

**MOORPARK CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: Honorable City Council
FROM: Jennifer Mellon, Administrative Services Manager 
DATE: July 7, 2014 (CC Meeting of 7/16/14)
SUBJECT: Consider Bay Delta Conservation Plan Letter of Support

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) is a vital component which provides Moorpark and other Ventura County jurisdictions with a vast majority of their annual water needs; over 90% of Moorpark's needs are met by water conveyed from the Delta. Calleguas Municipal Water District (Calleguas) and Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1 are acutely aware of the Delta's importance to our local water supply, and on November 6, 2013, the Calleguas Board of Directors adopted a Resolution (Attachment A) supporting the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) process.

Calleguas is seeking support of a draft support letter (Attachment B) regarding the BDCP. Imported northern California water is distributed by Calleguas to cities, local water agencies, and private water companies throughout southern Ventura County. Communities within the Simi and Conejo Valleys are completely reliant upon water imported by Calleguas as part of the State Water Project (SWP) and the Calleguas water supply is entirely imported from the Delta as part of the SWP.

At the City Council Meeting of July 2, 2014, Eric Bergh, Manager of Resources, Calleguas Municipal Water District; Susan Mulligan, General Manager, Calleguas Municipal Water District; and Calleguas Board Members Andy Waters, Thom Slossor, and Steve Blois spoke during the public comment period all giving a summary of the BDCP and requesting City support of the BDCP process.

The BDCP is a proposed multi-decade, multi-billion dollar project to be undertaken to improve State Water Project reliability while enhancing the Delta ecosystems which have degraded over time. The BDCP would build tunnels under the existing Delta and create over 100,000 acres of habitat for endangered species. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared and is circulating for public review. The comment period for the EIR ends on July 29, 2014. A synopsis of the project is provided in Attachment C of this report and more information on the state and local benefits of the BDCP can be found at <http://www.calleguas.com/bdcp.htm>.

In 2012, a Draft BDCP was published for comment which would provide for over 100,000 acres of restored habitat to enhance the Delta ecosystem and facilitate the recovery of sensitive species; increase local water supply reliability by constructing twin 40' diameter tunnels 35 miles long and 3 intake structures to improve water conveyance efficiency within the delta and enable increased pumping from the Delta during wet years for storage of water in Southern California; and support climate risk adaption to protect the Delta from rising sea levels, seismic damage, and levee failure which could result in salt water intrusion/contamination of water supply.

Calleguas studied the draft BDCP and concludes the BDCP supports their mission of creating a reliable water source by reducing the risk of catastrophic impacts to Delta water quality from earthquakes and floods; providing imported water essential for blending with regional groundwater high in salt content; and importing water as the source for recycled water, which is used not only for direct irrigation but also as an essential supply of recharge water for local aquifers.

The BDCP is not without controversy. Approximately 28 environmental organizations and two Native American tribes, known as the Environmental Caucus, are opposed to the draft BDCP. Along with the estimated \$25 billion price tag (critics estimate costs to be closer to \$60 billion that will be passed along to the rate-payers), the 10-year disruptive construction period, and the 50-year environmental implementation period, critics claim that the BDCP is based on "cherry picked science" entrenched in the 40,000 page report which is difficult to comprehend. The plan fails to include a cost benefit analysis and fails to identify who will be responsible for the proposed costs.

Critics also accuse the plan of not conserving the Delta. They claim the BDCP does not reduce reliance on the Delta, but increases it. Past aquatic habitat restoration has failed and the plan only proposes to address a limited acreage. Water diversion would disrupt the natural outflow and harm native fish species. There is also concern that the BDCP could depress local Delta communities during the 10-year construction phase by impairing local water sources for residents, impacting recreation and tourism businesses, and reducing farming production.

Although there is a great deal of discussion, opinion, and some controversy with regards to the BDCP, it's process, and associated construction; ultimately, a more reliable water supply is needed. Unlike other Counties in Southern California with access to both the Colorado River and SWP, Ventura County's import dependent communities are reliant on the SWP supplies and, as such, are at a greater risk to interruptions in this supply.

