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February 26, 2021

Knightsen Town Community Services District
P.O. Box 763
Knightsen, CA 94548
(sent via email: knightsenCSD@gmail.com)

Dear Chairperson Bello-Kunkel and Directors of the Knightsen Town Community Services District (KTCS D) Board:

I am writing in response to your letter dated February 12, 2021 requesting additional information on the timeline for the Wetlands Project.

The project team has taken the KTCS D's questions seriously and has embarked on additional work and has dedicated additional funding to address those concerns. Those studies have been underway for the past year. Some of these studies take up to a full year of data collection, and analysis of the data takes additional time. There were some delays due to COVID-19 work/travel restrictions, red-flag fire danger work restrictions, and outdoor work restrictions related to smoke. However, the project team has managed to complete most of the field work needed in 2020 and they are currently completing the analysis of the data that was collected. This information will be used to inform project design and to provide additional responses to the questions asked by the KTCS D as I indicated in the February 28, 2020 letter.

The Conservancy has committed to having additional public outreach meetings. Those meetings will be convened when there is new information to share and/or project developments on which to solicit feedback. I expect those meetings to start in Spring 2021. I anticipate that some of these meetings will be held via Zoom or another remote platform and am hopeful that we will be able to hold in-person meetings later this year or in 2022.

I was invited to make a presentation to the Knighten Town Advisory Council (KTAC) in August 2020 and at that time provided a project overview to the Council and Zoom attendees. This presentation was given to the KTAC during the time when the KTCS D had an active application for dissolution submitted to LAFCO. That presentation included summarized next steps. The text from those PowerPoint slides follows:

Shorter term next steps:

- Compiling and analyzing data from recent soil and ground water investigations and integrating that information into the concept designs.
- To answer additional questions posed by the community (via the KTCS D), we are going to ask some property owners adjacent to the project site for permission to sample well water.
- Additional outreach meetings to discuss results of studies and project design (Conservancy sponsored meetings).

Longer term next steps:

- On-going opportunities to engage in the project design and storm water management (and how the two actions relate).
- Knightsen Town Hall Meeting: Drainage services before, during, and after the CSD: September 1, 2020 (County sponsored meeting).
- Continued work to eventually finalize project design.

Large projects like this require flexibility in schedule as new data informs project design or identifies opportunities or constraints for the project. The general schedule for the items you requested is provided below.

Schedule for additional answers to KTCSD questions: As indicated above, the work on additional studies has been occurring over the past year. The project team anticipates being able to provide answers to the KTCSD questions this spring. These will be sent as a written response to the KTCSD, but we will also dedicate one of the outreach meetings to presenting the answers and being available to explain the studies that were undertaken, as well as implications of the study results.

Schedule for outreach meetings: The project team anticipates that outreach meetings will start in Spring 2021, after the project team addresses the outstanding questions from the KTCSD. The remainder of the meetings will be related to project milestones and provide opportunity for community input. The outreach meetings are anticipated to focus on the following topics:

- 1) Answers to KTCSD questions including the presentation of studies undertaken to answer these questions;
- 2) Refined project alternatives;
- 3) Selected project alternative;
- 4) Focused design elements of selected alternative (topics including potential future public access, drainage dynamics, interaction with local service/utility providers, and other design elements).

Meetings 5 and 6 are floating meetings so that there is flexibility to either extend one of the identified meetings (or break it into two meetings) or to add a topic as needed.

Anticipated timeline for this phase of the project: The project team currently anticipates that the design and environmental analysis work will be complete by mid-2022.

Please feel comfortable reaching out to me for any additional information.

Sincerely,



Abigail Fateman
Executive Director