



Tribal Engagement in Delta Conveyance

Background

California Native American tribal governments and tribal communities have sovereign authority over their members and territory and a unique relationship with California's resources.

California tribes and tribal communities, whether federally recognized or not, have distinct cultural, spiritual, environmental, economic, and public health interests and valuable traditional cultural knowledge about California resources.

Tribal engagement is an important component of every major project led by the State of California, providing an opportunity for government-to-government consultation, and collaboration and coordination between Tribal leaders and project proponents. Guided by the Governor's Executive Order B-10-11, the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Tribal Engagement Policy, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and state policies regarding consultation with California Native American Tribes, the Delta conveyance planning process will include significant Tribal engagement. This includes engagement with California Native American Tribes on Tribal Cultural Resources (TCRs) in accordance with the requirements of CEQA (Sections 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3), commonly referred to as AB 52 requirements (added to CEQA through Assembly Bill 52 of 2014). On January 15, 2020, DWR issued a Notice of Preparation of an environmental impact report under CEQA for the conveyance project signifying the beginning of the CEQA process.

DWR is committed to a robust, collaborative and transparent Tribal engagement process that provides for meaningful information sharing and opportunities for input. DWR's Office of the Tribal Policy Advisor is the central point of coordinated communication and consultation with California Native American tribes to ensure proactive and meaningful consultation. This includes dedicated communication and outreach such as meetings, workshops, and advisory committees. The Office of the Tribal Policy Advisor strives to continue effective collaboration and informed decision-making where all parties share a goal of reaching a decision together with common values such as:

- Working to restore, protect, and manage the State's natural resources for current and future generations;
- Using creative approaches and solutions based on science and tribal ecological knowledge;

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- Developing strategies for preserving California Native American tribes' water rights and providing for the sustainable management of California's sacred waters; and
- Demonstrating a respect for all communities, resources, and interests and an open and free exchange of information.

Anecita Agustinez, DWR's Tribal Policy Advisor, will brief the Commission on the opportunities for Tribal engagement during the planning process for the new Delta conveyance.

This is an informational item.

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