson
- Caltrans, District 3
Jeff Pufferman
- Caltrans, District 4
Tom Soble
- Caltrans, District 5
David Murray
- Caltrans, District 6
Marc Blinbaum
- Caltrans, District 7
Cheryl J. Powell

- Caltrans, District 8
John Pagano
- Caltrans, District 9
Gayle Rosauer
- Caltrans, District 10
Tom Dumas
- Caltrans, District 11
Marc Orso
- Caltrans, District 12
Bob Joseph

Cal EPA

- Air Resources Board
- Airport Projects
Jim Lerner
- Transportation Projects
Kurt Karpelos
- Industrial Projects
Mike Inistruo

- California Integrated Waste Management Board
Sue O'Leary
- State Water Resources Control Board
Jim Hookerberry
Division of Financial Assistance

- State Water Resources Control Board
Student Intern, 401 Water Quality Certification Unit
Division of Water Quality

- State Water Resources Control Board
Steven Herrera
Division of Water Rights

- Dept. of Toxic Substances Control
CEQA Tracking Center

- Department of Pesticide Regulation

Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

- RWQCB 1
Catherine Hudson
North Coast Region (1)
- RWQCB 2
Environmental Document Coordinator
San Francisco Bay Region (2)
- RWQCB 3
Central Coast Region (3)
- RWQCB 4
Jonathan Bishop
Los Angeles Region (4)
- RWQCB 5S
Central Valley Region (5)
- RWQCB 5F
Central Valley Region (5)
Fresno Branch Office
- RWQCB 5R
Central Valley Region (5)
Reading Branch Office
- RWQCB 6
Lahontan Region (6)
- RWQCB 6V
Lahontan Region (6)
Victorville Branch Office
- RWQCB 7
Colorado River Basin Region (7)
- RWQCB 8
Santa Ana Region (8)
- RWQCB 9
San Diego Region (9)
- Other _____

Last Updated on 8/15/04

Section C

CCWD Fact Sheet



CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT

Alternative Intake Project

FACT SHEET

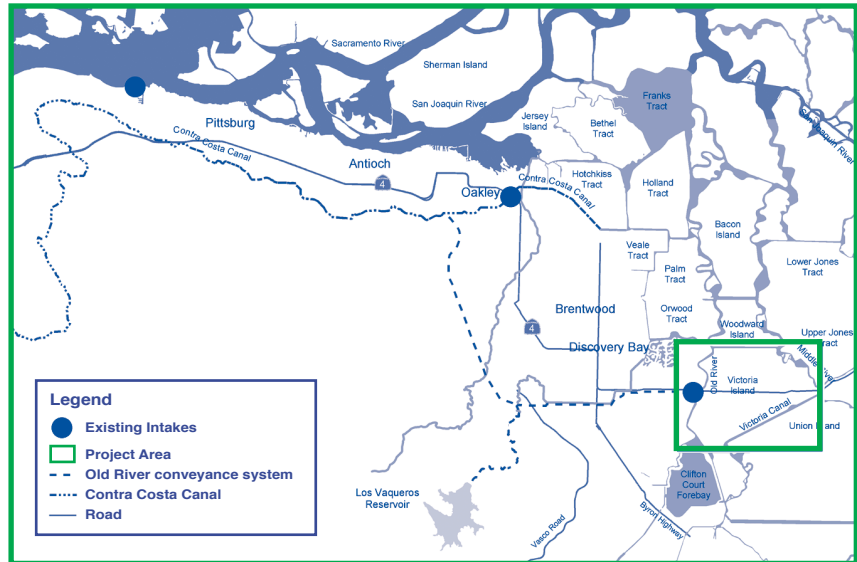
The quality of water in the Delta, the Contra Costa Water District's (District) sole source of water, continues to deteriorate despite efforts to improve it. Delta water quality problems are being compounded by increased water use and greater wastewater, stormwater and agricultural discharges from statewide development and growth. In order to continue to provide high quality water for its customers and meet increasingly stringent drinking water quality standards, the District has initiated the Alternative Intake Project (project).

Project Overview

The project will evaluate adding a new drinking water intake for the District in the central Delta. This intake will access better quality water than CCWD's current Delta intakes and improve water quality for its customers, especially during long droughts. The project will tie into the District's existing Old River intake and conveyance system and be limited to the existing system's capacity of 250 cubic-feet-per-second. This will allow the District to divert higher quality water while not increasing the amount of water pumped from the Delta. The intake, located at an alternative site in the Delta, will provide CCWD the operational flexibility it needs to obtain the best Delta water available for its customers.

Project Purpose

The project will protect and improve water quality for CCWD customers. Because water quality varies widely throughout the Delta, a new intake located further east will allow CCWD to divert water of higher quality dur-



The new intake will divert water from a new central Delta location and convey it via a new pipeline to the existing 250 cubic-feet-per-second Old River conveyance system.

ing dry periods, including droughts. This new option for obtaining consistently higher quality water for CCWD's customers will help the District address deteriorating Delta water quality and meet the stricter drinking water quality regulations anticipated in the future.

Why the Project is Necessary

The Delta is an estuary with naturally salty water that is high in organics. This, combined with seasonally fluctuating freshwater inflows from the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, makes it challenging for the District to obtain high quality water from its existing intakes year round.

The Delta also is an area of competing interests; serving as a drinking water source to two-thirds of the state's residents, an agricultural irrigation supply, habitat for fisheries and other wildlife, and a recreation

area. The District has been actively working to improve Delta water quality through CALFED (a consortium of state and federal agencies working to improve the Delta) and other arenas for many years. Despite these efforts, water quality at CCWD intakes has degraded, particularly in the fall. Since the late eighties, the average salinity concentrations at District's intakes have steadily increased. The state is projected to have an additional 12 million people by 2030 and this statewide growth will continue to make problems worse.

CCWD must take steps to ensure its customers are protected. The District has a multi-pronged approach to improve water quality that includes reducing impacts of Delta agriculture drainage; participating in collaborative research on advanced water treatment;

and supporting regulatory and legislative initiatives for source water protection.

As part of this approach, CCWD is studying the feasibility of adding a new intake. By proactively working to improve its water quality, CCWD can protect its raw and treated water customers without relying on other Delta projects that are outside of its control. If the District's recommended project is not implemented, CCWD will need to pursue other methods of improving water quality that could be more expensive and less effective at meeting CCWD's water quality goals.

Potential Benefits to Customers

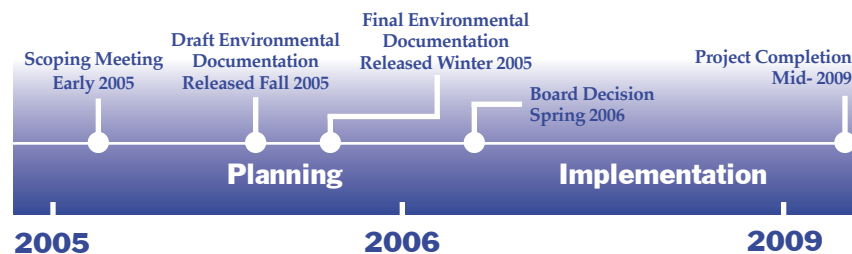
The project will provide several benefits for CCWD customers:

- Ensure customers' water quality remains high, especially during droughts and in late summer and fall.
- Protect the health of customers by ensuring CCWD consistently meets or exceeds current and future drinking water quality standards.
- Help maximize CCWD customers' \$450 million investment in the Los Vaqueros Reservoir by using it to store available higher quality water for use during long droughts.
- Help protect drinking water quality during emergencies such as Delta levee failures. An alternate intake location could help CCWD avoid areas of the Delta affected by an emergency.

Project Funding

CCWD budgeted up to \$8 million to complete the planning phase of

Project Timeline



The planning phase includes an environmental analysis to comply with federal and state requirements (NEPA and CEQA). CCWD expects to release a draft environmental report for public comment as early as Fall 2005. The District Board of Directors will consider whether to proceed with the project in Spring 2006. If the project moves forward, construction will be complete by mid-2009.

the project, including environmental analyses, initial permitting and preliminary engineering design. Design and construction will be funded through a local, state and federal funding partnership. CCWD has prudently budgeted funds through its capital improvement program for this purpose so that it will not cause a rate impact.

Avoiding Impacts to Other Delta Water Users

The project will avoid or minimize impacts to other Delta water users. The proposed intake will use the District's existing water supply and will not divert additional water out of the Delta; it will simply allow the District to shift the location and timing of pumping from the Old River Intake to a new location. Specifically, CCWD will not seek to increase its water rights, contract amounts, or reservoir filling or release rates through this project. CCWD will operate the project in a way that does not adversely affect water levels or water quality in nearby channels.

Protecting Environmental Resources

CCWD recognizes the Delta is a valuable environmental resource that supports several important and threatened fish species. By having an additional intake, the District will create benefits for Delta fisheries because of increased operational flexibility.

Public Input

The District welcomes public input during the planning phase of the project and will consider all comments received when preparing the environmental report. The District's public input process includes public meetings, written updates and a project web site.

For More Information

Samantha Salvia

Project Manager

(925) 688.8057

alternativeintake@ccwater.com

www.ccwater-alternativeintake.com

Section D

**CCWD Display Advertisement
Public Notice of Scoping Meetings**

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS



CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT Alternative Intake Project

To protect and improve water quality for its customers over the long term, the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) is proposing to construct an alternative water intake in the central Delta. CCWD, with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), will evaluate the proposed project in a joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS). The Notice of Preparation of an EIR and Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS have been published and are available on the project Web site at www.ccwater-alternativeintake.com.

CCWD and Reclamation are hosting a set of public scoping meetings prior to developing the EIR/EIS for the project. The public is invited to attend the scoping meetings and provide input about the proposed project and alternatives. The comment period following the scoping meetings will close on March 4, 2005; however, comments are welcome throughout the duration of project planning. Public workshops will also be held in late 2005/early 2006, after publication of the draft EIR/EIS.

There will be three opportunities to attend the public scoping meetings, at the following locations* and times:

Concord

Tues., Feb. 15, 2005

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
CCWD Board Room
Contra Costa Water District
1331 Concord Avenue
Concord, CA

Sacramento

Wed., Feb. 16, 2005

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Federal Building Cafeteria
Conference Room C-1001
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA

Antioch

Thurs., Feb. 17, 2005

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall
815 Fulton Shipyard Road
Antioch, CA

*CCWD facilities and meetings comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If special accommodations are needed for you to participate, please contact the Project Manager as soon as possible, but preferably at least two days prior to the meeting.

