

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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April 20, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: CWFHearing@waterboards.ca.gov

Dear Hearing Officers,

DWR submits the following to answer two questions posed to it by the Hearing Officers. The first being the question as to timing of providing information regarding the project changes outlined by DWR on March 28, 2018, and the second regarding any decision by DWR to pursue the staged construction approach for implementing the California WaterFix Project.

Draft Supplemental Environmental Document

Pursuant to your April 18, 2018 ruling, DWR provides the following dates for information related to the additional engineering detail proposed for the California WaterFix Project, identified by DWR on March 28, 2018.

Information of a level equivalent to the draft supplemental environmental impact report/environmental impact statement (EIR/EIS) regarding the potential environmental impacts associated with the additional engineering detail proposed for the California WaterFix Project will be available on June 5, 2018. This information will then be sent as the administrative draft review chapters of the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS for final review by the co-lead agencies under CEQA and NEPA and for input from California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Upon completion of these final reviews, the Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS is expected to be issued for public review and comment on July 6, 2018.

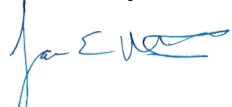
It should be noted that the Supplemental EIR/EIS is analyzing only the engineering “footprint” changes proposed for the project, as compared to that analyzed in the EIR certified and approved by DWR in July 2017. DWR is not proposing, and the Supplemental EIR/EIS will not be analyzing, any operational changes to the operations that were addressed and approved by DWR in the July 2017.

Staged Construction Approach

At the hearing on Thursday, April 19, Ms. Meserve requested additional information on the status of any decision to pursue a staged construction approach for the California WaterFix. DWR is not pursuing a staged construction of the California WaterFix and

the proposed changes to the project approved in July 2017 and analyzed in the Supplemental EIR/EIS are in no way related to any staging proposals. The project remains that described in the petition. The operations associated with the California WaterFix Project described in the petition remain CWF H3+, as presented in Part 2 of the hearing, the Biological Opinions and 2081(b) Incidental Take Permit.

Sincerely,



Tripp Mizell