

Friends of the Clarksburg Library
P. O. Box 441
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www.ClarksburgLibraryFriends.org

July 23, 2016

Ms. Felicia Marcus, California WaterFix Project Co-Hearing Officer
Ms. Tam Doduc, California WaterFix Project Co-Hearing Officer
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

RE: Friends of the Clarksburg Library Policy Statement

Dear California WaterFix Project Co-Hearing Officers Marcus and Doduc,

On behalf of the Friends of the Clarksburg Library (FOCL) an Affiliate of North Delta CARES, I appreciate the opportunity to submit this statement relating to the petition jointly submitted (Joint Petition) to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) by the Department of Water Resources (Department) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) for a change in water rights as part of the California WaterFix Project (Project), Alternative 4a identified in the California Bay Delta Conservation Plan Environmental Impact Report/Environmental impact Statement (BDCP EIR/EIS) rebranded.

FOCL is a non-profit organization that help make it possible for Yolo County to have a branch library in Clarksburg, because they provide and maintain the building which houses the Library. The Clarksburg Library is the nerve center of this community. It provides a place for learning, enrichment, and civic involvement. It is a place where local residents go to access information about county activities and programs. In addition, it is the only library for the three local schools. Students from Delta Elementary Charter School walk from their school to the library weekly to participate in programs and utilize the libraries services.

The 2013 public draft of the BDCP EIR/EIS states the following in Impact Geo-5 on pg 9-61 “Pile driving and other heavy equipment operations would cause vibrations that could initiate liquefaction and associated ground movements in places where soil and groundwater conditions are present to allow liquefaction to occur. The consequences of liquefaction could be manifested in terms of compaction or settlement, loss of bearing capacity, lateral spreading (horizontal soil movement), increased lateral soil pressure, and buoyancy within zones of liquefaction. These consequences could cause loss of property or personal injury and could damage nearby structures and levees.” The library is a very old building; vibration caused by construction will impact the building and we are concerned that while there is clearly identified impact in the environmental document prepared for the Project, there is no mitigation or plan described to protect and repair buildings that are impacted by the Project. Merely following engineering practices to minimize the potential for this to happen is not acceptable. FOCL is a non-profit that would not have the funding to repair major damage to the building caused by the Project. This could result in the loss of the library for the town community and its schools.

In addition, like all of the homes in Clarksburg, water used at the library comes from groundwater wells. Dewatering and diversion associated with the construction and operation of Project will have an impact

on groundwater wells in the vicinity of the Project. Modeling shows that the library well is not likely to be impacted; however, modeling is not an exact science and cannot predict with absolute surety what may occur. If there are impacts to the groundwater wells at the library that effect our ability to use bathrooms or have potable water, there is potential for the library to be closed. This could impact not only the ability for the community to have access to the library, but one of FOCL's main sources of revenue. FOCL provides an activity room in the back of the library for rent. We will not be able to use the room if there is no access to potable and sanitary water. FOCL would request that there be an opt-in program offered by the Project to monitor wells and for the Project to mitigate for any impacts to wells in the vicinity of the Project. In addition, any lost revenues associated with impacts to wells should be compensated by the Project.

In conclusion, the construction, operation, and diversion of water associated with the Project will have a profound negative impact on our ability to operate a local library and the ability for FOCL to continue to support the library and the community. We respectfully request that the Joint Petition for Diversion be denied.

Respectfully,

Amanda Beck
President, Friends of the Clarksburg Library