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Addendum to Mitigated Negative Declaration

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is the Lead State Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Engineering Geotechnical Studies Project and adopted an Initial Study and Amended Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) in 2010 (September 23, 2010; SCH 2010062041). Pursuant to section 15164 of CEQA, DWR has prepared this Addendum. DWR has been unable to obtain access to properties in the study area in order to complete the necessary geotechnical exploration activities within the timeframe established under the 2010 IS/MND. Therefore it is necessary to extend the December 31, 2012 completion date. An Initial Study (IS) was conducted for this Addendum, based on the 2010 IS/MND, and no conditions triggering a Subsequent Negative Declaration were found present.

Copies of the documents, including the 2010 IS/MND and current IS, may be obtained from the Department of Water Resources, Division of Environmental Services, 3500 Industrial Boulevard, West Sacramento, California 95691.

The Division of Engineering plans to conduct geotechnical exploration under the DHCCP at 22 locations [including borings, CPTs, and temporary test wells (piezometers)] along the State Route (SR) 160 right of way. These locations are associated with proposed intake structures for water conveyance facilities and are within the study area identified in the 2010 IS/MND. Exploration will occur within the northbound lane of SR 160 and landside shoulder along the top of the levee.

Exploration locations were reviewed to verify low potential for habitat and species impacts through the DWR data files, the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDD), and U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) data files. A preliminary environmental field survey of the exploration locations was conducted in February 2013. This was an overview field survey conducted from roadside stops along or near the property boundaries to determine habitat types and confirm aerial photographic information. Exploration locations will be thoroughly surveyed by environmental scientists once DWR has permission to enter private properties to further evaluate the potential impacts, if any, to environmental resources prior to any exploration activities. All minimization and avoidance measures stated under the adopted 2010 IS/MND for the Project will continue to be adhered to through Project completion. An environmental scientist will also review ingress and egress from exploration sites before and during operations and will be present during any exploration operations to act as an environmental monitor. Exploration locations may need to be shifted or removed from consideration as necessary to avoid any identified significant impacts to environmental resources or to reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level.

The locations along SR 160 are being highlighted in this Addendum to the 2010 IS/MND because temporary lane closures will be necessary at all the locations along SR 160. Caltrans prepared a traffic study, dated October 30, 2012, of SR 160. Based on total daily and hourly vehicle count, Caltrans concluded that there would be minimal impacts to traffic. In addition, DWR has reviewed the Caltrans study and concludes that the impacts to traffic are minor and would not change the findings in the IS/MND. DWR conducted an updated greenhouse gas (GHG) analysis and determined that the Project is consistent with the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan (GGERP). DWR has determined that the Project's incremental contribution to the cumulative impact of increasing atmospheric levels of GHG is less than cumulatively considerable and, therefore, less than significant.

DWR will work with Caltrans to develop a traffic control plan to minimize traffic delays and to maintain safety in and around work zones. Landowner outreach will be undertaken in advance of the lane closures and exploration work along SR 160, as well as notifying local public agencies that may be impacted

DWR archaeologists reviewed the California Historical Resources Information System for known cultural resources in the vicinity of the geotechnical borings. The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is extremely sensitive for both prehistoric and historic-era cultural resources. As such, all proposed drill locations will be surveyed by a qualified archaeologist prior to the start of any ground disturbing activities and once

DWR obtains permission to access private properties. If the archaeologist observes cultural resources at the proposed drill location, the location will be relocated or removed from consideration with consultation between DWR cultural staff and DWR geology staff. These surveys are necessary to satisfy the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Section 21083.2.

No cultural resources will be affected by Project activities. The Project will not cause a substantial change in a historical resource, archaeological resource, or remains. No archaeological resources or remains or paleontological resources or unique geologic features were identified within the proposed Project area during the field investigation.