Please visit our website at www.ccwater-alternativeintake.com; e-mail alternativeintake@ccwater.com; or contact Samantha Salvia, Project Manager, at 925-688-8057 with your questions or for more information.

Notice of Public Scoping Meetings Contra Costa Water District -- Alternative Intake Project

The Contra Costa Water District (District), acting as lead agency for California Environmental Quality Act compliance, has published a Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on its proposed construction of an alternative intake project (project) in the central Delta. Likewise, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, as the lead federal agency, has published a Notice of Intent for preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The District will hold a set of three public scoping meetings to describe the proposed project, entertain questions and comments from the public, and obtain input on the proposed project, alternatives to the proposed project, and potential environmental issues. The public meetings will be held at the following locations: **Concord** Tues., Feb. 15, 2005, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Contra Costa Water District, 1331 Concord Avenue Concord, CA; **Sacramento** Wed., Feb. 16, 2005, 10 a.m. to Noon, Federal Building, Cafeteria Conference Room C-1001, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way Sacramento, CA; **Antioch** Thurs., Feb. 17, 2005, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 815 Fulton Shipyard Road Antioch, CA. Interested agencies, organizations, and individuals are invited to attend the meetings and provide input. Comments received by end of day March 4, 2005, will be considered in the development of the draft EIR/EIS. For more information, please visit the project Web site at www.ccwater-alternativeintake.com; e-mail alternativeintake@ccwater.com; or contact **Samantha Salvia, Project Manager, at (925) 688-8057.**

Section E

**Reclamation News Release
Distribution List**

**Mid-Pacific Region
Sacramento, CA**

MP-05-009

Media Contact: Jeffrey McCracken 916-978-5100
jmccracken@mp.usbr.gov

For Release On: January 27, 2005

Public Scoping Meetings Scheduled on Preparation of Environmental Document for Contra Costa Water District Alternative Intake Project

The Bureau of Reclamation and the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) have scheduled three public scoping meetings to seek public input on the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the CCWD Alternative Intake Project. Reclamation is the National Environmental Policy Act lead agency and CCWD is the California Environmental Quality Act lead agency.

The public scoping meetings will be held to solicit input on issues and alternatives that should be addressed in the EIS/EIR. They will be held in:

Concord	Sacramento	Antioch
Tuesday, February 15, 2005	Wednesday, February 16, 2005	Thursday, February 17, 2005
6 – 8 p.m.	10 a.m.–12 p.m.	6 – 8 p.m.
Board Room	Federal Building Cafeteria	Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall
Contra Costa Water District	Conference Room C-1001	815 Fulton Shipyard Road
1331 Concord Avenue	2800 Cottage Way	

The project purpose is to protect and improve water quality for CCWD's customers. The proposed action includes the construction of a new intake and fish screen in the Central Delta, a pumping plant, and an associated pipeline from the new intake to CCWD's Old River Pumping Plant on Old River.

The proposed action would involve adding a new point of diversion to certain existing water rights held by CCWD and by Reclamation. In addition to the proposed action, other alternatives will be evaluated that may include different intake locations, desalination, and other treatment options. Potential Federal involvement may include the approval of an additional point of diversion pursuant to CCWD's water service contract with Reclamation and operational changes.

-MORE-

Written comments on the scope of the environmental document are requested by close of business on Friday, March 4, 2005, and should be sent to Ms. Samantha Salvia, Contra Costa Water District, P.O. Box H2O, Concord, CA 94524-2099, or e-mailed to alternativeintake@ccwater.com. For more information, contact Ms. Salvia at 925-688-8057, Mr. Robert Eckart, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region, at 916-978-5051, or via email at reckart@mp.usbr.gov, or visit the CCWD Alternative Intake Project website at www.ccwater-alternativeintake.com.

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Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, with operations and facilities in the 17 Western States. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits. Visit our website at <http://www.usbr.gov>.

Distribution List for Reclamation Press Release

Media

Stockton Record
KRAK Radio, Sacramento
KXPR Radio, Sacramento
Copley News Service
Capitol Press
Folsom Telegraph
Entercom Radio
KSFM Sacramento
Sacramento Bee
Associated Press - Sacramento
KCRA - TV Sacramento
KXTV - TV Sacramento
KOVR - TV Sacramento
KMAX - TV Sacramento
KFBK Radio Sacramento
KXTL TV Sacramento
Ag Alert Sacramento
Bakersfield Californian
Wall Street Journal Sacramento
LA Times Sacramento
Capitol TV News Service
Oakland Tribune
Contra Costa Times
Capitol Business Journal
Capitol Public Radio
San Francisco Chronicle
Fresno Bee
Water Strategist

Metropolitan Water District of Southern
California
Westlands Water District

Organizations/Associations

California Farm Water Association
California Waterfowl Association
CVP Water Association
Environmental Defense Fund
Friant Water Users
Friends of the River
Sierra Club
Water Education Foundation

Regulatory Agencies

CALFED Bay-Delta Program
California Department of Fish and Game
California Department of Water
Resources
NOAA Fisheries
State Water Resources Control Board
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Water Districts

Contra Costa Water District
East Bay Municipal Utility District
Kern County Water Agency

Section F

Presentation for Scoping Meetings


Agenda

- I. Introductions and Meeting Format, Lucy Eidam, Outreach Manager, Lucy & Company
- II. Project Overview, Samantha Salvia, Project Manager, CCWD
- III. Environmental Overview, Phil Dunn, Environmental Manager, EDAW
- IV. Public Input, Lucy Eidam
- V. Closing

Contra Costa Water District

The Mission of the Contra Costa Water District is to strategically provide a reliable supply of high quality water at the lowest cost possible, in an environmentally responsible manner.

- Serves central and eastern Contra Costa County
- CVP's largest urban contractor
- One of the largest urban water districts in California and a leader in drinking water treatment technology and source water protection




CCWD Service Area Map



RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

- Federal Agency within Department of the Interior
- Largest wholesaler of water in the country
- Operates Central Valley Project



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation



6

CONTINGENCY WATER DISTRICT
Alternative Intake Project

Alternative Intake Project Project Overview

7

CONTINGENCY WATER DISTRICT
Alternative Intake Project

Project Purpose

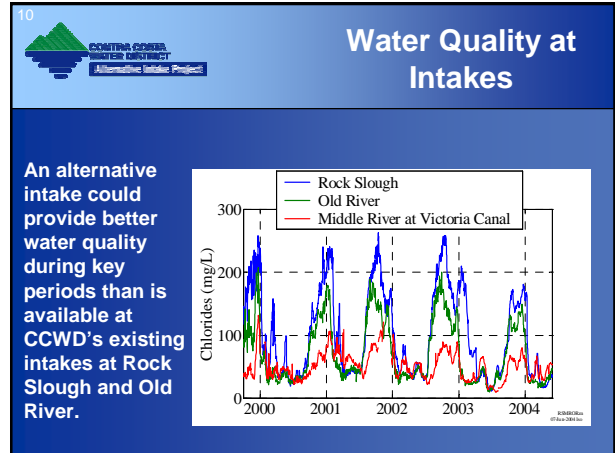
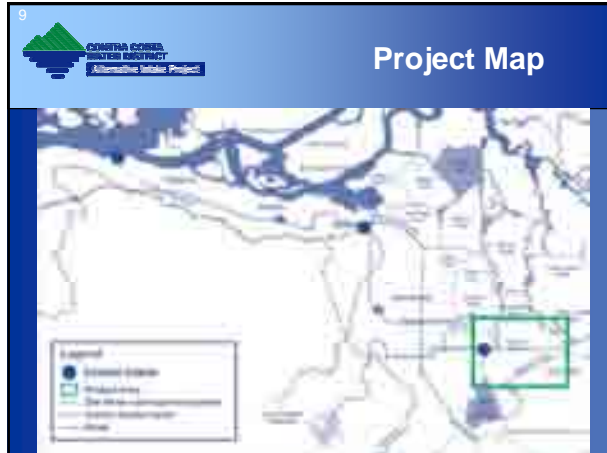
To protect and improve water quality for CCWD's raw water customers and treated water customers over the long-term.

8

CONTINGENCY WATER DISTRICT
Alternative Intake Project

Project Benefits

- Improve CCWD water quality
- Improve operational flexibility
- Protect public health
- Protect CCWD water quality during emergencies



11

CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT
Alternative Intake Project

Project summary

The Alternative Intake would:

- Be up to 250 cfs and tie into CCWD's existing facilities at Old River
- Relocate the point of diversion, but not increase the total diversion capacity
- Give CCWD increased operational flexibility to protect and improve water quality
- Be owned and operated by CCWD

CCWD Old River Intake

The slide includes a satellite image of the CCWD Old River Intake, with a red circle and arrow pointing to the intake structure. The image shows a large concrete structure in a river channel, surrounded by green vegetation and water.

12

CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT
Alternative Intake Project

Delta Water Users

CCWD would develop and operate the project in a way that does not adversely affect water levels and water quality for other water users.

- Operations and water quality modeling
- Water quality monitoring
- Close coordination with stakeholders

The slide is a solid blue background with white text. It outlines the project's commitment to maintaining water levels and quality for other users and lists the key operational and monitoring activities.

13




Protecting Environmental Resources

- No net increase in CCWD diversions
- Improved operational flexibility
- State-of-the-art fish screens




Fish Screens at Old River Pump Station


14



Alternative Intake Project Environmental Overview




15



Environmental Review Requirement

- Project subject to both state and federal environmental review
 - CEQA lead agency: CCWD
 - NEPA lead agency: Reclamation
- Joint EIR/EIS will be prepared

16



Overall CEQA and NEPA Objectives

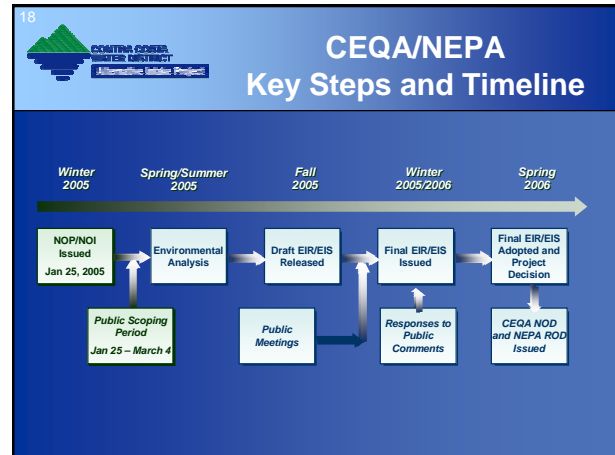
- Disclose impacts
- Identify alternatives and mitigation to reduce significant effects
- Identify impacts that cannot be mitigated or avoided
- Enhance public participation
- Foster intergovernmental coordination

17



Purposes of Scoping: Why Are We Here?

