



Friends of the River  
 1418 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100  
 Sacramento, CA 95811

June 27, 2019

via email and regular mail

The Honorable Wade Crowfoot, Secretary  
 California Natural Resources Agency  
 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jared Blumenfeld  
 Secretary, Cal EPA  
 1001 I Street  
 Sacramento, CA 95812

**Re: Request Posting of Single Tunnel, & Water Resilience Portfolio, Comments & Correspondence on Agency Web Sites**

Dear Secretary Crowfoot and Secretary Blumenfeld:

Our public interest organizations continue to wish you both the very best in your efforts to protect and restore the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary.<sup>1</sup> We make the following “process request” to aid your efforts. Requiring the Department of Water

<sup>1</sup> AquAlliance, California Water Impact Network, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, Center for Biological Diversity, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, Environmental Water Caucus, Friends of the River, Planning and Conservation League, Restore the Delta, and Sierra Club California join in this letter. This letter is also copied by email to DWR Director Karla Nemeth and CDFW Director Charlton Bonham.

Resources (DWR) to create a single Delta tunnel project web site and post all comments and correspondence (whether paper or electronic) received by DWR on the web site would increase overall understanding by Californians about the potential impacts and pros and cons of single tunnel project alternatives. The web site would contribute to the “extensive outreach to inform” required by paragraph 4 of Governor Newsom’s April 29, 2019, Executive Order N-10-19 on water. The web site would comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, 14 Cal. Code Regs. §15201 providing that,

Public participation is an essential part of the CEQA process. Each public agency should include provisions in its CEQA procedures for wide public involvement, formal and informal, consistent with its existing activities and procedures, in order to receive and evaluate public reactions to environmental issues related to the agency's activities. *Such procedures should include, whenever possible, making environmental information available in electronic format on the Internet, on a web site maintained or utilized by the public agency.* (Emphasis added.)

The posting of comments and correspondence would make it unnecessary for concerned citizens and organizations to send Public Records Act requests to DWR to obtain the comments and correspondence, saving state, regional, and local water agencies, and the public, much time and expense.

During the previous Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) process, correspondence was posted on the BDCP web site up until December 13, 2013. The Delta Stewardship Council regularly posts comments and correspondence on its web site. The posting of all comments and correspondence on the public agency’s web site greatly improves public understanding by allowing all interested parties to see and consider the information, comments and views provided by other parties. The resulting interactive, public process would aid your efforts to identify the best project alternative.

We also request that you require creation of a web site by the appropriate public agency for comments and correspondence received during the course of preparing the inventory and assessment, and water resilience portfolio, required by Executive Order N-10-19 on water. For the same reasons set forth above with respect to the single tunnel planning process, the posting of comments and correspondence would help accomplish the “extensive outreach to inform this process” required by paragraph 4 of the Executive Order. Such efforts would help to increase trust, transparency, and the practice of good faith among stakeholders needed to make the portfolio process a success.

Representatives of our organizations would be pleased to speak with you in person if you have any questions about these requests.

Sincerely,



E. Robert Wright, Senior Counsel  
Friends of the River



Bill Jennings, Executive Director  
California Sportfishing Protection  
Alliance



Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, Executive  
Director  
Restore the Delta




Conner Everts, Facilitator  
Environmental Water Caucus



John Buse, Senior Counsel  
Center for Biological Diversity




Carolee Krieger, Executive Director  
California Water Impact Network



Barbara Vlamis, Executive Director  
AquAlliance



Kathryn Phillips, Director  
Sierra Club California



Colin Bailey, Executive Director  
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water



Jonas Minton, Senior Water Policy  
Advisor  
Planning and Conservation League

cc. Karla Nemeth, Director, Department of Water Resources, via email  
Charlton Bonham, Director, department of Fish and Wildlife, via email