

California Department of Transportation

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT 10 DIRECTOR
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July 30, 2024

10-SJ-Various-PM Variouius Mokelumne River Integrated Conjunction Use Program NOP for EIR

Ashley Couch
San Joaquin County
Community Development Department
1810 E. Hazelton Ave
Stockton, CA 95205

Dear Ms. Couch:

The California Department of Transportation appreciates the opportunity to review the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Mokelumne River Integrated Conjunction Use Program (MICUP). The project proposes to appropriate water from Mokelumne River to lessen overdependence on groundwater. The Department has the following comments:

Water availability, use, storage, and transport is a critical component to the viability for all of California. Existing and future climate conditions in the region of the proposed program directly contribute to the long-term sustainability of the water supply and should be carefully considered in the development of this program and alternatives considered to meet the objectives of this program.

1. Please submit the DEIR to Caltrans for review and comment when it becomes available. The DEIR should include the following items.
2. Readily available climate projections, evaluations, and mapping addressing future climate projections, and adaptation measures for changes in precipitation, temperature, and subsidence and how the proposed program may be affected by these changes should be used to inform program alternatives.
3. Alternatives that improve water use efficiency and increase potential for increased water storage should be considered in addition to existing diversion and groundwater recharge efforts.

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4. If the project program EIR seeks to be compliant with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), document should provide additional information regarding climate adaptation (analysis of climate change effects from proposed action) as outlined in the Phase II NEPA regulations adopted by Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) rulemaking.
5. An explanation of how changes in the groundwater table will be monitored and whether that information will be publicly available.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (209) 483-2582 or Nicholas Fung at (209) 986-1552.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nicholas Fung". The signature is written in a cursive style.

FOR

Tom Dumas
Chief, Office of Metropolitan Planning