

PORT OF STOCKTON

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November 24, 2014

Dear State and Federal Stakeholder Agencies:

The purpose of this letter is to update you on the progress of the proposed San Francisco Bay to Stockton Navigation Improvement Study since we met with you last year and since you received the United States Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE's) August 15, 2013 technical coordination letter.

1. **Project phasing:** The overall project has been separated into two projects to comply with scheduling and funding criteria under the USACE SMART Planning and 3x3x3 requirements (<http://planning.usace.army.mil/toolbox> or www.corpsplanning.us).

Project I would deepen the Western Reach (John F. Baldwin Ship Channel to Avon) to a depth that would not significantly affect water quality through salinity intrusion without implementation of measures to offset salinity impacts. Current salinity modeling has indicated that the maximum depth for Project I could be -38 feet mean lower low water (MLLW).

Project II would deepen the Eastern Reach (east of Avon including the Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel) and also consider additional deepening of the Western Reach. Project II will include ecosystem restoration as a project purpose in addition to navigation. It would also include project components and/or mitigation to offset salinity intrusion such that impacts to water quality would not be significant.

The project's non-federal sponsor, the Port of Stockton, and the local contributing sponsors, Contra Costa County and the Western States Petroleum Association, remain the same.

2. **Alternative deepening depths:** Both reaches are currently maintained at a depth of -35 feet MLLW. The action alternatives to be fully analyzed in the EIS/EIR for Project I (Western Reach only) have been narrowed to -37 feet and -38 feet MLLW. It is anticipated that deeper depths in both reaches will be considered in developing alternatives for Project II.

3. **Project I schedule:** The Project I Record of Decision (ROD) is scheduled to be completed in spring 2016. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report is scheduled to be published for public review in spring 2015.
4. **Project II schedule:** The Project II ROD will be completed within 3 years of receiving funding to commence the Project II feasibility study.
5. **Dredged material beneficial reuse:** For Project I, the dredged material placement options being considered further are placement at Montezuma Wetlands Restoration Project and tidal marsh restoration within Big Break. Project II will likely involve placement of dredged material at one or more ecosystem restoration sites within the Delta.
6. **Salinity modeling:** Additional salinity modeling has been completed for the Project I -37 and -38 feet MLLW alternatives. Preliminary salinity modeling for Project II (incorporating ecosystem restoration and a submerged sill across Carquinez Straight for salinity mitigation) has also been completed.
7. **Briefing meeting opportunity:** Knowing of your interest in the project, particularly in the salinity modeling results, we are pleased to schedule a briefing for you and your staff. The briefing can include the salinity modeling results to date as well as a presentation and discussion of the reports from the deliberations of the two technical expert groups: the Salinity Technical Expert Group and Endangered Species and Habitat Technical Expert Group as appropriate to your need and time available.
8. **Questions/meeting requests:** Please direct questions and/or a briefing request to Neil Hedgecock, Project Manager, Neil.C.Hedgecock@usace.army.mil with a copy to the local sponsor contacts listed below.

Our goal is to achieve a successful phased project. We value your input and feedback prior to and during the environmental evaluation of the revised project.

Sincerely yours,



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