- Inform public and agencies early
- Receive public/agency input early
- Help identify final range of alternatives and environmental issues to evaluate
- Help identify assessment methods




19



Issues to be Addressed in EIR/EIS

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality/Noise
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Socio-economics
- Hydrology/Hydraulics
- Delta and CCWD Water Quality
- Land Use
- Drainage
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

20



EIR/EIS Preliminary Alternatives

- No Action
- Alternative Intake conveyance options
- Desalination Plant
- Other alternatives developed during scoping



How Do I Participate?

- Present your views or written comments tonight
- Comment in writing to Samantha Salvia (CCWD) by close of scoping on March 4, 2005
- Your comments become part of public record
- Comment on the Draft EIR/EIS in Fall
- Attend public meetings in Fall
- Contact CCWD or Reclamation throughout the process



Contact Information

Please send written comments by
March 4, 2005 to:

Samantha Salvia, Project Manager
Contra Costa Water District
P.O. Box H20
Concord, CA 94524-2099
Fax: (925) 686-2187
Email: alternativeintake@ccwater.com

OR

Robert Eckart, Supervisory Environmental Specialist
Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region
2800 Cottage Way, MP-152
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898
Fax: (916) 978-5055
Email: reckart@mp.usbr.gov

Section G

Scoping Meeting Notes

CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT ALTERNATIVE INTAKE PROJECT SCOPING MEETING NOTES

Prepared by Contra Costa Water District March 2, 2005

INTRODUCTIONS AND OVERVIEWS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS

Each meeting began with the following introduction, project overview, and environmental overview.

INTRODUCTIONS

Lucy Eidam of Lucy & Company commenced each meeting by introducing the project team, providing meeting ground rules, and giving a brief overview of Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). CCWD provides water to about 500,000 people in central and east Contra Costa County and is the largest urban water contractor of the Central Valley Project. Reclamation is the largest wholesaler of water in the country and operates the Central Valley Project.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Samantha Salvia of CCWD provided an overview of the Alternative Intake Project (proposed action). The overview included the following:

- ▶ CCWD background: CCWD is entirely reliant upon the Delta for its water supply, and drinking water quality is its primary concern.
- ▶ Project purpose: To protect and improve water quality for CCWD's raw water customers and treated water customers.
- ▶ Potential project benefits: Improved CCWD water quality, improved operational flexibility, protection of public health, and protection of CCWD water quality during emergencies.
- ▶ A project map, highlighting the project area and CCWD's three existing intakes.
- ▶ Discussion of water quality at existing intakes and proposed alternative intake location.
- ▶ A project summary highlighting key aspects of the project: The alternative intake would have a capacity of up to 250 cubic feet per second (cfs) and would tie into CCWD's existing facilities at Old River. The proposed action would relocate the point of diversion without increasing CCWD's total diversion capacity, would give CCWD increased operational flexibility and improved water quality, and would be owned and operated by CCWD.
- ▶ The project would be developed and operated in a way that does not adversely affect water levels and water quality for other water users. CCWD would accomplish this through operations and water quality modeling, water quality monitoring, and close coordination with stakeholders.
- ▶ The project would protect environmental resources. The project would include no net increase in CCWD diversions, improve operational flexibility, and incorporate state-of-the-art fish screens.

ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

Phil Dunn of EDAW provided an overview of the environmental review process for the Alternative Intake Project. Highlights included the following:

- ▶ Introduction: The project is subject to both state and federal environmental review, with CCWD acting as the lead agency for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance and Reclamation serving as the lead for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance. A joint environmental impact report and environmental impact statement (EIR/EIS) will be prepared.
- ▶ Purpose: The objectives of CEQA and NEPA include disclosing impacts of the proposed action; identifying alternatives and mitigation to reduce significant effects of the proposed action, including impacts that cannot be mitigated or avoided; enhancing public participation; and fostering intergovernmental coordination.
- ▶ Scoping overview: The purposes of scoping meetings are to inform the public and agencies of the project early, receive public/agency input on the project early in the project review process, help identify a final range of project alternatives and environmental issues to evaluate, and help identify assessment methods for the environmental review.
- ▶ A timeline of key steps for the planning phase of the project.
- ▶ A list of issues expected to be addressed in the EIR/EIS.
- ▶ Summary of alternatives: Preliminary EIR/EIS alternatives include no action, alternative intake conveyance options, a desalination plant, and any other reasonably feasible alternatives developed during the scoping process.
- ▶ Comment timeline: Scoping comments are requested by March 4, 2005.
- ▶ Contact information for Samantha Salvia at CCWD and Bob Eckart at Reclamation.

Attendees and public input from each of the three meetings are summarized below.

FEBRUARY 15, 2005 SCOPING MEETING, CONCORD

CCWD BOARD ROOM

ATTENDEES

Chris Hentz, Montgomery Watson Harza
Art Kroeger, Customer
Jerry Coburn, Intralox

PROJECT TEAM

Samantha Salvia, Contra Costa Water District
Rachel Martin, Contra Costa Water District
Lucy Eidam, Lucy & Company
Josh Newcom, Lucy & Company

Phil Dunn, EDAW
Jan Davel, Carollo Engineers
Bob Eckart, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Erika Kegel, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

PUBLIC INPUT

There were no questions or comments at the February 15 meeting. A representative of Intralox provided a brochure and information about the Intralox fish screen and requested that it be considered as the project moves forward with intake design.

FEBRUARY 16, 2005 SCOPING MEETING, SACRAMENTO

U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION OFFICES

ATTENDEES

J. Carl Dealy, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Michelle Light, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Patricia Roberson, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Stephen Cimperman, California Department of Water Resources
Robert DuVall, California Department of Water Resources
Ala Ng, California Department of Water Resources
Bruce Oppenheim, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries
Anna Holmes, California Department of Fish and Game
Ron Ott, California Bay-Delta Authority
Bernie Sullivan, Friant Water Authority
Jen Johnson, Environmental Science Associates

PROJECT TEAM

Samantha Salvia, Contra Costa Water District
Greg Gartrell, Contra Costa Water District
Rachel Martin, Contra Costa Water District
Lucy Eidam, Lucy & Company
Josh Newcom, Lucy & Company
Jereme Fromm, Lucy & Company
Phil Dunn, EDAW
Jan Davel, Carollo Engineers
Bob Eckart, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Erika Kegel, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

PUBLIC INPUT

Q: Robert DuVall asked for an explanation of the preliminary alternative labeled “Alternative Intake conveyance options” on one of the presentation slides.

A: Samantha Salvia explained that the alternative refers to the proposed action and will include evaluation of different intake sites, conveyance options, and operations.

Q: Anna Holmes asked how the Alternative Intake Project would coordinate with an expanded Los Vaqueros Reservoir.

A: Samantha Salvia stated that the Alternative Intake Project is a stand-alone project from the CALFED Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion (LVE) Studies and can provide benefits independent of LVE. She noted that the two projects are on very different timelines; LVE is on a much longer timeline than the intake project. She noted that the two projects have different purposes. She confirmed that the projects will be coordinated such that the proposed Alternative Intake Project would be compatible with an expanded Los Vaqueros Reservoir. She noted that the Alternative Intake Project neither commits CCWD to move forward with the expansion nor precludes the future expansion of the reservoir.

Q: Anna Holmes followed by asking whether the two projects would duplicate efforts, and whether a future expansion of Los Vaqueros Reservoir would require a second disturbance to the same land.

A: Samantha Salvia stated that the LVE Studies would consider the Alternative Intake Project plans as they move forward.

Q: Robert DuVall asked whether the alternative intake would be expandable because he understands that the LVE Studies are examining much larger intakes (500 or 1000 cfs?).

A: Samantha Salvia said that there are currently no plans to evaluate alternative intake capacities larger than 250 cfs. She noted that the LVE Studies are looking at a variety of options for intake sizes and locations, including the addition of multiple intakes.

Comment: R. DuVall commented that to reduce costs, CCWD should avoid duplication of efforts that may occur between studies of the Los Vaqueros Project and the proposed Alternative Intake Project, and should design the Alternative Intake Project to facilitate possible future expansion if the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion moves forward.

Q: Stephen Cimperman noted that some of the Alternative Intake Project materials refer to intake relocation, while others call it an intake alternative. He asked whether the old pump station would be shut down or whether CCWD had plans to open another pump station.

A: Samantha Salvia explained that the project is an alternative intake that would relocate some of CCWD's pumping. She stated that CCWD would not abandon the Old River Pump Station because there are periods when water quality is better at the Old River intake than at locations in the central Delta. She explained that CCWD is seeking flexibility through the project and would have the ability to choose between the two intakes.

Q: Stephen Cimperman asked for clarification of whether there would be a change in the amount of diverted water.

A: Samantha Salvia stated that there would be no additional capacity or supply associated with the Alternative Intake Project. The overall capacity of the Old River conveyance system would remain 250 cfs.

Q: Stephen Cimperman noted that the fact sheet states that funding for design and construction of the project would come from a combination of local, state, and federal funds. He asked whether funding was determined for the project.

A: Samantha Salvia replied that funding has not been determined for the project, but was being sought from several sources, including CALFED. CCWD would provide substantial local funding.

Comment: Stephen Cimperman commented that the Alternative Intake Project seems like a local project that should be locally funded.

A: Samantha Salvia stated that continuous improvement of Delta water quality is a CALFED objective and that protection of CCWD's water quality was necessary in part due to water quality degradation in the Delta over the past 15 years and because of future stresses on the Delta. She noted that the federal CALFED authorization legislation passed in October 2004 authorized the intake project for design and construction on a timeframe consistent with the permanent barriers program in the south Delta. She noted that the project would involve substantial local funding.

Q: Anna Holmes asked whether the Rock Slough or Mallard Slough intakes would be abandoned.

