

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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November 16, 2022

Subject: Update on the California Department of Water Resources California Aqueduct Subsidence San Luis Canal Embankment and Liner Raise Project

Dear [Tribal Leader],

In December 2021, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) provided [Tribe] (Tribe) with an update on the ongoing State Water Project's California Aqueduct-San Luis Canal Embankment and Liner Raise Project (Project). DWR originally reached out to the Tribe by letter on December 21, 2020 to notify the Tribe of the Project and to invite the Tribe to consult on the Project pursuant to DWR's Tribal Engagement Policy. DWR then held an informational meeting on July 15, 2021. In December 2021, DWR apprised the Tribe via letter that we would have an update on the Project details and schedule in 2022. The purpose of the current letter is to provide a Project update and keep you engaged throughout the Project. Past and present outreach is being conducted early in the Project process as part of DWR's meaningful consultation efforts pursuant to DWR's Tribal Engagement Policy.

As a reminder, the Project is located in Fresno and Kings counties and will raise the earthen embankment and liner on both sides of the California Aqueduct/San Luis Canal in Pools 17/18 and 20/21. Ancillary actions will include raising bridges, inspecting and addressing irrigation pipelines, and determining long-term modifications to Check 17, located between Cerini Avenue and Harlan Avenue. Work will also include detour routes, borrow pits, and large construction equipment. The Project is on the State/Federal joint-use facilities, with ownership shared between the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and DWR operating and maintaining the facilities.

Since we last corresponded, Reclamation has determined that they will need to prepare an extraordinary maintenance report, which once begun, is anticipated to take 2 years. DWR is currently in the process of preparing supporting technical studies in compliance with both State and Federal laws, regulations, and policies. DWR anticipates initiating the NEPA/CEQA process in the next year.

The DWR Project team would like to extend an invitation to meet with your Tribe to present an update on the Project and technical studies. We value your input and our goal is to provide you with information in order to solicit your concerns and comments. Please respond with your interest and we will schedule a virtual meeting at your convenience.

If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact me at (916) 216-8637, or by email at Anecita.Agustinez@water.ca.gov. Please send confirmation of your request for a meeting to Candace Ehringer by email at cehringer@esassoc.com or by mail at ESA, 626 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

Sincerely,

Anecita Agustinez
Tribal Policy Advisor
Department of Water Resources
Executive Division

cc: Tribal Administration Staff
Jacqueline Wait, DWR Cultural Resources Section Lead
Marea McCann, DWR Environmental Scientist
Angela Calderaro, DWR Environmental Coordination Section Chief
Kristina Lecina, Black & Veatch Project Manager