

Index for Response to Comments; Letter #47

Commenter	Comment Number	Representative Comment	Major Category Number	Major Category
California Transportation Commission	47.1	47.1	31	Overall Opposition
California Transportation Commission	47.2	46.33	17	Economic Impacts & Potential for New Regulation
California Transportation Commission	47.3	28.11	26	Legal, Procedural, Process Obligation

BOB ALVARADO, Chair
FRAN INMAN, Vice Chair
YVONNE B. BURKE
LUCETTA DUNN
JAMES EARP
JAMES C. GHIEMMETTI
CARL GUARDINO
CHRISTINE KEHOE
JAMES MADAFFER
JOSEPH TAVAGLIONE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EDMUND G. BROWN Jr., Governor

LATE COMMENT

Public Comment
Statewide Dredged or Fill Procedures
Deadline: 8/18/16 by 12:00 Noon

SENATOR JIM BEALL, Ex Officio
ASSEMBLY MEMBER JIM FRAZIER, Ex Officio
SUSAN BRANSEN, Executive Director



CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1120 N STREET, MS-52
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
P. O. BOX 942873
SACRAMENTO, CA 94273-0001
(916) 654-4245
FAX (916) 653-2134
<http://www.catc.ca.gov>

August 18, 2016

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Comment Letter # 47

Re: Comment Letter – Statewide Dredged or Fill Procedures

Dear Ms. Townsend:

The California Transportation Commission (Commission) is in receipt of and has reviewed and considered the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) proposed Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Materials to Waters of the State at its August 2016 Commission meeting. Recognizing the importance of addressing California's mobility needs while protecting California's environment, and at the same time, the competing demands for declining transportation revenue, the Commission is concerned with the degree to which the California Department of Transportation (Department) and other transportation stakeholders can comply with the proposed procedures.

47-1

As you are aware, even with the current funding shortfalls, a significant amount of transportation funding is already directed toward those measures necessary to comply with existing laws and regulations, including existing requirements to protect California's environment. For example, the federal Clean Water Act, the state Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and other policies and guidance are regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the California Coastal Commission, and other agencies. To ensure that the proposed procedures promote streamlined processes that reduce regulatory redundancy and costs, it is critical that the SWRCB

47-2

consult with these agencies to evaluate the necessity of expanding the wetland definition and permitting process beyond existing requirements.

Given the potential magnitude of this new program, it is not enough to rely on a qualitative assessment of potential costs or consequences associated with the proposal. Therefore, the Commission recommends the SWRCB quantitatively estimate the potential costs of these proposed procedures and carefully weigh the estimated costs against the expected benefits before taking any formal action. To facilitate this effort, the Commission encourages the SWRCB to work closely with the Department and other stakeholders to develop a full analysis of the potential cost implications of these proposed procedures.

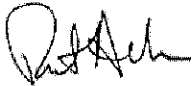
47-2
(cont.)

Finally, the Commission encourages the SWRCB to consider and address all comments received. Without careful consideration, a proposal of this magnitude could delay important transportation infrastructure, increase costs for an overburdened transportation financing system, and significantly impact the state's economy.

47-3

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Susan Bransen, Commission Executive Director, at (916) 654-4245.

Sincerely,



BOB ALVARADO
Chair