A: Samantha Salvia stated that CCWD would not abandon any of its existing intakes. The Alternative Intake Project would provide CCWD with the flexibility to relocate some of the pumping from the existing Old River Intake to a new location during certain periods of the year to obtain better water quality. The combined capacity of the Old River conveyance system would remain 250 cubic feet per second. Both the Rock Slough and Mallard Slough Intakes would continue to provide a portion of CCWD's water supply in a manner similar to their current operations.

Q: Robert DuVall stated that water quality in the Delta is a zero sum game. He asked how CCWD could realize water quality benefits without affecting other projects, such as the pumping at Banks.

A: Samantha Salvia noted the comment and stated that modeling analyses to evaluate the effects of the project would be an important part of the project planning. CCWD believes the project can be developed in a way that does not adversely affect water quality or water levels for Delta users. She noted that the size of CCWD's diversions are an order of magnitude smaller than the diversions at the south Delta export pumps and that CCWD does not plan to draw more water from the Delta.

Comment: Robert DuVall commented that the alternative intake would divert water at critical times for the SWP and that small impacts may be important to the state. He also said that the location of the intake on Victoria Canal was in the "pseudo-peripheral canal" of the Delta.

Q: Bruce Oppenheim asked whether pumping at Rock Slough would be reduced and whether the Alternative Intake Project would play a role in determining whether to install a fish screen at Rock Slough.

A: Samantha Salvia stated that the capacity at Rock Slough would still be needed because the Alternative Intake Project would not provide any added capacity to CCWD's overall system. She said there may be a small reduction in use of Rock Slough because of some of the operational flexibility the intake could create, but that for the most part both the Rock Slough and Mallard Slough Intakes would continue to provide a portion of CCWD's water supply in a manner similar to their current operations. She also noted that the fish screen at Rock Slough is a requirement of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act for Reclamation and that CCWD is working with Reclamation on the issue.

Q: Anna Holmes noted that the timeframe given in the project documents indicates a quick turnaround of the environmental documents. She asked for information on when biological studies would take place and when the project would start coordinating with the fisheries agencies.

A: Samantha Salvia stated that the project team has already started coordinating with the fisheries agencies, including attending an Anadromous Fish Screening Program workgroup meeting to introduce the project and get initial input. She noted that biological studies would begin in the upcoming months as access to the project area becomes available.

Q: A. Holmes asked who would conduct the biological surveys.

A: Phil Dunn said that EDAW would perform the terrestrial biological resource studies and Hanson Environmental would do the fish studies.

Q: Bruce Oppenheim asked whether the pipe crossing Old River would go under or over the river.

A: Samantha Salvia stated that the project is looking at both options and would be working closely with the potentially affected reclamation districts to determine which method would be employed. She noted that tunneling under the river initially appears to be the better option.

Comment: Robert DuVall asked whether CCWD is considering the effects of different Delta projects and stated that different projects, such as in-Delta storage, could affect the hydrology and water quality in the Delta.

A: Samantha Salvia noted the comment and stated that understanding the interactions of the various projects under consideration in the Delta is a complex problem all Delta projects are currently facing. The analyses for the intake project will need to include a cumulative impacts assessment. The project team will need to work with other Delta stakeholders to develop the modeling assumptions and analysis for the project.

Comment: Robert DuVall commented that the current modeling being done by other Delta agencies may need to examine CCWD's Alternative Intake Project for their future cases.

FEBRUARY 17, 2005 SCOPING MEETING, ANTIOCH

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS HALL

ATTENDEES

Graydon Nichols, Victoria Island Farms
James Jerkovich, Victoria Island Farms
Christopher H. Neudeck, RD 800/2040, Kjeldsen Sinnock Neudeck, Inc.

PROJECT TEAM

Samantha Salvia, Contra Costa Water District
Lucy Eidam, Lucy & Company
Josh Newcom, Lucy & Company
Phil Dunn, EDAW
Bob Eckart, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Erika Kegel, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

PUBLIC INPUT

Q: Graydon Nichols asked the size of the existing pipeline at Old River and whether the proposed Alternative Intake Project would alter that size.

A: Samantha Salvia answered that the capacity of the existing pipeline from Old River to the transfer station is 250 cfs and that the Alternative Intake Project would not include expansion of that pipeline.

Q: Christopher Neudeck asked whether CCWD would need to go to the State Water Resources Control Board in order for the project to move forward.

A: Samantha Salvia answered that CCWD and Reclamation would need to go to the State Water Resource Control Board to add a point of diversion to certain existing water rights held by CCWD and by Reclamation.

Q: Graydon Nichols asked whether CCWD would be able to maintain its proposed schedule for the project.

A: Phil Dunn responded that although the schedule is rigorous, he believes the schedule is possible to meet and that CCWD is committed to maintaining it.

Q: Christopher Neudeck asked what sort of endangered species consultations would be part of the project and how major issues like endangered species would be addressed.

A: Phil Dunn responded that CCWD has begun meeting with regulatory agencies, including attending a recent meeting of the Anadromous Fish Screen Program workgroup and has an upcoming meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He explained that the project team will initiate early consultations where possible, but that there will be certain environmental permits that cannot be pursued until the Final EIR/EIS is completed.

Q: Christopher Neudeck asked about the desalination alternative and the source of water CCWD was proposing to desalinate.

A: Samantha Salvia answered that the exact details of the alternatives analysis are still being developed. She indicated that the desalination alternative will likely involve an existing western Delta/Bay intake site such as CCWD's existing intake at Mallard Slough or a power plant intake. She explained that desalination is considered a project alternative because the project purpose is to protect and improve water quality, including salinity, for CCWD customers, and desalination is one of the only treatment options to remove salinity.

Q: Christopher Neudeck asked whether CCWD is looking at alternative locations for the intake along Victoria Canal and not just at one location.

A: Samantha Salvia confirmed that CCWD is evaluating other potential intake location sites.

Comment: Christopher Neudeck requested that the November 3, 2004 letter submitted to CCWD by Victoria Island Farms be considered as Victoria Island Farms' official comments for the scoping period. He noted that the letter describes the concerns of Victoria Island Farms associated with the proposed project and that those concerns have not changed.

Comment: Christopher Neudeck commented that both Reclamation District 800 (Byron Tract) and Reclamation District 2040 (Victoria Island Farms) are very interested in where the project will be located. He stated that both reclamation districts want the project planning to be a collaborative process that involves the reclamation districts. He noted that the reimbursement agreements that are being developed between CCWD and the Reclamation Districts acknowledge both parties' desire to work together.

A: Samantha Salvia confirmed that CCWD shares the reclamation districts' desire to collaborate and that CCWD wants to work closely with the reclamation districts throughout the project to receive their input and learn from their experience in the Delta.

Section H

Copies of Written Comments:

1. Graydon Nichols, Victoria Island Farms
2. B. Sachau
3. Jack Bragg, Intralox
4. John Herrick, South Delta Water Agency
5. Margit Aramburu, Delta Protection Commission
6. Debbie Pilas-Treadway, Native American Heritage Commission
7. Timothy C. Sable, California Department of Transportation
8. James A. Starr, California Department of Fish and Game
9. Katherine F. Kelly, California Department of Water Resources
10. Tom Dumas, California Department of Transportation
11. Terry L. Erlewine, State Water Contractors
12. Jon D. Rubin, Kronick, Moskowitz, Tiedmann & Girard, attorneys for San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
13. Dante John Nomellini, Central Delta Water Agency
14. Michael E. Aceituno, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service
15. Stephen L. Jenkins, State Lands Commission
16. Laura Fujii, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

VICTORIA ISLAND FARMS
 P. O. BOX 87
 HOLT, CALIFORNIA 95234

November 3, 2004



Greg Gartell
 Contra Costa Water District
 1331 Concord Avenue
 P. O. Box H20
 Concord, CA 94524

Re: Relocation of the Intake for Los Vaqueros

Dear Sir:

This letter is written in response to your request for access to our property on Victoria Island for investigations relating to the above. We are prepared to grant an appropriate temporary access permit to address your needs, however, we would like to reach some form of agreement with your District as to some guiding principles and provisions in the event our land is impacted by the proposed relocation. We are basically farmers and Victoria Island has been held by our family for over thirty-seven (37) years. Victoria Island is served by a common levee system, drainage canals and three (3) pumping plants operated by Reclamation District No. 2040. Although from time to time we lease portions of our land to other farmers, we basically farm the island as a unit. Our preference is that we not be impacted in any way by your plans and operations, but we recognize your District's desire to best serve your constituents.

Water diversion facilities and drainage

It is our concern that the proposed intake will adversely impact our ability to divert water from the surrounding channels, particularly at those locations southerly of the proposed intake. Our present diversions are by way of siphons and the water is used for agricultural purposes. Water levels in the channels affect the rate at which water will flow through our siphons and if the water level is allowed to drop too low the siphons will not function. Water quality is also a concern, particularly with regard to salinity. The farther south you locate your intake, the fewer of our diversions will be impacted. We understand that your District is willing to assure us that the intake location will be limited to the southerly one-third of Victoria Canal and that there will be no degradation of water quality or lowering of water levels at our diversion points resulting from the proposed project. This will likely require enlargement of some channels by dredging and or limiting operations to times when water levels will not be measurably impacted.

Additionally, in order not to interfere with the present and future drainage and irrigation

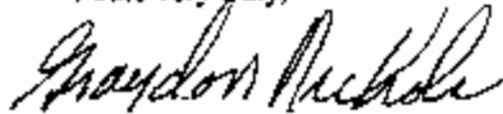
facilities, we would like assurance in advance that the pipeline will be sufficiently buried so as to provide at least ten (10) feet of cover below the ground surface and fifteen (15) feet below the invert of any canal or ditch.

Reduction of impact on lands within the Primary Zone of the Delta Protection Commission

Victoria Island is within the Primary Zone of the Delta Protection Commission and because development is restricted will likely have a lower value than lands outside the Primary Zone. This lower value unfairly encourages developing areas to use the lands within the Primary Zone for a variety of purposes including utility corridors and in this case water pipelines. The route of your pipeline could easily run to the south on the west side of Old River within your own county and if necessary could then cross Old River and connect to Victoria Canal at the southerly tip of Victoria Island. We would like to establish some agreed upon mechanism to assure that our lands are not being decimated to secure lower costs and therefore greater profits for development in other areas. We would like to secure an agreement with your District that would provide us with the option to require at any time after construction commences on Victoria Island that your District purchase the portion of our land lying south of any of your facilities constructed or to be constructed on Victoria Island. The price to be paid per acre would be equal to the average per acre fair market value of the land on Byron Tract lying south of Hwy. 4.