Calleguas is requesting local agency support of the draft letter by having an elected official sign the letter and provide an agency logo to affix to the document. This letter has current local support by the Cities of Oxnard and Port Hueneme, United Water Conservation

District, Ventura County Economic Development Association, and the Chambers of Commerce for Moorpark, Oxnard, Simi Valley, Camarillo, and the Greater Conejo Valley. The City of Simi Valley City Council gave direction to sign the draft letter or a similar correspondence letter of support for the BDCP. The City of Thousand Oaks City Council Meeting of July 8, 2014 had an item on the Agenda to discuss the BDCP; however, the item was pulled by staff to be heard at a future meeting. The City of Camarillo City Council discussed the BDCP on July 9, 2014 and was unanimous in their direction to sign the Calleguas Draft letter in support of the BDCP.

U.S. Senators Feinstein and Boxer along with Congresswoman Brownley support the plan as well as local Assemblymember Jeff Gorell. Senator Pavley is focused on the water bond issue and her authored water legislation and has not taken a position with regards to the BDCP at this time.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no direct Fiscal Impact.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Direct staff as deemed appropriate.

- Attachment A: Calleguas Municipal Water District Resolution
- Attachment B: Calleguas Municipal Water District Draft Comment Letter
- Attachment C: Bay Delta Conservation Plan Fast Facts

RESOLUTION NO. 1798

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
IN SUPPORT OF THE BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN PROCESS

WHEREAS, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) provides water to 25 million Californians, including more than 600,000 Ventura County residents, three million acres of farmland, is made up of hundreds of miles of manmade levees that transport fresh water, is home to hundreds of species of wildlife, and is at risk of catastrophic failure; and

WHEREAS, Calleguas is committed to reducing its reliance on imported water through the development of local resource and water use efficiency programs as evidenced by the implementation of the \$250 million Calleguas Salinity Management Pipeline project that will enable the treatment and use of poor quality groundwater within the service area, active management of and financial contributions towards numerous water conservation programs, and planning and technical assistance to its member purveyors in a variety of local water resource programs.

WHEREAS, unlike other counties in southern California with access to imported water from both the Colorado River and State Water Project (SWP), Ventura County's import-dependent communities are virtually 100 percent reliant on SWP supplies and, as such, are at greater risk to interruptions in this supply; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Geological Survey has warned there is a 63 percent probability that a 6.7 magnitude or larger earthquake will hit the Bay Area in the next 30 years, which could trigger levee breaks throughout the Delta, allowing saltwater from the San Francisco Bay to rush in and contaminate the freshwater moving through the Delta, drastically reducing or eliminating the availability of Ventura County's only imported water supply for many years; and

WHEREAS, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) has been crafted out of seven years of research and planning and more than 300 public meetings and couples a new water delivery system with habitat restoration to achieve long-term water supply reliability and a healthy Delta ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, it is irrefutable that immediate investments are needed to repair and upgrade the Delta's network of waterways, levees and other water infrastructure, specifically, in the form of the construction of a new water conveyance facility that, dependent on river conditions, will transport from zero to 30 percent of total Sacramento River water flow underneath or around the Delta which will protect sensitive fish species from water project operations in the South Delta and also ensure that this valuable water supply is protected from levee failures; and

WHEREAS, the BDCP has been designed with the co-equal goals of ensuring water reliability and providing significant habitat restoration efforts and the ongoing protection of the Delta's fragile ecosystem; and

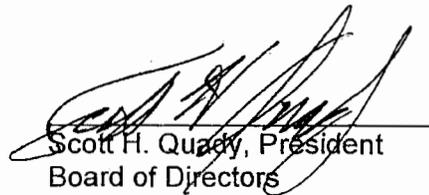
WHEREAS, it is anticipated that Ventura County will greatly benefit from the BDCP through the plan's enhanced water supply reliability, improved physical infrastructure of our water system, and the restoration and protections to environment and species of the Delta; and

WHEREAS, in acknowledgement that the status quo in the Delta is unacceptable, over many decades since the completion of initial SWP facilities, the Board of Directors of Calleguas Municipal Water District has strongly expressed continued support of efforts by the State of California to complete the SWP and implement a true "Delta fix" that ensures both a reliable water supply and healthy ecosystem.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Calleguas Municipal Water District formally supports the BDCP process.

