

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

14215 RIVER ROAD
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February 6, 2006

Peter Brundage, Executive Officer
Sacramento LAFCo
1112 I Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Amendment of the Sphere of Influence of SMUD and Annexation of the Cities of West Sacramento, Davis, and Woodland, and Portions of Unincorporated Areas of Yolo County (SCH #2005092009)

Dear Mr. Brundage:

The staff of the Delta Protection Commission (Commission) has reviewed the subject document dated January 2006. From the information provided, a determination has been made that the project is located the Secondary Zone of the Legal Delta. Therefore, actions for approval or denial are not subject to appeal to the Commission. However, any potential impacts to the resources of the Primary Zone of the Legal Delta resulting from activities in the Secondary Zone should be identified and analyzed pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Therefore, the following comments are provided for consideration during the environmental review and project approval process.

The Delta Protection Act (Act) was enacted in 1992 in recognition of the increasing threats to the resources of the Primary Zone of the Delta from urban and suburban encroachment having the potential to impact agriculture, wildlife habitat, and recreation uses. Pursuant to the Act, a Land Use and Resource Management Plan (Management Plan) for the Primary Zone was completed and adopted by the Commission in 1995 (updated in 2002).

The Management Plan sets out findings, policies, and recommendations resulting from background studies in the areas of environment, utilities and infrastructure, land use, agriculture, water, recreation and access, levees, and marine patrol/boater education/safety programs. As mandated by the Act, the policies of the Management Plan are incorporated in the General Plans of local entities having jurisdiction within the Primary Zone, including Sacramento and Yolo Counties as well as the Cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento.

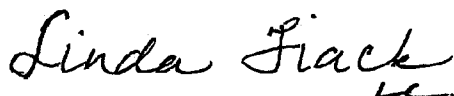
Based on the information provided to the Commission, it appears that there is the potential for activities relative to the proposed project to impact the resources of the Primary Zone, particularly with respect to the Utilities/Infrastructure, Land Use, and Agriculture Sections of the Management Plan. Therefore, it is recommended that the environmental review process include an analysis of any identified impacts to the Primary Zone and how such impacts will be mitigated to be consistent with the provisions of the Act and the Management Plan. Both documents are available for your reference at the Commission's website, www.delta.ca.gov.

Mitigation measure AG-1 states that impacts to agricultural land will be mitigated at a ratio of 1:1, which is consistent with the Commission's plan. However, per the Land Use and Agriculture sections of the plan, appropriate buffer areas may also need to be considered to protect surrounding agricultural land uses.

Also, per the Utilities & Infrastructure section of the plan, "Impacts associated with the construction of transmission lines and utilities can be mitigated by locating new construction in existing utility or transportation corridors, or along property lines" ... "To minimize impacts to agricultural practices, utility lines shall follow edges of fields" ... "Pipelines in utility corridors or existing rights-of-way shall be buried to avoid adverse impacts to terrestrial wildlife" ... and "Pipelines crossing agricultural areas shall be buried deep enough to avoid conflicts with normal agricultural activities."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. You can get more information on the Delta Protection Commission and its Management Plan at the Commission's website: www.delta.ca.gov. If you need any additional information from the Commission pertaining to this project, please contact me at (916) 776-2292 or at lindadpc@citlink.net.

Sincerely,



Linda Fiack, Executive Director

cc: State Clearinghouse
Mike McGowan, Supervisor, Yolo County
Don Nottoli, Supervisor, Sacramento County

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FAX

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 Re: _____ CC: _____

- Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

• Comments:

This is a letter re the proposed SNUD
SOI expansion project; hard copy to
follow by mail.

Thanks!
Lori