Your consideration of our concerns would be appreciated.

Yours very truly,



GRAYDON NICHOLS

-----Original Message -----

From: jean public (mailto:jeanpublic@yahoo.com)
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2005 10:16 AM
To: Alternative Intake Project
Cc: reckart@mp.usbr.gov
Subject: public comment on federal register of 1/25/05 vol 70 no 15 pg
3557

usdoj bureau reclamation - contra costa water district

i want the interests of wildlife and birds for access
to water permanently to receive full consideration
here. i see no reason why human profiteers should
restrict 100% of water to only themselves without
providing full access to water for birds/wildlife.
Provision for these species must be accomplished in
this plan.

b. sachau
15 elm ct
florham park nj 07932

Do you Yahoo!?
Meet the all-new My Yahoo! · Try it today!
<http://my.yahoo.com>

From: Jack.Bragg@Intralox.com
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2005 7:20 AM
To: Alternative Intake Project
Subject: Intralox Fish Screens

Ms. Salvia,

I'm contacting you regarding the **Alternative Intake Project** planned for the Contra Costa Water District. I am interested in having our product considered for the **Alternative Intake Project**. Our company, **Intralox**, offers the **Contra Costa Water District** a new innovative cost-effective solution for filtering water while screening out protected species of fish. **Intralox** is the inventor and world market leader for modular plastic belting. We have developed and patented the S 1800 Fish Screen belt that meets the optimum criteria of the **National Marine Fisheries Service**. The fish screen material is made of very strong, lightweight injection molded UV resistant plastic. It is impact and corrosion resistant, and requires less civil and structural work than older technologies. Installation and repairs are easy to make on-site due to the modular construction of the belt. The belt is self-cleaning thereby significantly reducing on going maintenance costs.

See link below for more information on our fish screens as well as U S Bureau of Reclamation test results for **Intralox** fish screens:

www.intralox.com/fishscreens.htm

I will follow up with a phone call to learn more about the planned project and to discuss the benefits of our technology over older existing technologies.

Best regards,

Jack Bragg
Team Leader, Water Screens
Intralox, LLC.
Office - 386-462-5852
Cell - 352-514-6904
Voice - 800-344-5106 x 7432
e-mail - jack.bragg@intralox.com

SOUTH DELTA WATER AGENCY

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Jack Alvarez

Engineer:

Alex Hildebrand
Counsel & Manager:
John Herrick

February 3, 2005

Ms. Samantha Salvia, Alternative Intake Project Manager
Contra Costa Water District
1331 Concord Avenue
P. O. Box H20
Concord, CA 94524



Dear Ms. Salvia:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the public scoping of your Alternative Intake Project.

Through the UOP discussions which followed the Napa Agreement, our agency (SDWA), Central Delta Water Agency (CDWA) and CCWD discussed the issue of relocating the Los Vaqueros intake to a place within the boundaries of the CDWA. At that time, SDWA and CDWA expressed their concerns regarding such a change in location and cautioned that it was premature to develop a project with that goal.

At this time SDWA is closely involved with DWR in finalizing a preferred alternative for the South Delta Improvement Program's DEIR/S. As you know, the SDIP is a high priority item for CALFED because it also includes increasing exports at the State Banks' Pumping Plant up to 8500 cfs. SDIP will hopefully mitigate for not only ongoing export and CVP operations, but also for the increase in adverse effects resulting from the increased export rate. Until such time as an agreeable preferred alternative is developed, we believe it would be premature to embark upon a project that changes how and where diversions in the South Delta operate. Until the preferred alternative is completed, the effects of the SDIP, and thus the resulting water quality needs of CCWD cannot be determined. Adding your proposed project at this time will only serve to delay finalization of the SDIP as the environmental document would thus be required to examine the effects of your proposed project in its treatment of cumulative effects.

Once the SDIP DEIR/S has been released, we can then determine if the project results in any significant adverse effects to CCWD and if mitigation is necessary. Any such mitigation

Ms. Samantha Salvia, Alternative Intake Project Manager
February 3, 2005
Page Two

may or may not include the proposed change in location of the Los Vaqueros intake. As you know, CALFED's proposed Frank's Tract project may significantly improve CCWD's water quality.

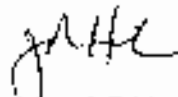
If you do proceed to scope the proposed project, you should eventually include an examination of the effects of a 250 cfs diversion from any proposed South or Central Delta channel, including the effects on the water quality, elevation and circulation. In addition, how and where the resulting pipeline is placed raises question about levee protection and interference with local farming operations. Our prior discussion made it clear that any new diversion on Middle River would not be acceptable. As stated above, until the final configuration and operation of the SDIP (including tidal barrier and Clifton Court Forebay operations) is determined, it is premature to begin an analysis of a change in diversion location.

It remains the SDWA's position that any actions in the South and Central Delta must be done in a way that meets the mutual needs of local diversions according to the priorities of California water law, including the Delta Protection Act and area of origin law. We hope the SDIP can first be resolved before further projects such as the one CCWD proposes are undertaken.

There is of course an interrelation between the effect of your intake on South Delta in-channel water supplies and the water management within the South Delta, the schedule on which water is taken into Clifton Court, and the flow and salt load at Vernalis. We would like you to be aware that at this time, DWR and USBR still have no plan that adequately addresses the water supply, water quality/circulation, and water depth needs throughout the South Delta. Those agencies have not accepted SDWA's proposal for resolving these issues. We attach a copy of our January 31 letter to Mr. Gerald Johns of DWR. Until this is resolved, your analyses should be deferred.

Please call me if you have any questions or comments.

Very truly yours,



JOHN HERRICK

JH/dd

Enclosure

cc: Dante J. Nomellini, Esq.
Mr. Alex Hildebrand
Mr. Paul Marshall

SOUTH DELTA WATER AGENCY

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Engineer:

Alex Hildebrand
Counsel & Manager:
John Herrick

January 31, 2005

Mr. Gerald E. Johns
Deputy Director
Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1115-9
Sacramento, CA 95814 Mr. Gerald Johns

Re: SDIP

Dear Jerry:

We are pleased with the cordial relations and the earnest good faith effort with which we are working together to develop a water management plan that will protect the in-channel water supply throughout the South Delta from impacts of CVP and SWP operations. We think it may be helpful at this time to recapitulate our technical understanding of the nature of the impacts involved, the fundamental technical requirements for correcting them, the technical proposals for addressing some impacts, and the issues which do not yet have defined solutions.

The impacts to be addressed include the following:

- 1) Operation of CVP export pumps draws down water levels and depths throughout South Delta channels and throughout the tidal cycle and in proportion to the export rate.
- 2) Operation of SWP pumps also draws down these water levels, but the magnitude and duration of the drawdown during the tidal cycle depends on the schedule with which water is taken into Clifton Court.
- 3) CVP's upstream diversions are a substantial cause of reduced flow at Vernalis in most years.
- 4) The CVP has greatly increased the salt load at Vernalis by importing salt via the DMC to the westside service area which then drains into the San Joaquin River.
- 5) The water yield of the San Joaquin watershed, and of the Stanislaus tributary watershed in particular, is seriously over committed in large part because of CVP and CVP-IA operations.

6) Pre-CVP water salinity in South Delta channels was much lower than is now required by the Vernalis salinity standard. That standard was set to only marginally protect crop yields in the South Delta. That same marginal level of protection is needed throughout South Delta channels.

Basic technical requirements for protecting the South Delta's water supply include the following in addition to the installation of four permanent operable barriers:

a) The salt load entering at Vernalis must be flushed through the South Delta without exceeding the Vernalis salinity standard. In order that no portion of these channels is allowed to become a salt sump this means that there must be an adequate net daily unidirectional flow (i.e., no stagnant zone) in each major channel and an adequate net downstream flow through South Delta channels as a group.

b) Operation of the barriers and adjustment of the intake schedule to Clifton Court must combine with other measures to assure that the barriers can capture enough water to meet local diversions upstream of the barriers at all times and also provide adequate net daily unidirectional flow at all locations. To the extent that this also requires inflow at the head of Old River from the San Joaquin channel, there must be assurance that that inflow will always be available during low Vernalis flows. The Vernalis flow was only about 1000 cfs all last summer, and it may drop to about 500 cfs in future years unless a minimum Vernalis flow is provided.

c) To a limited degree the capture of water by the barriers can be enhanced by dredging South Delta channels and altering some local diversion facilities so that channel operating levels can be low. However, this requires that there also be a provision for an on going depth maintenance program such as exists in the ship channels.

d) When Vernalis flows drop toward 1000 cfs the water depth in the tidal channel downstream of Vernalis becomes inadequate for local diversions. This problem is exacerbated if water capture by the barriers is enhanced by dredging to permit low operating levels west of the head of Old River, and if the water level at the head of Old River is lowered in order to induce flow into Old River.

e) The salinity of the flow at Vernalis rises as the flow goes downstream due to crop use of water and to urban and other waste discharges. This salinity rise is substantial during low flows. In order to maintain salinity downstream of Vernalis toward Stockton there must either be a source of downstream dilution water or the salinity at Vernalis must be lower than the standard.

The DWR has proposed that the above described protections be provided in Old River, Middle River, and Grant Line by

1) Dredging and local diversion facility alterations to permit operating at a level of 0.0 datum upstream of the barriers and west of the head of Old River. However, the dredging is not yet designed to allow a margin of error and does not include a future depth maintenance program.

Mr. Gerald E. Johns
January 31, 2005
Page Three

2) Operating the intake to Clifton court on a "priority three" schedule. That schedule takes water into Clifton Court, with consequent level drawdown, during the low-high tide but allows the high-high tide to reach full height (exclusive of CVP drawdown) for a brief period. DWR modeling indicates that this will permit capture of sufficient water upstream of the tidal barriers and west of the head of Old River, providing an adequate inflow is available into the had of Old River and except for about four days during neap tides in each lunar month. We assume that on those days the intake will be per "priority 2" as needed.

It appears that under this operation the salinity need will also be met in Old River, Grant Line, and Middle River. At any channel location it appears that the daily source of local diversion will blend enough export quality water from downstream of the barriers with degraded water entering the head of Old River to maintain salinity. This is not yet verified.

3) DWR has not yet proposed a credible method of meeting salinity needs from Vernalis to Stockton, or of assuring that enough water is available to flow into Old River per DWR's proposal, or providing enough depth for local diversions from Vernalis to Mossdale.