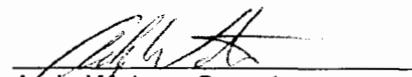
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we hereby authorize the listing of Calleguas Municipal Water District in support of the BDCP process.

ADOPTED, SIGNED AND APPROVED this sixth day of November, 2013.


Scott H. Quady, President
Board of Directors

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Calleguas Municipal Water District held on November 6, 2013.

ATTEST:


Andy Waters, Secretary
Board of Directors

(SEAL)



(Other agency/organization logos logos)

June xx, 2014

Bay Delta Conservation Plan Comments
 Ryan Wulff, National Marine Fisheries Service
 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan – Public Comments

Dear Mr. Wulff:

On behalf of the Calleguas Municipal Water District (Calleguas), a member agency of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), its member purveyors, and economic development and business organizations in southern Ventura County, we would like to provide the following comments on the draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) as released on December 13, 2013.

The State Water Project (SWP) is a vital component of Southern California's water system, providing roughly 30 percent of the region's water needs. However, 70 percent of the annual water demand for over 600,000 water users in southern Ventura County is met with state water supplies. While many efforts are underway to reduce our service area's imported water demand, including groundwater desalination, recycled water, and conservation programs, state project water will remain an essential water source for our region. It will continue to serve as a primary source for our drinking water supply and recycled water projects. It is also the single largest recharge component of our groundwater basins following treatment and discharge from local municipal wastewater facilities. Moreover, given its comparatively high quality, it allows greater use of our native groundwater that must be blended with imported water to meet state and federal water quality standards. As such, a reliable supply of imported state water is critical for the future social and economic vitality of Ventura County.

In recent years, both state and federal project deliveries have been repeatedly interrupted and reduced due to operational conflicts with threatened and endangered Delta species. Since 2007, it is estimated that nearly 3.5 million acre feet of water that normally could have been delivered by the SWP was lost due to these conflicts. This water loss is roughly equivalent to a 35-year supply for the Calleguas service area – a startling and troubling reality!

Additionally, both projects risk complete failure given the vulnerability of the Delta levee system to catastrophic earthquake and flood events - threatening water supplies for Southern California, the Bay Area, the Central Coast and the Central Valley for many

years. These risks are clearly unacceptable, and conditions are expected to worsen with climate change unless steps are taken now to mitigate these concerns.

Southern California ratepayers have been investing in the State Water Project for more than four decades, and have additionally invested billions of dollars in regional storage and conveyance to allow Southern California to capture water when it is plentiful and reduce demands on imported supplies during dry and critically dry years. These investments are effectively stranded if water deliveries from the project continue to degrade.

The proposed BDCP, being developed under provisions of the state and federal endangered species protection laws, is the most promising plan developed to date to solve these challenges and resolve decades of conflicts between agricultural, urban and environmental water users with a comprehensive solution that achieves California's Co-Equal goals of a reliable water supply and a restored Delta ecosystem for the benefit of all water users.

The release of the public draft BDCP represents an important milestone in this eight-year stakeholder process. In exhaustive detail, the draft BDCP illustrates the complexity of the problems and the need for a comprehensive approach to resolve conflicts in the Delta through a multi-species habitat conservation plan that protects the state's water resources and infrastructure.

