

**DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION**

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October 21, 2015

Zachary Simmons, Project Manager  
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**Subject: Request for Extension of Public Comment Period for  
 Public Notice SPK-2008-00861 and Conducting Public Meetings**

Dear Mr. Simmons:

The Delta Protection Commission (Commission) is a California State agency that ensures orderly, balanced conservation and development of Delta land resources and improved flood protection. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is requesting a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit to construct the California WaterFix project, twin tunnels that would divert Sacramento River water in the north Delta for delivery to Clifton Court Forebay in the south Delta. The Commission respectfully requests an extension of the public comment period for this permit application, and further requests the USACE conduct public meetings in the Delta prior to the end of the public comment period.

Given the focus of Delta residents, businesses and recreationists on completing comments on the related California WaterFix environmental documents by the October 30 deadline, the Commission specifically requests that USACE:

- provide additional time for public comment on Public Notice SPK-2008-00861
- conduct public meetings in the Delta to receive questions and hear directly from affected parties about the impacts of the proposed project, and
- ensure sufficient time subsequent to the public meetings for interested parties to prepare and submit comments.

A project of this magnitude and a regulatory permit with this scope and complexity warrants field hearings in the region that would be most directly affected by the water quality, natural environment and navigable waterway impacts of the project. This is especially true given the significant questions that have already been raised about the exact activities that would be permitted under Public Notice SPK-2008-00861 and the mandate under California statute that the State's co-equal goals for the Delta (water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration) be "achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place" [Public Resources Code Section 29702(a)].

Public meetings in several Delta locations would give the USACE important input to facilitate your final decision to grant a permit, including any important conditions attached to the issuance of a permit.

I thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Erik Vink  
Executive Director

cc: Chair Mary Piepho and members of the Delta Protection Commission  
Honorable John Garamendi, U.S House of Representatives  
Honorable Jerry McNerney, U.S House of Representatives  
Honorable Doris Matsui, U.S House of Representatives  
Mike Bradbury, California Department of Water Resources