California Water Commission

Resolution No. 2012-xx

RESOLUTION OF NECESSITY

A Resolution Determining that the Public Interest and Necessity Require the Acquisition of DWR Parcel No. _____, a portion of _____ County Assessor's Parcel No. xx-xxx-xxx-xx for the Engineering Geotechnical Project Necessary for Developing Recommendations for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, a Public Use.

WHEREAS, pursuant to California Water Code Sections 250 and 11580, the Department of Water Resources ("DWR" or "Department") has the authority to acquire by eminent domain, in the name of the people of the State of California, any property necessary for state water and dam purposes;

WHEREAS, DWR may commence an eminent domain lawsuit only if the California Water Commission has adopted a resolution of public necessity;

WHEREAS, in order to adopt a resolution of necessity, the California Water Commission must find: (1) that the project for which the property is to be acquired is necessary, and in the public interest; (2) that the property is necessary for the public project; (3) that the project is located in such a manner as to offer the greatest public benefit with the least private detriment; and (4) that an offer to purchase the property required by Government Code Section 7267.2 has been made to the owner of record;

WHEREAS, DWR has prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for Engineering Geotechnical Studies for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and/or Preliminary Engineering Studies for the Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program (MND) and filed a Notice of Determination (NOD) on September 23, 2010 (SCH No. 2010062041) (collectively referred to hereafter as "CEQA Documents"). The Project Description, taken from the MND, is as follows:

> The Department of Water Resources (DWR) plans to do further geotechnical information gathering in the Delta. The work includes overwater and land geotechnical borings, cone penetration tests (CPT) and small test pits in order to investigate soils in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta between 2010 and 2012. This testing is necessary because of the lack of geotechnical data available to the Department of Water Resources in the relevant area for evaluation possible conservations measured in the Delta. The Department of Water Resources is tasked with providing information for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan for developing conveyance alternatives and the development of the broader goals for Delta improvements addressed by the Delta Stewardship Council for its Delta Plan. Work will continue under this process to gather geotechnical data on proposed conveyance alternatives, and the additional geotechnical exploration

proposed in this project will aid the Department of Water Resources in meeting its statutory responsibilities with respect to evaluating the feasibility of the proposed conveyance alternatives.

The Department of Water Resources' geotechnical staff and/or its consultants will investigate the engineering properties of the soils in the Delta along various alignment options, including auxiliary structures, as well as the proposed intakes and the proposed forebays for all options. The purpose of the investigation is to gather necessary geotechnical information to support the preparation of a draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the proposed Bay Delta Conservation Plan and/or for preliminary engineering studies for the Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program. The Department of Water Resources requires Delta soils and groundwater information for conceptual design and construction costs of conveyance facilities and to identify possible constraints and feasibility in developing conveyance alternatives.

WHEREAS, certain real property located within Sacramento County, California, a legal description of which is a part of the attached Deed and incorporated herein by this reference ("the Parcel"), is necessary for conducting Engineering Geotechnical Studies to support environmental studies, feasibility studies and preliminary engineering for making a recommendation for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan ("the Plan");

WHEREAS, the Department of Water Resources needs to conduct cone penetration testing, core drilling and test pits as described in the CEQA Documents to study the best feasible alternative for the alternative water conveyance project;

WHEREAS, DWR has considered the need to acquire Permanent and Temporary Easements ("the Easements") for purpose of conducting geotechnical activities;

WHEREAS, DWR has been unable to negotiate the voluntary acquisition of the Easements;

WHEREAS, the California Water Commission has given notice to the Parcel's owner as required by California law;

WHEREAS, a hearing has been held in the manner provided by law, and the persons whose property is to be acquired have been given a reasonable opportunity to appear and be heard before the California Water Commission on the following issues:

a. whether the public interest and necessity require the project for engineering geotechnical studies, as described above;

b. whether the Project and the acquisition of the Easements are planned and located in the manner that will be most compatible with the greatest public good and least private injury;

c. whether the Easements to be acquired are necessary for the Project;

d. whether the written offer required by law has been made to the owner of record; and

e. other matters concerning the authority of DWR to engage in such a project or its right to take.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CALIFORNIA WATER COMMISSION AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Commission has reviewed and considered DWR's CEQA Documents, and hereby:
    a. Adopts the Mitigated Negative Declaration for Engineering Geotechnical Studies for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and/or Preliminary Engineering Studies for the Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program;
    b. Adopts DWR's mitigation and conservation measures and best management practices;
    c. Adopts DWR's mitigation and monitoring plan;
    d. Adopts the Department of Water Resources' Survey Protocol for Property to be Accessed as Part of the Engineering Geotechnical Studies for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and/or Preliminary Engineering Studies for the Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program;
    e. Adopts the Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program Steps in Drilling and Soil Logging; and
    f. Determines that the Project would not have any significant environmental effects.

2. The Project for Engineering Geotechnical Studies is authorized pursuant to the Central Valley Project Act and the Burns-Porter Act.

3. DWR has demonstrated that it has sufficient funds available for the Project for Engineering Geotechnical Studies.

4. The public interest and necessity require the Project for Engineering Geotechnical Studies, including the acquisition of the Permanent and Temporary Easements described in the attached Deed as part of the Project.

   The Project for Engineering Geotechnical Studies is planned and located in the manner that will be most compatible with the greatest public good and least private injury.

5. The Easements described in the attached Deed are necessary for the Project.

6. The offer required by Section 7267.2 of the Government Code has been made to the owner(s) of record.

7. DWR has complied with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act regarding environmental review of the Project.

8. DWR is hereby authorized and empowered to acquire the Temporary Easements through the power of eminent domain, including obtaining an order for prejudgment possession.

9. Commission staff shall have a CEQA Notice of Determination filed with the Office of Planning and Research State Clearing House.

10. Within 120 days of completion of its geotechnical work on the property and at no cost to the landowner, the Department will quitclaim its permanent easement in favor of the landowner or, if no permanent easement has yet been acquired, the Department will abandon its attempt to acquire a permanent easement on the property.

11. DWR shall limit its laboratory testing of soil and water samples to the "Geotechnical Laboratory Testing Methods" and the "Special Laboratory Testing Methods" set forth in the "DHCCP Laboratory Testing Methods, Draft Revision 1, Dated: 6-24-11," except that DWR may also perform one or more of the "Environmental Laboratory testing methods" set forth therein in the event DWR observes on-site indicators in the immediate area of the geotechnical activities (e.g., dead vegetation, crusting, discolored soil, odors, etc.) that indicate the likely presence of above-threshold levels of the constituent or constituents which are the subjects of those testing methods.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 21st day of March 2012, by the following vote:

AYES:	_____	ABSENT:	_____
NOES:	_____	ABSTAINED:	_____

_____
Anthony Saracino, Chairperson
California Water Commission

Attest: _____
Executive Officer