

925 N Yosemite St, Unit 3 Stockton, CA 95203 (209) 475-9550 www.RestoretheDelta.org

January 7, 2020

Via email: eleal@usbr.gov

Emma Leal Bureau of Reclamation, South Central California Area Office 1243 N Street Fresno, CA 93721

Subject: WIIN Act Draft Prepayment Contract Between the United States and

Westlands Water District, Irrigation and M&I Contract No. 14-06-200-

495A-XXX: Public Process and Inclusion Letter

Dear Ms. Leal:

Restore the Delta submitted comments regarding the above-referenced draft Prepayment Contract (draft contract) recently negotiated between the United States and Westlands Water District (WWD) on January 6, 2020. Our letter further incorporates by reference a letter that will be submitted to you by the Planning and Conservation League, dated January 8, 2020, under the signatures of seventeen California environmental water organizations, and to which we are also signatory, as well as a letter that will be submitted to you by Sierra Club California on January 7, 2020, of which we will also be a signatory.

The fourth letter we are submitting today, January 7, 2020, is in regard to the manner in which the public process for the Westlands' contract negotiation was handled with the public.

Enclosed, please find a table that lists the constituencies that were excluded from the negotiations for the Westland's draft Prepayment Contract. Bureau policy calls for encouraging public participation in planning, contract, and project processes. Repeatedly, Westlands Water District has operated in a manner that appears to be hiding the subject of the negotiations for the above-referenced draft Prepayment Contract. Limited amounts of time and inadequate meeting notices create conditions that preclude the public's attendance and involvement in contract negotiations.

For instance, Westlands only provided 32 business hours of notice for their second contract negotiation right after Thanksgiving. Water contractors were given call-in phone numbers to participate, but these numbers were not provided to the public. Travel from throughout the state to the meeting was not possible because a large number of the major routes were closed. Members of the public from Los Angeles could not attend because the Grapevine was closed. Interstate 80 was closed. And significant portions of Interstate from the Shasta and Trinity area were also closed, making Northern California Tribal participation impossible.

Even more disturbing, the notice provided for the meeting does not mention Westlands' draft Prepayment Contract. It appears that the subject of the meeting was hidden from the public, whether by intention or oversight.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this additional important matter. If you have questions, please feel free to email us, as indicated below.

Sincerely,

Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla

Executive Director

barbara@restorethedelta.org

Tim Stroshane Policy Analyst

tim@restorethedelta.org

Enc: Table - B-RecWWDExclusions.002.pdf

Legal Notice: Fresno Bee.pdf

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein

Senator Kamala Harris

Hon. Representative Jared Huffman

Hon. Representative T.J. Cox

Hon. Representative Josh Harder

Hon. Representative Jim Costa

Michelle Ghafar, EarthJustice

Nina Robertson, EarthJustice

Thomas H. Keeling, The Freeman Firm

Kelley Taber, Somach & Simmons

S. Dean Ruiz, South Delta Water Agency

John Herrick, South Delta Water Agency

Dante Nomellini, Central Delta Water Agency

Osha Meserve, Soluri Meserve LLC

Roger Moore, Law Office of Roger B. Moore

Jonas Minton, Planning & Conservation League

Bob Wright, Sierra Club California Bill Jennings, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance Carolee Krieger, California Water Impact Network Michael B. Jackson, California Water Impact Network Barbara Vlamis, AquAlliance Regina Chichizola, Save California Salmon Tom Stokely, Save California Salmon Patricia Schifferle, Pacific Advocates Kathryn Phillips, Sierra Club California Adam Keats, Center for Food Safety Doug Obegi, NRDC Kate Poole, NRDC Jon Rosenfield, San Francisco Baykeeper Gary Bobker, The Bay Institute Noah Oppenheim, PCFFA John McManus, Golden State Salmon

Comments

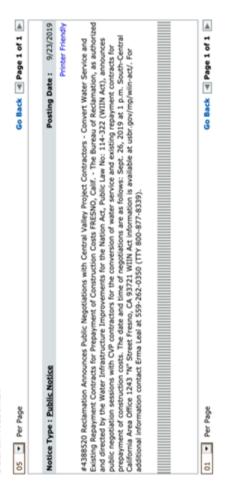
Bureau of Reclamation and Westlands Water District Water Service Repayment Contract Participation Status Negotiation Process Structured to Encourage Exclusivity for Those Who Receive Project Water and Exclusion for Those Who Provide it January 2020

Water Interests, State of California, from Area of Origin, through Local Watersheds to the San Francisco Bay Delta, to the San Joaquin Valley and then to Southern California	Status of Participation in Preparation of Pending Westlands Water District Permanent Water Service Contract
Area of Origin, Native American Interests (Yurok, Hoopa and	Excluded
Area of Origin, Local Government, Humboldt and Trinity Counties	Excluded
Area of Origin, Business and Commercial Interests (motel owners, recreation users, commercial fishing, sport fishing, restaurants, guides, gas stations, tackle shops, etc.	Excluded
American River Watershed Interests	Excluded
Sacramento River Watershed Interests	Excluded
Delta Farming Interests	Excluded
Delta Recreational Interests	Excluded
Delta Water Utilities Dependent on State Water Quality Being Met, Sustained	Excluded
Delta Municipal Water Agencies	Excluded
San Francisco Bay Water Quality Interests	Excluded
San Francisco Bay Fishing Interests	Excluded
San Francisco Bay Recreational Interests	Excluded
Power Interests	Excluded
Non-San Luis Unit (Westlands) Federal Water Service Contractors	Excluded

Delta and South of the Delta (San Joaquin Valley) Irrigation Districts, Agencies and Contractors	Excluded
San Joaquin Valley Municipal waer interests in the San Joaquin Valley (incorporated and non-incorporated)	Excluded
San Joaquin Valley, Economically Disadvantaged	Excluded
Southern California Municipal Water Contractors (State Water Contractors, including MWD and its Member Agencies)	Excluded
Ratepayer Interests (California)	Excluded
Taxpayer Interests (Federal and State)	Excluded

LEGAL NOTICES | The Fresho Bee

Search Results:



LEGAL NOTICE. ORG

Information without boundaries

© 2003-2014 Legal Notice Registry Corporation ("LNRC") (solely with regard to the content provided by LNRC).

The Fresno Bee

Copyright Privacy Policy Terms of Service