We are supportive of the BDCP's proposed twin-tunnel conveyance system that isolates and protects drinking water supplies and helps restore natural flow patterns in the Delta for the benefit of native species, as well as the complementary habitat restoration, water quality and predator control measures outlined in the BDCP. We also support the plan's recognition that changing conditions in the Delta will require ongoing scientific review and real-time monitoring so the plan can effectively adapt over time to emerging science and the evolving ecosystem. The draft plan also provides an important framework for a range of operational outcomes and level of certainty necessary for a final plan to merit investment by participating public water agencies and by the state and federal governments.

While key decisions remain relating to specifics on cost allocations, operations, outflow range, financing and other issues; the current draft details a workable solution to the challenges facing California's water resources and the Delta. The proposed BDCP is the most comprehensive effort ever undertaken to address the chronic water challenges facing the state and federal water projects in a manner that is protective of the Delta environment. We remain supportive of the efforts of Metropolitan and the other state and federal water contractors in the development of the BDCP and urge the state to move forward with the draft plan and focus on resolving those remaining issues needed to provide assurances that the plan will achieve California's co-equal goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration in a cost-effective manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this historic draft plan.

Sincerely,

BDCP

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

March 2013

California's Future Depends on Delta Water Supply

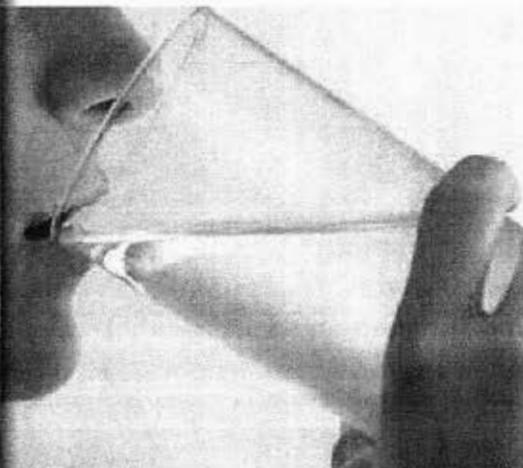
The importance of the Delta to statewide water supplies cannot be overstated.

Two out of three Californians and 3 million acres of farmland receive some water from the Delta.

Fresh water that reaches the Delta from the Sierra Nevada mountains serves businesses and homes from Silicon Valley to San Diego County.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta), located east of San Francisco Bay, is a vast and vitally important ecosystem to California. The Delta is home to hundreds of aquatic and terrestrial species—some unique to the area—as well as more than 500,000 people, a thriving agricultural economy, and a distinctive recreational resource.

Equally important, the Delta provides water for 25 million Californians and supplies an agricultural industry that, in turn, feeds millions. Water from the Delta irrigates farms where much of the nation's domestic produce is grown. Delta water powers the California economy. We cannot thrive without it.



Here's the problem that all Californians face: **The Delta has been stretched to a breaking point.** The ecosystem is in steep decline and has put the water that millions of Californians depend on at risk. Environmental restrictions on water deliveries are meant to protect Delta fish species, but have also greatly reduced the flexibility to meet statewide water supply needs.





The BDCP Can Solve the Delta's Problems and Provide Reliable Water Supply, Economic Sustainability, and Jobs

A team of federal and state water experts, scientists, and public water agencies have worked together for years on a way to address the Delta's problems. The resulting Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) will balance the needs of fish and wildlife with California's human and economic needs.

The BDCP is a comprehensive conservation strategy aimed at protecting dozens of species of fish and wildlife, while permitting the reliable operation of California's two biggest water delivery projects.

To secure water supplies and protect the economy, the BDCP will:

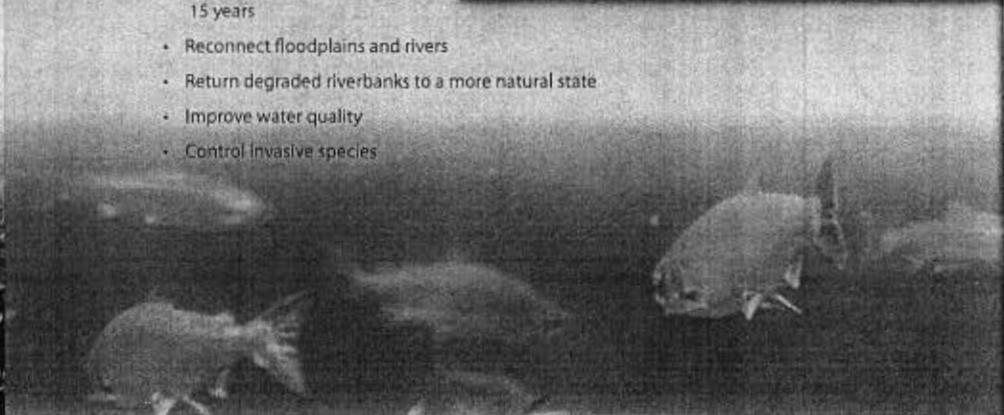
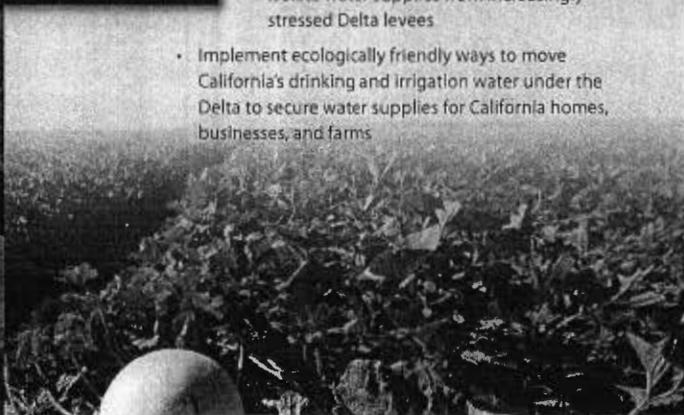
- Provide water managers with a reliable and predictable amount of water
- Protect against water supply disruptions for 66 percent of the state's population
- Protect water supplies from catastrophic failure due to earthquakes or failed levees
- Boost the state's ability to respond to drought and climate change
- Create 137,000 jobs
- Isolate water supplies from increasingly stressed Delta levees
- Implement ecologically friendly ways to move California's drinking and irrigation water under the Delta to secure water supplies for California homes, businesses, and farms

To restore a healthy Delta ecosystem, the BDCP will:

- Improve the overall ecological health of the Delta
- Reverse the trend of habitat loss and help recover declining populations of native species
- Address habitat needs for 11 fish species and 46 wildlife and plant species
- Improve natural flow conditions for fish and wildlife
- Implement an accelerated habitat restoration program by creating 30,000 acres of aquatic habitat in the next 15 years
- Reconnect floodplains and rivers
- Return degraded riverbanks to a more natural state
- Improve water quality
- Control invasive species

The direct benefits of the BDCP to water users—reliable export volume, reduced regulatory and legal uncertainty, improved water quality, reduced seismic risk to water supplies—exceed the costs of BDCP.

As the Delta ecosystem improves in response to BDCP implementation, water operations will become more reliable and secure.