We hope you will either propose dependable solutions to these three problems or reconsider the use of low head pumps to solve them as we have proposed.

Sincerely,

Alex Hildebrand

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

14215 RIVER ROAD

P.O. BOX 530

WALNUT GROVE, CA 95690

Phone (916) 778-2290

FAX (916) 778-2293

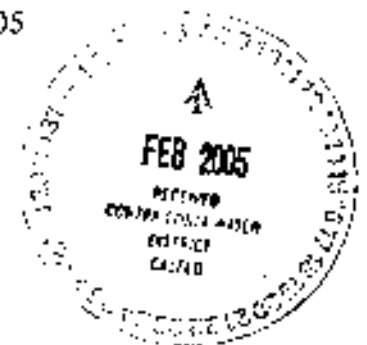
E-Mail: dpc@clink.net Home Page: www.delta.ca.gov

February 3, 2005

Contra Costa Water District
1331 Concord Avenue
P.O. Box H20
Concord, CA 94524

Attention: Samantha Salvia, Project Manager

Subject: Contra Costa County Alternative Intake Project; Notice of Public Scoping Meetings



Dear Ms Salvia:

Thank you very much for the fact sheet and information about public scoping meetings for the Alternative Intake Project dated January 27, 2005. The information states that the proposed project is evaluation of an added new drinking water intake in the Central Delta. The purpose of the new intake is to access better quality water with no change in the amount of water diverted from the Delta. The project location is described as the lower third portion of Victoria Canal with a two to four mile long pipeline across agricultural lands on Victoria Island from the new intake to the existing Old River conveyance system to the west. The proposed location for the new intake and the pipeline are located in the Primary Zone of the Delta.

As you are aware, the Delta Protection Commission has been charged with development of a regional land use plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta and the Commission has a limited appeal authority over certain local government actions regarding land uses in the Primary Zone.

However, the Delta Protection Act (Public Resources Code Section 29723(b)) exempts certain activities from the appeal authority of the Commission including "planning, approval, construction, operation, maintenance, reconstruction, alteration, or removal by a state agency or local agency of any water supply facilities or mitigation or enhancement activities undertaken in connection therewith."

Of course the Commission would urge the District to ensure that its proposed intake and fish screen not interfere with recreation activities in the area, that this project is coordinated with other proposed projects in the area including the South Delta Improvements Project, and that impacts to agriculture from a new pipeline would be minimized and mitigated.

The proposed project will be added to the Commission's informational Pending Projects Memo, which is updated regularly and distributed monthly. Please keep the Delta Protection Commission on the interested party mailing list for your planning process, and mail or email any staff reports and meeting agendas. Additional information about the Commission, its Land Use Plan and the Delta Protection Act are available on the Commission's web site: www.delta.ca.gov.

Please feel free to call if you have any questions regarding the Commission and its interests in the Delta Primary Zone

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margit Aramburu", written over a horizontal line.

Margit Aramburu
Executive Director

Cc Chairman Mike McGowan
Supervisor Mary Piepho
Supervisor Letny Ornellas

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

315 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 344
 SACRAMENTO, CA 95834
 (916) 653-4038
 FAX (916) 657-4299



February 17, 2005

Samantha Selvia
 Contra Costa Water District
 PO Box 1120
 2411 Bisco Lane
 Concord, CA 94524-2099

RE: SCH# 2005012101 - Alternative Intake Project, Contra Costa County

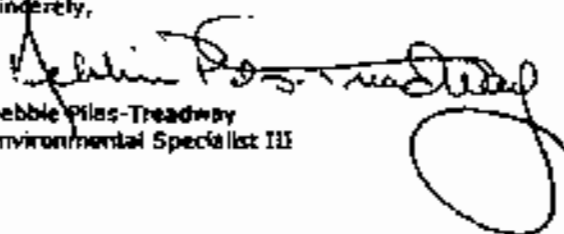
Dear Ms. Selvia:

The Native American Heritage Commission has reviewed the above mentioned NOP. To adequately assess and mitigate project-related impacts on archaeological resources, the Commission recommends the following actions be required:

1. Contact the appropriate Information Center for a record search. The record search will determine:
 - if a part or all of the area of project effect (APE) has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
 - if any known cultural resources have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE.
 - if the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
 - if a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.
2. If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.
 - The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measures should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure.
 - The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional archaeological Information Center.
3. Contact the Native American Heritage Commission for:
 - A Sacred Lands File Check. Requests must be made in writing with the County, Quad map name, township, range and section.
 - A list of appropriate Native American Contacts for consultation concerning the project site and to assist in the mitigation measures.
4. Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude their subsurface existence.
 - Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archeological resources, per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15064.5 (f). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American, with knowledge in cultural resources, should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
 - Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the disposition of recovered artifacts, in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.
 - Lead agencies should include provisions for discovery of Native American human remains in their mitigation plan. Health and Safety Code §7050.5, CEQA §15064.5 (e), and Public Resources Code §5097.98 mandates the process to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 653-4038.

Sincerely,


 Debbie Piles-Treadway
 Environmental Specialist III

CC: State Clearinghouse

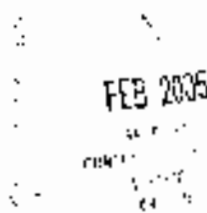
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

111 GRAND AVENUE
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OAKLAND, CA 94623-0660
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FAX (510) 286-5559
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February 10, 2005



CC004815
CC-4-R44.37
SCH2005012101

Ms. Samantha Salvia
Contra Costa Water District
P.O. Box H20
2411 Bisso Lane
Concord, CA 94524-2099

Dear Ms. Salvia:

Alternative Intake Project – Notice of Preparation

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation in the early stages of the environmental review process for the proposed project. We have reviewed the Notice of Preparation for the Alternative Intake Project Draft Environmental Impact Report and offer the following comment:

The California Department of Transportation is primarily concerned with impacts to the State Highway system. Please ensure that the environmental analysis evaluates the proposed project's impacts on State transportation facilities, specifically to State Route 4.

Should you require further information or have any questions regarding this letter, please call Lisa Carboni of my staff at (510) 622-5491.

Sincerely,

TIMOTHY C. SABLE
District Branch Chief
IGR/CEQA

c: Scott Morgan (State Clearinghouse)



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

Central Valley Bay-Delta Branch
4001 N. Wilson Way
Stockton, California 95205-2486
(209) 948-7800



March 3, 2005

Ms. Samantha Salvia, Project Manager
Contra Costa Water District, Alternative Intake Project
1331 Concord Avenue
P.O. Box H20
Concord, CA 94524



Dear Ms. Salvia,

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) appreciates the opportunity to comment on your proposed Alternative Intake Project (Project) currently in the public scoping phase. We understand that your purpose for the project is to "...continue to provide high quality water for your customers despite continued deterioration of Delta water quality and to meet increasingly stringent drinking water quality standards." Based on your purpose and the proposed Project, the Department has the following comments.

Comments:

Project Purpose

This project may be premature, since the Contra Costa Water District is currently working on the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion (LVR) which will meet the same purposes that are outlined in the public scoping sessions. Implementation of this Project, under the current schedule, will have a completion date that is within one quarter of a year of the LVR project timeline. In addition, the relocation of the proposed Los Vaqueros expansion describes that it will accommodate the capacity of the existing Old River intake in its design. Finally, LVR is evaluating placement of the new intake along Victoria Canal, as well as other locations in the Delta.

The Delta Improvements Package (DIP), dated August 12, 2004, describes a series of measures that the State and federal agencies will undertake to advance the CALFED Bay-Delta Program goals in the areas of water supply reliability, water quality, ecosystem restoration, Delta levee integrity, and science. Specifically Measures H, on page 5 of the DIP, states that "if water quality improvements from the above measures do not provide acceptable continuous improvements in Delta water quality, the State and federal agencies will evaluate, and if appropriate, work with Contra Costa Water District to relocate their intake to the lower part of Victoria Canal." Many of the actions described in the DIP to improve the water quality in the Delta have not been implemented and as such, it is our opinion that sufficient time has not passed, as of the date of this letter, to warrant the pursuit of a new intake location to meet your project purpose.

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

Ms. Samantha Salvia
March 3, 2005
Page Two

Project Timeline

The proposed timeline for completing the environmental compliance portion of this project is ambitious. It appears that several outstanding issues need to be resolved to accommodate this timeline. The first is that landowner permission to survey the property has yet to be obtained (as of the February 16, 2005 meeting) and second the survey for plant species will need to be conducted in the spring and early summer to identify the species that may be present.

During the public scoping meeting on February 16, 2005, the presentation stated that CALFED funding will be pursued to help finance the cost of the Alternative Intake Project. If CALFED funding is granted, an Action Specific Implementation Plan (ASIP) will have to be completed concurrently with the EIR/EIS. The ASIP process involves early coordination with the resource agencies (CDFG, NOAA Fisheries, and USEWS) to establish a project description that incorporates the preferred alternative, avoidance measures, mitigation, and environmental enhancements.

This concludes the DFG's comments. We recommend that your agency should consider delaying implementation this project to allow the measures outlined in the August 12, 2004 Delta Improvements Package an opportunity to be implemented and their benefits realized. If the Contra Costa Water District board decides to proceed with this project I would encourage you to consider contacting both the State and federal regulatory agencies to begin early consultation to initiate the ASIP process.

If you have any questions about these comments contained in this letter, or would like to begin early consultation on this process, please feel free to contact Ms. Anna Holmes of my staff at (209) 948-7800 or email her at aholmes@delta.dfg.ca.gov.

Sincerely



James A. Starr
Senior Biologist

Department of Fish and Game
Sacramento, California
Dr. Diana Jacobs
Mr. Jim White

Stockton, California
Dr. Perry Herrgesell, Chief
Mr. Frank Wernette
Ms. Anna Holmes

Ms. Samantha Salvia
March 3, 2005
Page Three

Mr. Jeff Stuart
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Sacramento, California

Mr. Ryan Olab
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sacramento, California

1836002.wpd.ec

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791



March 4, 2005

Ms. Samantha Salvia
Alternative Intake Project Manager
Contra Costa Water District
1331 Concord Avenue
Post Office Box H20
Concord, California 94524



Dear Ms. Salvia:

Thank you for your January 24, 2005 letter providing a fact sheet on Contra Costa Water District's (CCWD) proposed Alternative Intake Project and information on the public scoping meetings and the process for preparing a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Report (EIS/R) for the project.

