

SEC Member Question/Comment Tracking Log Updated 04.28.2021

ID #	Date	Requester	Questions/Comments	Response	Responder	Response Date
15.01	12/11/2019	David Gloski	When will we get to see the anticipated waterway rules and process when DCA construction barges are on the waterways?	DWR will analyze the potential effects of construction barges as part of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). (As a reminder, barging is limited for levee work - no barge landings are included in the alternatives.) If impacts are identified, the EIR will include mitigation measures (such as rules and processes) to reduce those effects.	Carrie Buckman	4/28/2021
15.02	12/27/2019	David Gloski	Is it agreed that "Fishless" is not a proper term to be using?	Intake screens would be sized according to current State and Federal regulations which require that they be small enough to screen out juvenile salmonids and Delta Smelt. In accordance with current regulations, an intake water velocity of 0.2 feet per second would be required to ensure the safety of these fish as they swim close to the fish screens. This issue was described in the January 22 meeting in the presentation on intakes. The material is available online at dcdca.org. DCA doesn't recall using the term "fishless", but does acknowledge the term could have been used in conversation. The screened flows are often considered "fish free" from a regulatory perspective, meaning that the flows have been diverted through screening systems meeting state and federal requirements. Also note that screen openings are 1.75mm. The EIR will evaluate the potential for interactions between the fish and the fish screen.	Phil Ryan	4/28/2021
15.03	1/9/2021	David Gloski	Can a process be established to look at each site and evaluate any possible community benefits out of the location. Bird watching, bike or running trail... etc.?	The process to identify community benefits will be created in the next phase of development of the Community Benefits Program. This could include a process to look at specific sites, if that's the direction the community would like to go.	Janet Barbieri	4/28/2021
15.04	1/9/2021	David Gloski	Is there a proposed model for how the RTM materials will be made available to the districts?	As presented in past SEC meetings, the RTM appears to have geotechnical properties appropriate for reuse in construction of levee embankments, and we understand the tremendous need for embankment fill required to improve Delta levees to meet PL84-99 or Bulletin 192-82 standards. The process currently included in the concept design and CEQA analyses is as follows: 1) RTM would be tested during tunneling operations to verify the suitability for reuse (i.e. not hazardous), 2) moisture would be removed from the RTM to allow for permanent stockpiling, 3) the stockpiles would then be available for local reuse, but would also be vegetated to prevent erosion and runoff. Further discussions would be required for determining processes for RTM distribution and reuse.	Graham Bradner	4/28/2021
15.05	1/9/2021	David Gloski	Can we get a preliminary SEC list of all the possible benefit projects listed in people's comments to date so we don't lose all these ideas and they get addressed later?	We are tracking all comments as they come in, and will include them in the Framework and for future use in the next phase of development.	Janet Barbieri	4/28/2021
15.06	1/9/2021	David Gloski	When can there be analysis as to how adding water to the south delta for emergency operation and other conditions could be accommodated?	Using the Delta Conveyance Project for emergency operations is not part of the project purpose and objectives. It can, however, be considered as part of the community benefits program (based on the request of community members).	Janet Barbieri	4/28/2021