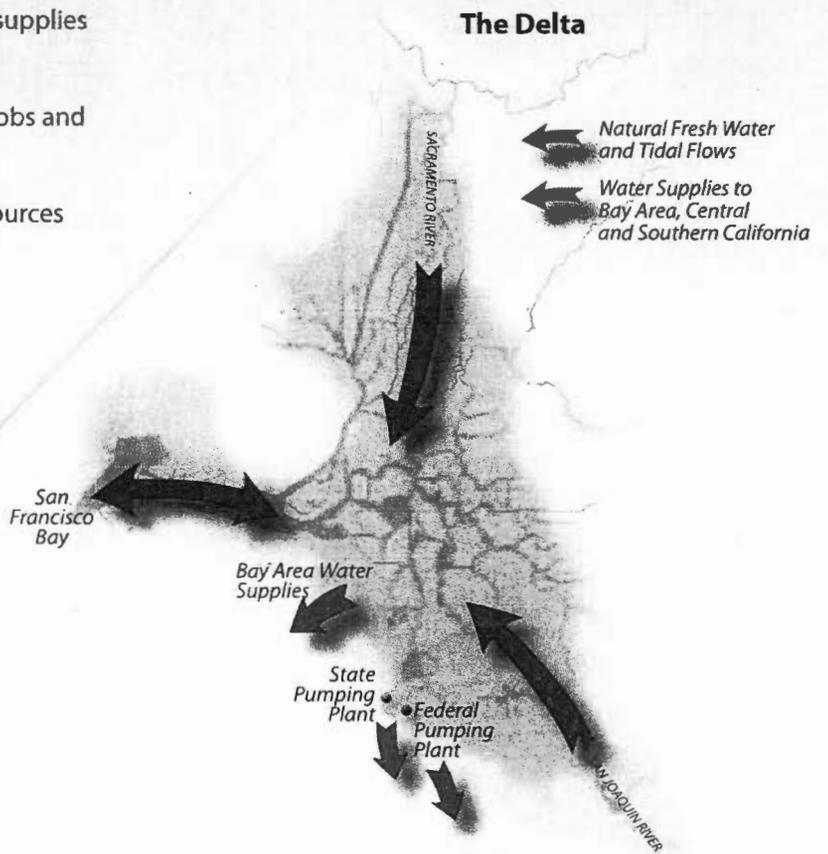


What's at stake?

The heart of California's water system rests in the Delta, and its current configuration is at risk of failure. Without changes to the way water currently flows through the Delta, Californians risk:

- A loss of secure and reliable drinking water supplies for millions of people
- Damage to the statewide economy, loss of jobs and loss of business
- Further degradation of precious natural resources and extinction of native species

BDCP would environmentally retrofit, modernize, and restore greater flexibility to the state's water system.



The state's two most important water delivery systems are located in the Delta: the federal Central Valley Project, operated by the United States Bureau of Reclamation, and the California State Water Project, operated by the California Department of Water Resources.

The future of reliable, high-quality water supplies for Californians depends upon a healthy Delta ecosystem and critical upgrades to the Delta's water delivery infrastructure.

The BDCP's intent to ensure the coequal goals of ecosystem recovery and water supply reliability serves the entire California community, not just part of it. The BDCP is based on science, environmental research, and economic realities. The agencies preparing the BDCP welcome public input.

For more information, visit:
www.baydeltaconservationplan.com

The BDCP is...

...a long-term strategy to secure California's water supplies and improve the ecosystem of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

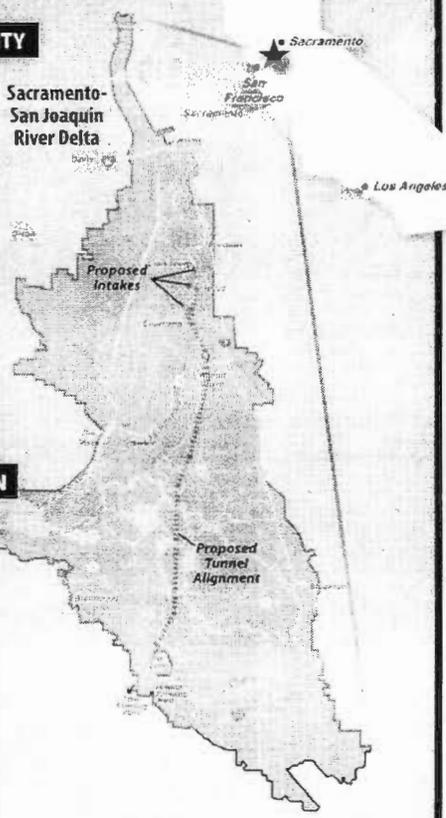
The BDCP Co-Equal Goals

WATER SUPPLY RELIABILITY

- 3 INTAKES**
- 2 GRAVITY FLOW TUNNELS**
- 30 MILES IN LENGTH**
- 9,000 CFS* CAPACITY**
*Cubic Feet per second

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

- 150,000 ACRES OF RESTORED AND PROTECTED HABITAT**
- 56 PROTECTED SPECIES**
- IMPROVED FLOW CONDITIONS TO BENEFIT FISH IN THE DELTA**



The BDCP Would Benefit Millions of Californians

The BDCP is one part of California's overall water portfolio. It aims to protect our unique Delta ecosystem and secure water supplies for a vast part of the California economy.