As you know, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) fully supports the joint State/Federal program (CALFED) to develop and implement projects to improve water supply reliability, water quality, levee integrity, and fish and wildlife diversification and abundance in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. We fully appreciate CCWD's participation and interest in this same process.

The implementation plan of the Delta Improvements Package, adopted by California Bay-Delta Authority in August 2004, indicates that the Alternative Intake Project will be evaluated after other actions related to Delta water quality are taken. Specifically, the implementation of the Veale/Byron Tract projects and the evaluation of the Franks Tract project (see Section H, page 5 of the Plan). The Alternative Intake Project now appears to be under a faster schedule and not contingent upon implementation of these other projects. It would be worthwhile for us to discuss the implementation plan for the alternative intake and the program plan for the Franks Tract project to make sure they are consistent. My office will call to schedule a time for us to meet.

Regarding the scope of the analyses for the Alternative Intake Project, DWR is concerned about any adverse effects (degradation) of water quality at the State Water Project's Clifton Court Forebay, the Central Valley Project's Tracy Pumping Plant, and local diversions for Delta agriculture that could occur as a result of the proposed project. We request that the EIR/S prepared for the project provide a thorough explanation of how such potential effects have been evaluated and the basis for any determination of the significance of the effects be clearly explained.

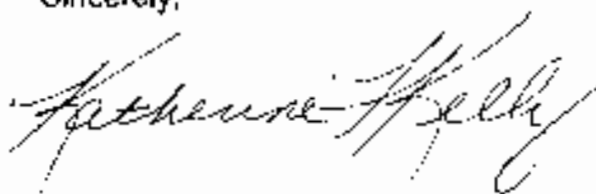


Ms. Samantha Salvia
March 4, 2005
Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. I look forward to continuing the collaboration between our agencies on this project, and others, in which we have shared interests and concerns.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 653-1099.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Katherine F. Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "F".

Katherine F. Kelly, Chief
Bay-Delta Office

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

P.O. BOX 2048 STOCKTON, CA 95201
 (1976 E. CHARTER WAY/1976 E. DR. MARTIN
 LUTHER KING JR. BLVD. 95203)
 TTY: California Relay Service (609) 733-2979
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March 4, 2005

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 SCH 2005012103
 CCWD Alt Intake Proj

Samantha Salvia
 Contra Costa County Water District
 P.O. Box 1120
 2411 Bisso Lane
 Concord, CA 94524 2099

Dear Ms. Salvia:

The California Department of Transportation (Department) appreciates the opportunity to have reviewed the Notice of Preparation for the proposed new water intake, pumping plant and pipeline near State Route 4 (SR 4) and Middle River. The Department has the following comments:

- Any work performed within the Department's right of way will require an encroachment permit. For those portions of the project within the Department's right of way, the permit application must be stated in both English and Metric units (Metric first, with English in parentheses). Additional information regarding encroachment permits may be obtained by contacting our Permits Office at (209) 948 7891. Early coordination with our agency is strongly advised for all encroachment permits.
- Furthermore, if a developer proposes any work or improvements within the Department's right of way, the projects environmental studies must include such work. The developer is responsible for quantifying the environmental impacts of the improvements (project level analysis) and completing all appropriate mitigation measures for the impacts. The indirect effects of any mitigation within Department right of way must also be addressed. The developer will also be responsible for procuring any necessary permits or approvals from the regulatory and resource agencies for the improvements.

Ms. Salvia
March 4, 2006
Page 2

- All roadway features (signs, pavement delineation, roadway surface et cetera) within Department right of way must be protected or maintained in a temporary condition and restored.
- We suggest that the Water Division continue to coordinate and consult with the Department to identify and address potential transportation impacts that may occur from this project. This will assist us in ensuring that traffic safety and quality standards are maintained for the traveling public on existing and future state transportation facilities.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss our comments in more detail, please contact Don Brewer at (209) 940-7142 (e-mail: DonBrewer@dot.ca.gov) or me at (209) 941-1921.

Sincerely,



TOM WILLIAMS, Chief
Office of Information Planning

cc: [redacted]

State Water Contractors

455 Capitol Mall, Suite 220 • Sacramento, CA 95814-4409
 Terry L. Erlewine • General Manager (916) 447-7357 • FAX 447-2734

Directors

Russell H. Fuller, President
 Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency
 Bruce Wang, Vice President
 Alameda County Flood Control Zone 7
 Ray Stahel, Secretary-Treasurer
 Central Coast Water Authority
 Stephen N. Anselme
 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
 Thomas N. Clark
 Kern County Water Agency
 Thomas R. Hursthat
 Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District
 Thomas E. Leary
 Coachella Valley Water District
 Dan Mazzoni
 Castaic Lake Water Agency
 David A. Oltze
 Solano County Water Agency

March 4, 2005

Ms. Samantha Salvia
 Contra Costa Water District
 P.O. Box H20
 Concord, CA 94524-2099



Re: CCWD's Alternative Intake Project Proposal

Dear Ms. Salvia:

I am writing on behalf of the State Water Contractors (SWC) regarding the Contra Costa Water District's (CCWD) proposed Alternative Intake Project. As you know, the SWC represents 27 of the 29 public agencies¹ that have water supply contracts with the State of California for the delivery of water from the State Water Project (SWP). These public agencies provide drinking water from the State Water Project to more than 20 million Californians throughout the state.

We are concerned that the proposed new intake, which would be intended to produce an improvement in CCWD's water quality, could do so at the expense of the SWP's water quality by diverting fresh water supplies that would otherwise have reached the SWP pumps. To the extent the new intake could have water quality impacts on the SWP, those impacts must be evaluated in the EIS/EIR. We also believe that CCWD's water quality could be improved with a variety of other projects and actions that will be undertaken as part of the CalFed Delta Improvements Program, without imposing any degradation of water quality on the SWP. The EIR/EIS must fully consider these alternatives to a new intake project as a means of meeting CCWD's water quality goals. Please keep us on the list of interested parties as you move forward on this project.

Sincerely yours,

Terry L. Erlewine
 General Manager

¹ Alameda County Zone 7 Water Agency, Alameda County Water District, Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency, Casitas MWD on behalf of the Ventura County Flood Control District, Castaic Lake Water Agency, Central Coast Water Authority on behalf of the Santa Barbara FC&WCD, City of Yuba City, Coachella Valley Water District, County of Kings, Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency, Desert Water Agency, Dudley Ridge Water District, Empire West-Side Irrigation District, Kern County Water Agency, Littlecock Creek Irrigation District, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Mirave Water Agency, Napa County FC&WCD, Oak Flat Water District, PalmJale Water District, San Bernardino Valley MWD, San Gabriel Valley MWD, San Geronimo Pass Water Agency, San Luis Obispo County FC&WCD, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Solano County Water Agency, and Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District.

**KRONICK
MOSKOVITZ
STIEDEMANN
& GIRARD**
A FORTUNE 500 CORPORATION

JON D. RUBIN

March 4, 2005



Ms. Samantha Salvia
Project Manager
Contra Costa Water District
2411 Bisso Lane
P.O. Box H20
Concord, CA 94524-2099

Mr. Robert Eckart
Supervisory Environmental Specialist
United States Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region
2800 Cottage Way, MP-152
Sacramento, CA, 95825-1898

Re: Contra Costa Water District's Alternative Intake Project

Dear Ms. Salvia and Mr. Eckart:

I am writing on behalf of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Authority). The Authority provides the following comments on the Alternative Intake Project, pursuant to the January 25, 2005, notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS), and notice of preparation of an environmental impact report (EIR).

The Authority is a joint powers authority comprised of 32 water agencies representing approximately 2,100,000 acres of federal and exchange water service contractors within the western San Joaquin Valley, San Benito and Santa Clara counties. The Authority's member agencies maintain contracts with the United States for Central Valley Project (CVP) water. The rights held by the member agencies entitle them to up to approximately 3,000,000-acre feet of water. Of this amount, 2,500,000 acre-feet are delivered to highly productive agricultural lands, 150,000 to 200,000-acre feet for municipal and industrial uses, and between 250,000 to 300,000 acre-feet are delivered to wildlife refuges for habitat enhancement and restoration. The Authority maintains an interest in Contra Costa Water District's Alternative Intake Project because of the potential for that project to affect operation of the CVP and thus the water supply of the Authority's member agencies.

As described in the notice of intent and notice of preparation, the purposes of the Alternative Intake Project is to protect and improve water quality for the customers of Contra Costa Water District (CCWD). The Authority supports that purpose and the efforts by United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), CCWD and others to improve the quality of drinking water throughout California. That purpose and those efforts, however, must be pursued in a manner that will not have significant, adverse impacts on the use of water by others.

The Authority presents the following two comments (1) to ensure that the Alternative Intake Project is developed consistent with the larger, statewide effort to develop and implement a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta System, and (2) to ensure Reclamation and CCWD perform analyses that identify potential impacts to other water users and that, if there are any such impacts and the impacts are significant and adverse, they are fully mitigated.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

400 CAPITOL MALL, 27TH FLOOR SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814-4410 TELEPHONE (916) 321-4500 FAX (916) 321-4555

I. Alternative Intake Project as an Element of the CalFED program

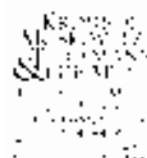
It is beyond reasonable dispute that the Alternative Intake Project is part of the CalFED program. The CalFED record of decision establishes “[r]elocation of] diversion intakes to locations with better source water quality”, as a means “[t]o mitigate for potential effects of implementation of the Preferred Program Alternative on water quality”. ROD at A-1 to A-2. CCWD recently recognized this point in a letter it sent to the California State Water Resources Control Board, which provides:

The project will both offset water quality degradation caused by increased Delta pumping and help meet CALFED drinking water quality improvement goals. The Alternative Intake Project is a key water quality element of the CALFED Delta Improvement Package. The Alternative Intake Project was authorized for design and construction in the recent federal CALFED legislation (Public Law 108-361 §103 (f)(1)(E)).

Letter from Richard A. Denton, Water Resources Manager for CCWD to Ms. Debbie Irvin, Clerk to the State Water Resources Control Board, dated February 14, 2005, a copy of which is attached hereto.

