STATE OF CALIFORNIA – CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., *Governor*

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

September 21, 2015

Mr. William Guthrie
Senior Project Manager, Sacramento Office
Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1325 J Street
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Submittal of Pre-Construction Notification for Nationwide Permit No. 6 (Survey Activities) under the Clean Water Act Section 404 and Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 for the West False River Salinity Barrier Geologic Exploration Project

Dear Mr. Guthrie:

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is submitting to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers a Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) for Nationwide Permit No. 6 (NWP6)(Survey Activities) under the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 and Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) Section 10 for the West False River Salinity Barrier Geologic Exploration Project. In July 2015, DWR installed the Emergency Drought Barrier at West False River to control salinity within the Sacramento River-San Joaquin River Delta. Under this NWP6 DWR would conduct geologic exploration for installation of a future salinity barrier in West False River. Geologic exploration is required to reduce uncertainty associated with the underlying ground that would support a future salinity barrier, locate poor foundations soils like peat, and better estimate engineering design parameters.

Land-based geologic exploration may occur either (1) after USACE authorization but before November 15, 2015, or (2) May 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016. Overwater geologic exploration may occur either (1) after USACE authorization but before November 15, 2015, or (2) August 1, 2016 through November 15, 2016. A total of up to four cone penetrometer tests, two drill holes, and one overwater drill hole would be completed.

Enclosed is a notification package that consists of the PCN and supplemental information, including:

- Attachment A: PCN Continuation
- Attachment B: Biological Assessments prepared for USFWS and NMFS
- Attachment C: Cultural Resources Report Prepared for the 2015 Emergency Drought Barrier Project

We look forward to working with you to obtain CWA Section 404 and RHA Section 10 authorization. If you have questions, need further information, or DWR can provide assistance with the permitting process, please contact our project manager, Jacob McQuirk, at (916) 653-9883 or Jacob.mcquirk@water.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Marshall, Chief
Bay-Delta Office

Enclosures

cc: Kim Squires
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