SECURING WATER SUPPLIES



4.7-5.6 MILLION ACRE-FEET ON AVERAGE ANNUALLY
(An acre-foot is roughly as much water as two California households use, indoors and outdoors, in a year)

CREATING & PROTECTING JOBS



1.1 MILLION FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT JOBS CREATED AND SAVED FOR CALIFORNIA
(Based on a year by year estimate)

BOOSTING THE ECONOMY



\$84 BILLION INCREASE IN STATE ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY

The BDCP is Important for California

WATER SUPPLY RELIABILITY

25 MILLION PEOPLE

from the Bay Area to San Diego rely on water from the Delta

MORE THAN 3 MILLION ACRES OF FARMLAND rely on water from the Delta

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

DELTA FISH AND WILDLIFE depend upon a healthy Delta ecosystem

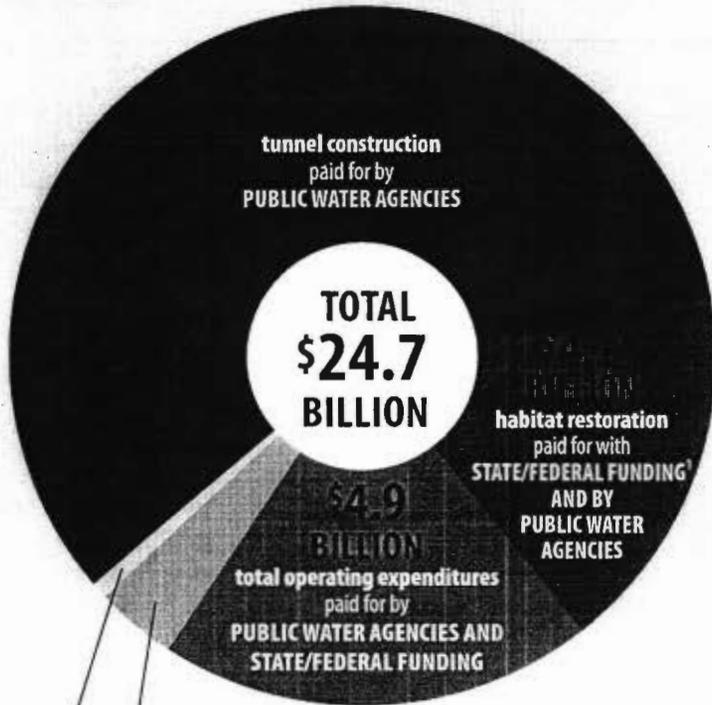
CLIMATE RISK ADAPTATION

LEVEE FAILURES **RISING SEA LEVELS** **EARTHQUAKES**

NATURAL RISKS AND CLIMATE CHANGE threaten the reliability of the existing system

BDCP Cost and Funding...

...implemented over a 50-year period.



\$.927 BILLION paid for by PUBLIC WATER AGENCIES AND STATE/FEDERAL FUNDING to address other stressors

\$.184 BILLION for monitoring, research, plan administration, and other costs paid for by PUBLIC WATER AGENCIES AND STATE/FEDERAL FUNDING

¹ The availability of federal funds will be contingent on future federal appropriations.

The BDCP is Guided by the Best Available Science



ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

to implement and monitor BDCP biological goals and objectives



WATER OPERATIONS

by the Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation



OVERSIGHT

by state and federal fish and wildlife agencies

The BDCP Would Benefit the Delta Ecosystem

DELTA RESTORATION

BDCP would contribute to the conservation of 56 species of fish, plants and wildlife in the Delta.

