



Little Manila RISING

Via Email to: DeltaConveyanceScoping@water.ca.gov

April 16, 2020

Department of Water Resources
Attn: Renee Rodriguez
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Re: Delta Conveyance Scoping Comments

Dear Ms. Rodriguez,

Please accept and fully consider these scoping comments for the Delta Conveyance project's environmental review process.

We, the Youth Advocates for Social Justice of Little Manila Rising, are the next generation of advocates who are paving the way for equitable solutions. We aim to create a generational cultural shift by highlighting the history of marginalized communities to address and give context to present day disparities. We also understand the lasting trauma and sacrifices of the past and are rising in power to heal those wounds. As Youth Advocates for Social Justice, we understand that historically disenfranchised communities face environmental impacts that shortens their lives and are dedicated to bringing multifaceted equity to Stockton. Our organization celebrates our community's contributions and history in the California Delta.

As the Department of Water Resources studies the Delta Conveyance project proposal and develops alternative proposals, we would like you to consider the following comments:

Need for Education About Project Impacts

1. **Core Issue:** We are allowed to submit comments, but we aren't really that knowledgeable about the impacts and don't have a lot of time to read a huge report.
Solutions:
 - Please help the public understand the impacts. People need to be actively equipped with knowledge about project impacts. DWR needs to provide enough information, but also needs to make it short enough and clear enough to be accessible.
 - DWR needs to make the EIR accessible to a lay person in South Stockton. The language needs to be understandable for as many people as possible, including those who are not very educated about the issue and don't have prior knowledge.
2. More people need to know about the project and its potential impacts. Please increase publicity about the project and its potential impacts. Disseminate information widely, so it is in everyone's hands.
3. Make sure the public has adequate time to digest the impacts in the EIR.

Participation & Decision-Making

4. I am concerned about how communities will continue to participate in the decision process after the EIR is released. How could we make the engagement process more community-led during the environmental review and beyond the environmental review? How can we make it more participatory and more democratic?
5. The process is undemocratic. People can comment on the EIR, but they can't vote on the final outcome. How will the public, especially people who are living within this community (Stockton), become involved with the decision making?

Pollution and Health Impacts of the Project and its Construction

6. How will the tunnel affect nearby residents' quality of life? Who will be impacted the most? What precautions are being considered that prioritize the health of those who already live there? Will it contribute to pollution of the area? Could it cause any kind of contamination of resources, water...? Will construction make noise?
7. How will this affect air quality? We have pollution burden from the crosstown freeway and other pollution sources mobile and stationary. Will this project worsen our air quality in any way?
8. How will this project affect water quality around Stockton? Among other things, we are concerned that added traffic from construction will cause worsening water quality around Stockton. How will the water quality be protected from construction impacts and longer term impacts of the project?
9. Harmful algal blooms are a problem in Stockton. How will this project affect that?
10. What are they doing with the existing pumps that are already there? Is there an opportunity to reuse, repurpose, retrofit, not waste those resources? What will they do to restore the landscape from the impacts from the existing pumps?

11. What sort of materials are going to be used in this project? Will the materials have negative effects on any life (plants, animals, people) around it? Will they release toxins?
12. What are the other dangers of this project to our community?
13. How long is the project going to take before its whole completion?

Levees/Floods

14. How will they protect the safety of the community from floods?
15. Levees are part of this process - how are they going to strengthen or improve the levees. How will this be prioritized?
16. In the case of the unexpected floods, could the tunnel be repurposed for disaster relief/flood draining?
17. What will DWR do to reinforcing already existing waterways and what are their plans to upkeep them?

Supporting Communities Who Experience Negative Impacts

18. What are ways DWR can compensate and help maintain quality of life and sustainability for communities impacted by the final decision?
19. Will initiatives or programs be created to support and compensate communities for potential damage resulting from the project and throughout the construction process?
20. How will DWR deal with the dangers of the project? What can be and will be done to make it a better outcome for everyone?

Drinking Water

21. How will the tunnel impact the drinking water system? Will it cut off proper drinking water to certain communities or will there be a plan to work around it?
22. What will the filtration systems look like to make the water quality better (safe, drinkable) that is being delivered?

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please keep us informed of future opportunities to participate in this important process.

Sincerely,

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