

November 12, 2021

Subject: Thank you for the delay

To:

Commissioners Dubin, Bird, Dudley, Reynolds, Muller, Campbell, and Gibbs

cc:

Principal Planner Cormier; Supervisors Villegas, Saylor, Sandy, Provenza, and Barajas

Before the week is over, I want to thank you commissioners for delaying your recommendation regarding the certification of the Teichert Shifler Mining and Reclamation Project EIR and approval of the project itself.

What caught my attention in the EIR, and in your questions, discussion, and the public comments of 11/10, are the following:

- loss of prime agricultural land
- the adequacy of a 250-ft setback from the south bank of Cache Creek, where a 700-foot setback is required
- the adequacy of the proposed setback from the Moore Canal banks
- preparedness for a 100-year or mega flood
- emissions from excavation, processing, and transportation
- groundwater concerns
- traffic and noise

I know you have engaged many experts and I hope these particular issues will be carefully reviewed by professionals who understand the project, the science/technology involved, and the possible consequences to the environment and future generations. I am not a scientist or expert of any kind, so I depend on the County's working group and other professionals involved to review their contributions to the EIR before the Dec. 9 meeting of the Planning Commission.

Finally, I wonder if an even longer delay would be profitable to Teichert, its employees, the Shifler family, Yolo County, the community, and recognized and unrecognized Patwin Wintun people. I can only imagine the delicate balance of relationships, and the greater harm that could be done to all, if moving forward became a matter of a yea or nay vote, especially if taken prematurely.

We are all around the corner from new technologies that are just waiting to be put into practice (and evolve) by collaboration by public and private sectors. Yolo County and Teichert seem to be in a unique position because of their decades-long collaboration, having already negotiated and instituted quantum leaps in mining and reclamation practices.

To my layperson's mind come thoughts of:

- Teichert continuing to mine in Esparto and on the Schwartzgruber property before disturbing the Shifler property,
- demolishing the Esparto plant, when its usefulness has ended and using onsite technology to crush the plant's used concrete for reuse in another Teichert construction project,
- supporting Teichert in converting from plant-centered processing of aggregates to onsite processing with portable, zero or low-emission equipment
- investing in new technologies, rather than in enlarging and updating the Woodland plant,
- investing in zero or low-emission transportation of materials,
- the county/community purchasing/leasing the Shifler property as a hands-on education center and "lab," for continued development of sustainable ag practices, while producing local food; another Cache Creek field trip opportunity for community members, families, and students of every level, primary to college.

The delay you approved on 11/10, could allow not only time for further examination of the EIR, but also time to begin initial conversations with innovators (perhaps with capital and a need for the opportunity to put innovation to practice) about the transition from pre-climate-crisis technologies and practices to post-climate-crisis ones.

Beginning the transition today is what many young people are crying for. They can't afford for our generation to waste any more time in addressing "concretely" (through new and developing technologies and practices) the climate and environmental issues of our time and theirs. They cannot afford for us to waste another 30 years--a generation's worth of time--to let go of old technologies and practices and shift to new ones that will give them and their children and their children's children a chance to thrive in an environment that we can now help create for them.

You have more vision than I do and know much more what technologies and practices are around the corner that will benefit our generation and many more to come.

Again, thank you for the delay in making recommendations on the Teichert Shifler Project. I was so very impressed by your questions, discussion, and consideration of public input.