

This summary is provided as a resource for committee members and the public to have brief highlights following SEC meetings. In addition to this summary, detailed meeting minutes, question and answer documents and full meeting video will be available on the dcdca.org website.

MEETING OVERVIEW

The 19th meeting of the Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC) was held via video conference on December 8, 2021. The meeting video, agenda, presentation, and supplemental materials are available for review on the dcdca.org [website](#).

UPDATES & COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- Graham Bradner, DCA Executive Director, provided a summary of the November 18th DCA Board Meeting. The Board was presented with the staff recommendation to sunset the SEC as well as an overview of the engineering and logistics adjustments resulting from community feedback.
- Carrie Buckman, DWR Environmental Manager, shared that DWR is planning to release the draft environmental document in mid-2022. Other updates include:
 - ◆ As DWR identifies impacts in their CEQA work, mitigation measures are also being identified.
 - ◆ Field investigations have paused and are not anticipated for the next few months.
 - ◆ DWR has identified the Bethany Alternative as the proposed project, but this does not represent a decision on whether the project should move forward or the final selection of an alternative. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has been updated with this information. DWR has posted the letter to the Corps and a Q&A document.
 - [Section 404 Amended Permit Application Q&A \(November 2021\)](#)
 - [Section 404 Amended Permit Application Letter \(November 2021\)](#)

PRESENTATIONS & COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- Phil Ryan, DCA Engineering Manager, shared that the potential for Sacramento River flood risk related to a proposed conveyance project has been analyzed with updated modeling.
 - ◆ The team made conceptual design changes to the intakes, which helped minimize water surface increase to less than 0.1 feet. The design changes included a reduction in cofferdam size and moving the intakes structures 15 feet landwards.
 - ◆ This change resulted in increased barge trips due to increased in-river excavation and riprap placement in river.
- Mr. Bradner reviewed the engineering and logistics changes resulting from SEC and community input and from internal design development processes. He provided an updated overview of the current conceptual design, with specifics on how community input has been incorporated into the conceptual plans of the proposed project, including (partial list):
 - ◆ Planning for project sites to have their own emergency services
 - ◆ Avoiding use of levee roads for heavy construction traffic
 - ◆ Minimizing use of pile driving to reduce noise
 - ◆ Construct park-and-rides to reduce worker traffic to project sites
 - ◆ Shifting logistics to reduce effects on Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge and other habitat areas
 - ◆ Eliminating barge landings and limiting barge use
- Mr. Bradner provided an overview of the three alternatives under consideration: Central, Eastern, and Bethany Reservoir, highlighting similarities and differences.
- Mr. Bradner shared the SEC Schedule presented to the committee in November 2020 indicating the SEC's work was anticipated to end at the end of 2021.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Anna Swenson
At Large - Yolo

Cecille Giacom
Public Safety

David Gloski
At Large - Contra Costa

Douglas Hsia
At Large - Sacramento

Gilbert Cosio
Ex-Officio

Isabella Gonzalez Potter
Environment NGO - Aquatic

Jim Cox
Sports Fishing

Jesus Tarango
Tribal Government Representative (Alternate)

Lindsey Lieb
Agriculture

Mel Lytle, Ph.D.
Delta Water District

Michael Moran
Ex-Officio

Malissa Tayaba
Tribal Government Representative

Phillip Merlo
At Large - San Joaquin

Mike Hardesty
At Large - Solano

David Welch
Ex-Officio

Gia Moreno
City of Hood

PRESENTATIONS & COMMITTEE DISCUSSION, cont.

- Nazli Parvizi, DCA Communications Director, addressed DCA's plan for outreach moving forward.
- ◆ Small community group meetings have been requested and will continue to be provided for communities interested in learning more about the proposed project as a whole or issues specific to their communities.
- ◆ Coordination continues with Delta-area libraries. DCA information materials are available in print and digital form. The list of participating library locations can be found here: <https://www.dcdca.org/info-center/document-library/#1628713778111-bb70e11e-ed4e>
- ◆ Virtual tours are available online and will be updated as necessary.
- ◆ If any SEC member or community representative would like to request a briefing in their area, they are encouraged to contact DCA staff at info@dcdca.org.
- Janet Barbieri, DWR Communications Director, provided an overview of DWR's outreach plans for 2022. The team is focused on the public information, engagement, and notification related to the Draft EIR release anticipated for mid-2022.
- Ms. Palmer said the DCA Board has appreciated the commitment of SEC members to their communities and the time they have spent listening to the DCA presentation. At their January meeting, the DCA Board will consider a resolution to officially sunset the SEC. There will be continued outreach by DCA and DWR as the CEQA process moves forward.
- Ms. Keegan thanked the SEC members and DCA staff for participating in the process even though it is difficult and sensitive.

SEC MEMBER THOUGHT EXCHANGE

- Mr. Gloski asked if the EIR will have the rationale for identifying the Bethany Alternative as the proposed project. Ms. Buckman said the EIR will contain that information. Further, DWR will be providing the same level of detailed analysis for all three alternatives, even though CEQA only requires that level of detail for the proposed project.
- Ms. Swenson said the engineering changes resulting from SEC and community feedback were being overblown. She said the process was flawed, SEC members were not listened to, and none of the changes they suggested were implemented. She noted, however, that the information and materials were helpful.
- Ms. Moreno said there is an area near the intakes that floods in the winter and mentioned she's been trying to get pictures to share with the DCA.
- Ms. Giacoma asked if there is a plan to make a map of aquifers in the Delta. Ms. Buckman said the potential effects of the project on groundwater resources will be assessed in the EIR utilizing the CalSim model and a ground water model. Ms. Giacoma

Summary of Conceptual Design Efforts to Minimize Community Effects

1	Avoid increasing demand for existing emergency services in the Delta
2	Manage flood risks to the project facilities and existing land uses
3	Manage seismic risks to people and property
4	Minimize activities that produce noise, dust, greenhouse gas emissions, traffic, and land use disturbances
5	Minimize construction effects to existing infrastructure or other community resources
6	Minimize construction traffic and associated effects
7	Minimize disturbance to existing land uses, including agricultural land, residences, and wildlife habitat
8	Minimize disturbance to sensitive wildlife and protected habitat areas
9	Minimize effects on Delta water-based recreation and navigation
10	Minimize noise during construction and operations

stated that the mapping is taking too long and should have been done during the last iteration. These delays impact trust.

- Mr. Moran asked that DCA ensure SEC participation be included in the white paper and is reflected in the EIR. He also requested that SEC members be included in conversations moving forward.
- Ms. Swenson asked if the EIR will be translated into various languages and be available in print at local libraries. Ms. Barbieri said the accompanying materials to the EIR will be translated

into languages appropriate for the Delta population, including Spanish and Chinese.

- Mr. Gloski, Ms. Giacoma, Ms. Moreno and Ms. Swenson said the public outreach for the DWR needs to include in-person meetings.
- Ms. Moreno said more outreach is needed for the level of impacts the community will experience, indicating the process should start over.
- Ms. Keegan suggested that perhaps outdoor meetings could maintain safety while still allowing in-person meetings.