



**Department of Energy**  
Western Area Power Administration  
Sierra Nevada Customer Service Region  
114 Parkshore Drive  
Folsom, California 95630-4710

Dear Interested Party:

The Western Area Power Administration (Western) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze a proposal to construct, operate, and maintain a new 3.6-mile long 69-kilovolt (kV) single circuit electrical transmission line and to provide a new interconnection to the Contra Costa Water District's (CCWD) Alternative Intake Project (AIP) located in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta within San Joaquin and Contra Costa Counties. Under the Proposed Action, Western would provide electric service to CCWD facilities including a new CCWD substation and pump station on the Victoria Canal.

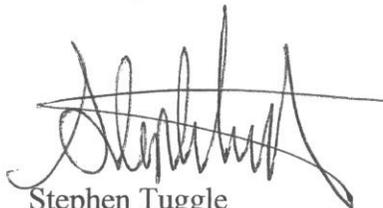
The EA evaluates Western's transmission line and interconnection (Proposed Action) for AIP. The Proposed Action would extend Western's existing Tracy-Los Vaqueros 69-kV transmission line from near CCWD's existing Old River Pump Station, span Old River onto Victoria Island, and continue along existing dirt roads to the AIP's new power substation serving the new CCWD Victoria Canal Pump Station. The Proposed Action would make AIP a new point of delivery on Western's system for delivery of power for pumping CCWD's Central Valley Project (CVP) Water and non-CVP water at the AIP. Western would be responsible for constructing, operating, and maintaining the proposed transmission line.

CCWD, together with the Bureau of Reclamation, prepared an environmental impact report/environmental impact statement (EIR/EIS) to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This EA uses much of the information contained in the EIR/EIS but is focused solely on the potential environmental effects associated with Western's Proposed Action.

On September, 25, 2008, the Draft EA was circulated for pre-approval review to satisfy our obligations under the NEPA to include the Council on Environmental Quality NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508) and DOE NEPA regulations (10 CFR 1021). At that time, Western also solicited public comment for the Draft EA through paid advertisement in the Stockton Record and the Contra Costa Times newspapers from September 25 through October 15, 2008. Four comment letters were received on the Draft EA and changes were incorporated and included in the Final EA. This letter is intended to provide notice to interested parties that the Final EA is available and no identified impacts were found to be significant, or they have been reduced to a less-than-significant level with the implementation of conservation measures. Western will proceed with issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact.

Enclosed is the Final EA for the proposed construction of the transmission line and interconnection. If you should have any questions regarding Western's proposed transmission line project and interconnection to CCWD facilities, or about our NEPA process with regard to this Project, please contact Ms. Cherie Johnston-Waldear at (916) 353-4035.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Tuggle", written over a horizontal line.

Stephen Tuggle  
Natural Resources Manager