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15.07	1/9/2021	David Gloski	Is the alternative of building a dam, locks and gates at the exit of the Delta being considered? I have come to believe that is the only true long term answer considering climate change and if necessary will render the tunnel of little value.	<p>A similar alternative was suggested during scoping and DWR has considered it as part of the alternatives screening effort. DWR applied a screening process to initial alternatives to identify which alternatives should be carried forward into the EIR for further analysis. The screening process had two filters based on CEQA guidance: the first filter considered if an alternative met most of the project objectives, and the second filter considered whether an alternative had the potential to lessen potential significant impacts of the proposed project (without creating new impacts).</p> <p>The western Delta salinity barrier would provide a salinity barrier between the Delta and the San Francisco Bay. Similar to the reasons for the through-Delta alternative, this alternative would provide limited protection from earthquake risk and would offer limited operational flexibility. This alternative would meet two of the four criteria in Filter 1, so it did move forward to Filter 2. However, it did not pass through Filter 2 because it would not reduce potential environmental effects and could cause different types of effects. There are multiple anadromous fish species that move through the Delta as they travel between the ocean and their spawning and rearing grounds in the upper tributaries. Between the different species, fish are traveling through the Delta much of the year. Many of these fish are endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. This alternative would block fish passage for these fish, so it did not pass the Filter 2 screening.</p>	Carrie Buckman	4/28/2021
15.08	1/9/2021	David Gloski	When can we see an analysis of the benefits of delivering 6000 cfs to the south delta for emergency response in the immediate and longer term flushing timelines?	Using the Delta Conveyance Project for emergency operations is not part of the project purpose and objectives. It can, however, be considered as part of the community benefits program (based on the request of community members).	Janet Barbieri	4/28/2021
15.09	1/9/2021	David Gloski	Can we separately track benefits from the project itself to the Delta Region. The benefits to other Regions are tracked, can we track the benefits to the Delta Region?	Part of the Community Benefits Program implementation is likely going consider how to track benefits, so this discussion can occur as part of the process to develop the Community Benefits Program framework.	Janet Barbieri	4/28/2021
15.1	1/9/2021	David Gloski	I believe the design should have the ability to connect the Bethany Pumping Plant to the Clifton Forebay for later operational flexibility. Can we get an analysis on this? If it is not considered to be valuable, it should be on the record with an analysis behind it and someone should stand behind it.	The Bethany Alternative is a dual conveyance alternative, which means that new facilities would work together (and complement) the existing facilities. Diversions could take place either at the new intake in the north Delta or through Clifton Court Forebay in the south Delta. These systems would work together to complement each other, providing some level of backup. Adding the Bethany facilities increases the operational flexibility compared to current conditions, and connecting the Bethany Pumping Plant to Clifton Court Forebay would increase the potential for environmental effects. Therefore, it is not under consideration at this time.	Carrie Buckman	4/28/2021
15.11	1/9/2021	David Gloski	Can someone introduce me to contacts at CVP and Bureau of Reclamation?	The CVP and Bureau of Reclamation are not currently part of the Delta Conveyance Project.	Carrie Buckman	4/28/2021
15.12	2/24/2021	Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla	What does discussing agency business mean on social media? Can you explain this further?	"Agency business" would generally mean any topic that has or could be discussed at an SEC meeting.	Josh Nelson	4/28/2021

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15.13	2/24/2021	Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla	If there is a minority of Board members, are you allowed to do something together?	AB 992 only applies to social media postings. Discussions between SEC members in other forums are not subject to the new law. Under existing law, less than of a quorum of SEC members can discuss SEC items outside of a meeting as long as discussions do not directly or indirectly involve a majority of the SEC.	Josh Nelson	4/28/2021
15.14	2/24/2021	Gia Moreno	If committee members are involved with another organization that would fall under the rules of the Brown Act, which one applies?	If a majority of the SEC attend a noticed, public meeting of another body subject to the Brown Act, there are no concerns as long as discussions between SEC members occur as part of the regular scheduled agenda for that meeting (i.e., not having private, sidebar discussions). However, AB 992 applies to social media postings by members of any body subject to the Brown Act. Postings on the social media account of another public agency if they involved SEC business would not be exempt from the rules.	Josh Nelson	4/28/2021
15.15	2/24/2021	Anna Swenson	Request for a memo that outlines how the SEC qualifies as being covered by the Brown Act. Can you provide this specific part of the new law?	We will provide a memo to the SEC in advance of the April meeting.	Josh Nelson	4/28/2021
15.16	2/24/2021	Anna Swenson	Request to see the rationale as to why we are governed by the Brown Act.	We will a memo to the SEC in advance of the April meeting to provide more detail. However, as a general rule, an advisory committee formed by a legislative body like the DCA Board of Directors is subject to the Brown Act.	Josh Nelson	4/28/2021
15.17	2/24/2021	Anna Swenson	How many stakeholders are on the DCA Board?	The seven DCA Board members are appointed by water agencies that are members of the DCA.	Josh Nelson	4/28/2021
15.18	2/24/2021	David Gloski	Does the representation or number of Board members have to do with the number of dollars? Has there been any consideration to having some Delta representation on the Board?	The representation or number of DCA Board is not based on dollars. The DCA's joint powers agreement identifies how Board members are appointed by individual or classes of water agencies. Voting is generally one Director - one vote. However, the joint powers agreement permits "reconsideration" voting on certain items based on proportional participation in the Delta Conveyance project or planning costs.	Josh Nelson	4/28/2021
15.19	2/24/2021	David Gloski	How is DWR involved with the Board?	The DCA has executed a joint exercise of powers agreement (JEPA) outlining the support that the DCA provides DWR during the planning phase. This agreement and its amendments are posted on the DCA's website.	Josh Nelson	4/28/2021
15.2	2/24/2021	Dr. Mel Lytle	If there are significant actions taken at the Board, as part of the SEC, can we be briefed on that? We need to know of the dynamics outside of what we're tasked with to understand fully.	The DCA's Board meetings are public meetings subject to the Brown Act. All agendas are posted in advance. If you are interested in receiving copies of Board agendas, please let us know and we can add you to the distribution list.	Josh Nelson	4/28/2021
15.21	2/24/2021	Gil Cosio	Is there a way to get the boring logs to be able to use when looking at levee or subsurface issues that could lead to seepage?	Logs of borings and CPTs performed within the levee prism will be shared with the applicable Levee Maintaining Agency. Logs for borings and CPTs performed on publicly owned lands along levee toes will also be provided to the applicable Levee Maintaining Agency.	Andrew Finney	4/28/2021
15.22	2/24/2021	Karen Mann	Has anyone reached out to the residents of Mountain House?	There have been discussions with Mountain House. A presentation of the whole project was done with the Mountain House Community Services District. As part of that, DCA offered to conduct a community meeting or workshop, the team would show up and they would have all of the materials needed. The team also had a detailed discussion with Mr. Nejad at Mountain House CSD regarding traffic considerations around the community.	Phil Ryan	4/28/2021