As a result of the Alternative Intake Project being part of the CalFED program, it must comport with the CalFED solution principles. Those are:

- *Reduce Conflicts in the System* Solutions will reduce major conflicts among beneficial uses of water.
- *Be Equitable* Solutions will focus on solving problems in all problem areas. Improvements for some problems will not be made without corresponding improvements for other problems.
- *Be Affordable* Solutions will be implementable and maintainable within the foreseeable resources of the Program and stakeholders.
- *Be Durable* Solutions will have political and economic staying power and will sustain the resources they were designed to protect and enhance.
- *Be Implementable* Solutions will have broad public acceptance and legal feasibility, and will be timely and relatively simple to implement compared with other alternatives.



- *Have No Significant Redirected Impacts* Solutions will not solve problems in the Bay-Delta system by redirecting significant negative impacts, when viewed in their entirety, within the Bay-Delta or to other regions of California.

ROD at 9. The EIS/EIR should state explicitly that the Alternative Intake Project will adhere to and the alternative screening process will be guided by those principles.

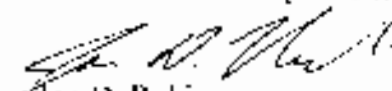
II. Need to Consider Impacts of the Alternative Intake Project on Water Supply for all Water Users

The notice of intent and the notice of preparation indicate that the EIS/EIR for the Alternative Intake Project will consider the potential impacts on hydrology and water quality. In particular, the notice of preparation explains that the EIR will evaluate: "[m]odification of local drainage, hydraulic effects in Delta channels, effects on Delta water quality, and effects on CCWD operations." The hydrologic and water quality analyses, however, must be broader than that. They must consider the potential hydrologic and water quality impacts of the Alternative Intake Project beyond impacts in the Delta or to CCWD. The impact analyses must consider the potential impact south of the Delta, including the potential water supply impacts to the Authority's member agencies.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

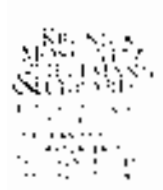
KRONICK, MOSKOVITZ, TIEDERMANN &
GRARD
A Professional Corporation



Jon D. Rubin

Attorneys for the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water
Authority

cc: Daniel Nelson
Thomas Birmingham
jmg/soj





CENTRAL DELTA WATER AGENCY

235 East Weber Avenue • P.O. Box 1461 • Stockton, CA 95201
Phone 209/465-5883 • Fax 209/465-3866

DIRECTORS
George Bogi, Jr.
Rudy Masep
Edward Tuckerman

COUNSEL
Candace John Nemeary
Dante John Nemeary, Jr.
Thomas M. Zupleman

13

February 25, 2005

Samantha Salvia
Alternative Intake Manager
Contra Costa Water District
P. O. Box H20
Concord, CA 94524

Re: Public Scoping for Contra Costa Water District's Alternative Intake Project

Dear Samantha:

The Central Delta Water Agency has the following concerns regarding the above.

We view moving away from the Old River intake location towards the central Delta as just another step towards abandoning protection of water quality in the Old River portion of the Delta pool. Both physical and regulatory degradation are likely to result. While we recognize that water quality at the Contra Costa Water District intake at Mallard Slough and in more recent years at Rock Slough is degraded as a result of the export operations of the CVP and SWP, representations have been made by the SWP and CVP export contractors that their intent is to secure improved water quality in Old River including the area of the present intake to Los Vaqueros. Until such time that it is clear that Old River water quality will not be improved, we oppose the alternative intake. If the proposed measures to improve San Joaquin River quality and to reduce salinity intrusion including possible physical improvements of Frank's Tract and other locations will not improve water quality to a reasonable degree, we would not oppose an alternate intake for the existing Los Vaqueros operation in the southerly one-third of Victoria Canal or southerly therefrom provided that such will not result in degradation of water levels or water quality.

Our agency has always been opposed to any proposals similar to the southern one-third of the Peripheral Canal or the proposed pipeline connection from Clifton Court Forebay to the proposed Delta Wetlands Reservoir on Bacon Island. Although not perfect, preservation of the Delta as a common pool serving both export and local water needs helps maintain a common interest with exporters in protection of water quality in most of the Delta. We recognize that the common pool has not resulted in satisfactory protection of water quality in the western Delta including the water quality at Mallard Slough since the exporters' interest is focused on the quality of water at the export pumps.

The environmental review should consider the impacts associated with an enlarged Los Vaqueros alternative and should examine other reasonable alternatives to improve water quality in Old River at the existing CCWD intake including improvement of the flow and water quality in the San Joaquin River, physical modifications in the Delta such as those proposed for Frank's Tract, changes in SWP and CVP operations and alternative intake locations farther south along the west side of Old River including connections to Clifton Court Forebay.

Yours very truly,



DANTE JOHN NOMELELLINI
Manager and Co-Counsel

DJN:ju



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**

Sacramento Area Office
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 8-300
Sacramento, California 95814-4706

March 15, 2005

In response reply to:
151422 SWR2005SA20268-B1-D

Mrs. Samantha Salvia, Project Manager
Contra Costa Water District
241 Bisso Lane
P.O. Box H20
Concord, California 94524-2099

Dear Ms. Salvia:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the "Notice of Preparation" (NOP) of a joint environmental impact report/environmental impact statement (EIS/EIR) between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) and Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) on the proposed Alternative Intake project.

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for the management, conservation, and restoration of anadromous fish species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended. In addition, the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation Act require Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS regarding any action or proposed action that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for Federally managed marine fish.

Available information indicates that the following federally listed fish species may occur in the proposed project area:

- Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) - endangered
- Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*) - threatened
- Central Valley steelhead (*O. mykiss*) - threatened
- Central Valley fall/late fall-run Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*) - candidate

In addition, designated critical habitat occurs within the proposed project area for winter-run Chinook salmon and has been proposed for Central Valley steelhead. Proposed spring-run Chinook critical habitat does not include the proposed project area.

Regarding EFH, the proposed action is located in areas of the Delta occupied by various life stages of fish species Federally managed under the Pacific Salmon, Pacific Groundfish, and Coastal Pelagic Fisheries Management Plans. For more information on EFH and species distribution, please see our website at <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/sac/index.htm>.



For the above proposed action, NMFS recommends that the Bureau and CCWD utilize the informal consultation process (50 CFR § 402.13) prior to submitting a written request to NMFS for formal consultation. Through informal consultation, NMFS and the Bureau may exchange information, analyze effects of the proposed action, and develop plans to avoid and minimize any potential impacts. If the impacts of the project can be avoided or minimized such that salmon and steelhead will not be adversely affected, it would not be necessary to initiate formal consultation.

In addition to the information provided in the EIS/EIR, the following information would assist NMFS during the informal consultation:

- a detailed design of the fish screens be provided as early as possible
- a description of the specific area that may be affected by the action
- CALSIM modeling on the effect of the action on State and Federal pumping plant operations in the South Delta
- a plan that integrates the operation of the proposed alternative intake with existing CCWD intakes, reducing the need for pumping during critical fish periods at the unscreened Rock Slough Intake
- a detailed analysis of effects on South Delta water level elevations, especially in the fall, and if the action will require a change in the Water Level Response Plan recently completed by the Bureau for the State Water Resource Control Board
- consistency with the Bureau's operation, plan, and criteria (OCAP) for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project
- consistency with the South Delta Improvement Program (SDIP) and barrier operations

If the Bureau makes a finding prior to or during informal consultation that the proposed action "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" listed species or critical habitat, the Bureau may request written concurrence from NMFS for this finding. NMFS will usually respond within 30 calendar days when possible. If a finding of "not likely to adversely affect" cannot be made by the Bureau, or NMFS is unable to concur with the Bureau's finding, formal consultation is required.

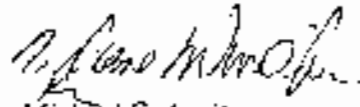
Informal consultation can be initiated by written request to:

Rodney R. Melanis
Regional Administrator, Southwest Region
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

Please provide a copy of your letter requesting consultation and all supporting documents to the NMFS Sacramento Office at 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 8-300, Sacramento, California 95814. The

contact person in the Sacramento Area Office for this project is Mr. Bruce Oppenheim. Mr Oppenheim may be reached by telephone at (916) 930-3603, or by fax at (916) 930-3629.

Sincerely,



Michael E. Accituro
Supervisor, Sacramento Area Office

cc. NMFS-PRD, Long Beach, CA
Steve Thomas, NMFS, Santa Rosa
Chet Bowling and Carl Torgersen, USBR, 3310 El Camino Ave, Suite 300, Sacramento,
CA 95821
Carl Dealy, USBR, Tracy Office, 16650 Kelsey Road, Byron CA 94514-1909
Mark Holderman, DWR, Bay-Delta Office, PO Box 942636, Sacramento CA 94236

CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
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from Voice Phone 1-800-735-2929

Contact Phone: (916) 574-1862
Contact FAX: (916) 574-1865



April 4, 2005

File Ref: SCH 2005012101

Ms. Samantha Salvia
Contra Costa Water District
P.O. Box H20
2411 Bisso Lane
Concord, CA 94524-2099

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft **Environmental Impact Report for the Alternative Intake Project, Contra Costa and San Joaquin Counties**

Dear Ms. Salvia:

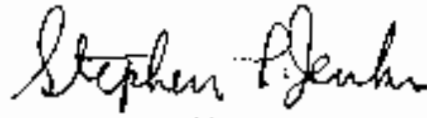
Staff of the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) has reviewed the subject document. The CSLC is a Responsible under the California Environmental Quality Act.

To the extent the proposed project involving the proposed Contra Costa Water District's Alternative Intake Project is located on State-owned sovereign lands, it appears that is subject to Section 6327 of the Public Resources Code.

Section 6327 of the Public Resources Code provides that if a facility is of the "procurement of fresh-water from and construction of drainage facilities into navigable rivers, streams, lakes, and bays," and if the applicant obtains a permit from the local reclamation district, State Reclamation Board, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or the Department of Water Resources, then an application shall not be required by the Commission. Since the proposed project appears to fall within this section, you will not need to obtain a lease from the Commission, provided you obtain one of the above-listed permits. Please forward a copy of that permit to Ms. Diane Jones, Public Land Manager, once it has been obtained. If you have any questions, she can be reached at (916) 574-1843.

This action does not constitute, nor shall it be construed as, a waiver of any right, title or interest by the State of California in any lands under its jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen L. Jenkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "S" and "J".

Stephen L. Jenkins, Asst. Chief
Division of Environmental Planning
and Management

cc: Diane Jones

