



Knightsen CSD <knightsencsd@gmail.com>

Re: Follow-Up to our conversation re: proposed Knightsen Wetlands Project

1 message

Knightsen CSD <knightsencsd@gmail.com>

Sun, Feb 28, 2021 at 9:28 AM

To: "Ingram, Campbell@SSJDC" <Campbell.Ingram@deltaconservancy.ca.gov>

Good Morning Campbell,

Thank you for confirming receipt of our letter and sharing it with your board members. The past two outreach meetings held to date by the East Contra Costa Habitat Conservancy (ECCHC), have sorely lacked public notification. The only notifications have been via email for those who provided their email at a prior outreach meeting, and posting at the Knightsen post office on a 8 1/2 x 11 inch flyer. I have examined the county voter registration file for Knightsen and noted that only 1/3 receive their mail at the post office and even fewer that live in close proximity to the proposed Knightsen Wetlands receive their mail at the post office. Additionally, there is a portion of our demographics who don't have a computer and/or internet access.

When hearings or outreach meetings are held by government agencies, notifications are typically done by one of the following or a combination: (1) a letter is mailed to individuals and/or (2) large signs are posted at the property site. Many who have attended the two official ECCHC meetings only learned about them through word-of-mouth in our small community. I know that these additional means of notification have been suggested to Ms. Fateman at the prior outreach meetings, but she has not implemented them. Those who have attended the two outreach meetings to date have exhibited frustration indicating that they are just now learning of the proposed project. This has resulted in a growing lack of trust in ECCHC and the County.

Going forward, we are hopeful that ECCHC will seriously consider the community's concerns regarding the proposed wetlands.

Regards,
Trish Bello-Kunkel, Chairperson
Knightsen Town Community Services District (KTCSO)

On Tue, Feb 23, 2021 at 9:14 AM Ingram, Campbell@SSJDC <Campbell.Ingram@deltaconservancy.ca.gov> wrote:

Hello Ms. Bello-Kunkel,

Good to see the CSD is back up and running. The project has been significantly delayed, mostly due to COVID impacts. We are currently amending our contract with the ECCHC to provide additional funding to support the outreach that you reference which should begin sometime in the coming months. I will share your letter with our board members.

Thank you,

Campbell

Campbell Ingram

Executive Officer

916.281.4145 cell

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

"A partner for balanced ecosystem restoration and economic development in the Delta."

www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov

From: Knightsen CSD <knightsencsd@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 2:44 PM
To: Ingram, Campbell@SSJDC <Campbell.Ingram@deltaconservancy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow-Up to our conversation re: proposed Knightsen Wetlands Project

Mr. Ingram,

Attached is a follow-up letter the Knightsen Town Community Services District (KTCSD) sent to the East Contra Costa Habitat Conservancy (ECCHC). Please share this letter with the members of the Delta Conservancy governing board.

A year ago, on February 21, 2020, I spoke with you and members of your team about the concerns the KTCSD Board of Directors and members of the Knightsen community have regarding the proposed Knightsen Wetlands Restoration Project. Thank you for listening to our concerns.

The Delta Conservancy has provided funding for the proposed wetlands project (Conservancy ID: Prop1-1709). The attached follow-up letter was sent to ECCHC because to date ECCHC has not fully responded to our questions and concerns. On February 28, 2020, ECCHC sent a letter responding to a limited number of issues and they promised further responses would be forthcoming. They also stated that there would be more effective public outreach including six additional public meetings in 2020 and 2021. To date we have not received any additional responses from ECCHC and they have not conducted any additional public outreach meetings.

I understand that COVID-19 has made in-person meetings impossible, but public agencies (such as KTCSD and ECCHC) have become very effective at conducting meetings remotely.

Best Regards,

Trish Bello-Kunkel, Chairperson

Knightsen Town Community Services District (KTCS D)

On Mon, Feb 24, 2020 at 12:47 PM Knightsen CSD <knightsencsd@gmail.com> wrote:

Good Afternoon Campbell,

Thanks again to you and your team for speaking with me on Friday (2/21) and listening to the Knightsen community's concerns about the proposed Knightsen Wetlands project. As a follow-up to that discussion, I want to share a couple data points with you.

1) Attached is the petition signed by community members that was submitted to the Knightsen Town Community Services District (KTCS D). A second petition with similar language was also submitted to the Knightsen Town Advisory Council (KTAC) which is a municipal advisory council to the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors. Copies of both petitions are in the possession of ECCHCP Executive Officer, Abigail Fateman.

2) During our phone discussion, I mentioned that with regard to CEQA compliance it appears that East Contra Costa Habitat Conservancy (ECCHC) and its partners, East Bay Regional Park (who owns the property), and Contra Costa Flood Control intend to file an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration. This is stated in Chapter 7-2 of their Conceptual Alternatives Report prepared in September 2019. Here's the link to that report: <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/61285/Conceptual-Alternatives-Report---UPDATED-PDF---Large-Document-204-MB>

It states the following: "Environmental Review (CEQA): The proposed project is intended to comply with the requirements of HCP/NCCP and associated 2006 EIS/EIR. Based upon the current understanding of the project, **an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) is assumed to be the appropriate CEQA compliance document.**"

My knowledge of CEQA is minimal, but based upon my research, I understand that a "**Negative Declaration**" states upon completion of an initial study, that there is no substantial evidence that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. A Negative Declaration is a statement that a project will not create significant environmental harm, or that environmental damage has been mitigated to a less than significant level.

Given our substantial concerns about the proposed project, I am very concerned that if they are allowed to go this route they are doing so to minimize and gloss over Knightsen community's concerns.

Trish Bello-Kunkel, Chairperson

Knightsen Town Community Services District (KTCS D)