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15.23	2/24/2021	Anna Swenson	At what point will folks on Twin Cities Road be notified about potential widening to the road? It's a major commuting, hauling road where many people might be unaware.	Following adoption of the Final EIR and assuming a Delta Conveyance project is approved by DWR, specific facilities would be further defined during the design phase. Prior to construction of facilities, including road widenings, notifications would be provided to the community and local agencies. It should be noted that the current plans would be to widen Twin Cities Road only between Interstate 5 and Franklin Boulevard.	Phil Ryan	4/28/2021
15.24	2/24/2021	Anna Swenson	Regarding RTM, is there actually a use for it in levee repair?	Based on current information, the RTM appears to meet State and Federal levee fill requirements, from both a geotechnical and environmental perspective. This conclusion is based on available laboratory testing of soil samples collected from tunnel depth both with the addition of soil conditions and without. Suitability of the RTM for reuse as levee fill will continue to be evaluated as additional subsurface data and associated laboratory testing is performed to confirm this assessment.	Graham Bradner	4/28/2021
15.25	2/24/2021	Douglas Hsia	At the height of the construction, how many TBMs will be running at the same time?	In the current conceptual designs efforts, there would be four at the peak at Bethany. They don't all start at the same time, but there will be a point when they're all running simultaneously.	Phil Ryan	4/28/2021
15.26	2/24/2021	Michael Moran	There are 14.1 million acres of RTM coming out, is any of that expected to be lost through compaction, drying, erosion, for the life of that stockpile?	14.1 million cubic yards of RTM referenced in the conceptual design is a "Wet" quantity, meaning it includes water. There is expected to be some loss in overall volume as the moisture content is reduced through drying. Compaction of the RTM as it's placed into permanent stockpiles or used as structural fill will also reduce the volume.	Graham Bradner	4/28/2021
15.27	2/24/2021	Michael Moran	Will we ever drop down below the need for the levee repair and embankments?	As currently conceived, there really is not a circumstance in the Delta where a potential Delta Conveyance project could be constructed without addressing flood risk mitigation through levee repairs and/or other measures, particularly when considering the impacts of climate change and sea level rise on flood levels in the region.	Graham Bradner	4/28/2021
15.28	2/24/2021	Dr. Mel Lytle	An electric fleet has a redirected impact. There might be electric powered semi to move these materials around, but a lot of power to recharge these trucks is still needed. Where would this energy come from? Would it be renewable?	DWR will assess the potential effects of providing electricity for electric vehicles as part of the EIR.	Carrie Buckman	4/28/2021
15.29	2/24/2021	Jim Cox	When writing the EIR, are electric vehicles that don't exist now being considered, or only the equipment that currently exists?	The EIR will only include use vehicles for the DCP that already exist.	Carrie Buckman	4/28/2021
15.3	2/24/2021	Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla	Concerned about the sample size, especially around the Mercury issues.	The team will continue to perform environmental testing on samples obtained during on-going subsurface investigation. This was just to give an update during the winter pause in the geotechnical work. In a previous SEC Meeting, it was pointed out that there were no red flags but there were data gaps, some of these were around methyl mercury. This is not a sample size suitable to fully analyze the RTM and further analyses would be completed prior to construction phase.	Andrew Finney	4/28/2021

