

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001  
(916) 653-5791



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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JUL 22 2008

County of Stanislaus  
Attn: Keith Boggs  
1010 – 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 3400  
Modesto, California 95354

Notice of Preparation for the West Park Draft Environmental Impact Report, City of  
Patterson, Stanislaus County, Delta Field Division, SCH2008062022

Dear Mr. Boggs:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the West Park Specific Plan Project. The notice describes the proposal by Stanislaus County (County) to use 4,800 acres of land on the former Crows Landing Air Facility to develop an inland port and short-haul rail service to the Port of Oakland, as well as other industrial, business park and distribution center purposes. The proposed development is located north of and adjacent to Fink Road, south of and adjacent to the Delta-Mendota Canal and West Marshall Road, west of and adjacent to Bell Road, and east of and adjacent to the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) in the City of Patterson. The project area borders approximately 4.4 miles of the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) right of way for the Aqueduct.

The notice describes the proposed interchanges (new or improved) on Interstate 5 at Oak Flat Road and Fink Road to improve access to the proposed development. The bridges over the Aqueduct on Oak Flat and Fink Roads between the freeway and the project site are owned by DWR, and the bridge wearing surface is maintained by the County. The increase in anticipated truck traffic will significantly impact the service life and ability to maintain these two-lane bridges.

Please advise the proponent that any proposed construction activity within DWR's right of way requires an encroachment permit. This would include any improvement work on rail crossings over the California Aqueduct alluded to in the notice. More information on obtaining an encroachment permit from DWR can be viewed at,

[http://www.doe.water.ca.gov/Services/Real\\_Estate/Encroach\\_Rel/index.cfm](http://www.doe.water.ca.gov/Services/Real_Estate/Encroach_Rel/index.cfm)

Mr. Keith Boggs

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Please provide DWR with a copy of any subsequent environmental documentation when it becomes available for public review. Any future correspondence relating to the above-mentioned concerns of DWR should be sent to:

Department of Water Resources  
Division of Operations and Maintenance  
Attn: State Water Project Encroachment Section  
1416 Ninth Street, Room 641-1  
Sacramento, California 95814

If you have any questions, please contact Scott Williams, Acting Chief of the State Water Project Encroachments Section, at (916) 653-5746.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David M. Samson".

David M. Samson, Chief  
State Water Project Operations Support Office  
Division of Operations and Maintenance