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15.31	2/24/2021	Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla	I understand that mercury methodizes when introduced to nitrates, in the samples presented, it didn't look like mercury was found at any notable level. If this is found in other places, doesn't this change into methyl mercury due to nitrogen pollution? That's when there would be a water contamination problem. My understanding that methyl mercury is incredibly deadly.	The DCA will continue to sample for mercury and methyl mercury during subsurface exploration and testing.	Andrew Finney	4/28/2021
15.32	2/24/2021	Dr. Mel Lytle	I recommend that it would be useful to report all of the elements you detected.	Planned testing includes the following: Polyaromatic hydrocarbons, Butyltins, Ammonia, Nitrate/nitrite, Metals, Soluble metals, Mercury, Soluble mercury, Methyl mercury, Hexavalent chromium, Total petroleum hydrocarbons, Chlorinated pesticides, Polychlorinated biphenyls, Herbicides, Semi-volatile organics, Total organic carbon, Agronomic planting suitability properties including boron, Salinity as chloride.	Andrew Finney	4/28/2021
15.33	2/24/2021	Dr. Mel Lytle	Was the groundwater at depth also tested? That would be an interesting data point as well because typically looking at this, you can look at both solid and groundwater to see what is available.	Groundwater depth will be recorded where it is available.	Andrew Finney	4/28/2021
15.34	2/24/2021	Jim Cox	On the chart, the arsenic has a limit, but on the findings, only one number is within the limits and all the others are over and there doesn't seem to be concern. Can you analyze this data for me?	Arsenic is something that environmental professionals deal with all of the time in the West and in the Central Valley. Arsenic was formed in the rocks in the Sierras so it shows up in the soils. The reference limits are very low. Ecological risk assessors are studying this information regularly, including drinking it in water, breathing it in air, etc. Generally, one of the most conservative pathways is the residential pathways, in people's own gardens. Those plants are sucking up whatever is in the soil. In regards to agricultural pathways, those are typically higher values. The framework has not yet been developed, but it can't be any more than the residential pathway. Sometimes baseline background levels are set. That's why a range is provided. The averages provided in the notes could be higher in the Delta, but overall in California, that is the average.	Andrew Finney	4/28/2021
15.35	2/24/2021	Gil Cosio	If there are chlorides, are you going to be looking into what the Regional Water Quality Control Board thinks? The water table is right at the surface of these levees and it's always been an issue with dredge material that we cannot contaminate the groundwater. Is there the possibility of some of this washing off into the farm fields and will that affect growing crops? The analysis should be done up front. Is there any soil classification data for the material at tunnel depth?	Chloride is one of the constituents we are testing for.	Andrew Finney	4/28/2021
15.36	2/24/2021	Gil Cosio	On the map in the presentation, there was an orange dot indication a boring done on Empire Tract. How close was this to the levee? It should be made sure that none of the borings are on a levee.	Where explorations are planned within the levee, such as on Bouldin Island, we will obtain all applicable permits from the local levee management agencies.	Andrew Finney	4/28/2021
15.37			Is there any soil classification information for the material at tunnel depth?	Some thick sequences of sand have been found east of Walnut Grove, even high plasticity silts.	Andrew Finney	4/28/2021
15.38	2/24/2021	Jim Cox	If no bonds have been issued, bonds are still intended to be issued correct?	In this case, the project has to be approved first before the bonds can be issued.	Chris Martin	4/28/2021

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15.39	2/24/2021	Michael Moran	What is the interplay of the bonds and expenditures on Davis-Dolwig and the Community Benefits Plan, if at all?	Davis-Dolwig legislation provisions could be another lengthy conversation for a different meeting. It addresses an issue related to who pays for recreation and enhancement of fish and wildlife and that goes back into philosophical questions that were state policy debates in the 60s when the project was built. Bond proceeds cannot be used to pay Davis-Dolwig costs. The community benefits plan will be addressed by DWR in subsequent meetings.	Chris Martin	4/28/2021

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