45 
SPECIES OF PLANTS & WILDLIFE CONSERVED
 through protection and enhancements in the quantity and quality of habitat in the Delta.

52% 
INCREASE IN PROTECTED LAND
 in the Delta

11 
FISH SPECIES BENEFIT,
 from an increase in the amount and quality of habitat, food sources, and ecological function of Delta flows. Species include Chinook salmon and delta smelt.

10 
OTHER STRESSOR REDUCTION MEASURES
 would reduce adverse effects, such as invasive species, predation, and contaminants, to improve the ecological function of the Delta.

The BDCP Draft EIR/EIS is... An analysis of BDCP and its alternatives' negative and beneficial impacts on the human environment, and actions to avoid or minimize negative impacts, with the goal of improving the Delta ecosystem and ensuring reliable water supplies for 25 million Californians.

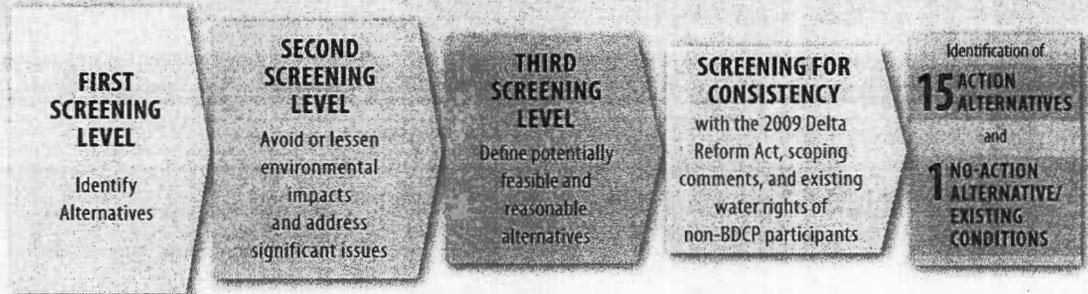
Environmental Analysis Objectives

 DEVELOP REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES to meet the purpose and need and avoid or minimize impacts	 ANALYZE Environmental impacts	 DEVELOP MITIGATION MEASURES to reduce or avoid impacts	 EVALUATE Economic impacts	 PREPARE INFORMATION for public and stakeholder review and comment	 DISCLOSE project impacts, mitigation, and public comments to decision-makers
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Robust, Science Driven Screening Process

Alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIR/EIS must:

- 1 Be feasible and reasonable
- 2 Meet project objectives
- 3 Avoid or substantially reduce significant impacts



The BDCP Draft EIR/EIS Analyzes more than 600 resource area impact categories. Of these resource impact categories, 65-79 environmental impacts were deemed beneficial, depending upon the alternative evaluated. 57-60 resource areas were found to have no impact, and up to 431 resource area impacts were deemed less than significant.

The Draft EIR/EIS determined 54-72 significant and unavoidable impacts (as determined by the California Environmental Quality Act), depending upon alternative, that may be reduced with the implementation of additional mitigation measures.

BDCP Environmental Benefits and Impacts

The full list of environmental impacts can be found in the Executive Summary of the Draft EIR/EIS

- Increased recreational opportunities in the Delta
- Water supply reliability
- Short-term construction effects on air quality, transportation, noise, and other resources
- Temporary and permanent conversion of farmland for habitat restoration and water conveyance facilities
- Improved flows for threatened/endangered fish species
- Increased resilience to climate change
- Reduced stressors on the Delta ecosystem, such as control of invasive aquatic plants
- Effects on water quality from conveyance facility operations and maintenance
- Approximately 150,000 acres of habitat restoration
- Increased jobs and revenue generated by construction
- Reduced reliance on south Delta diversions

15 Draft EIR/EIS Action Alternatives:

The Draft EIR/EIS alternatives represent a combination of water conveyance configurations, capacities and operational criteria, habitat restoration and conservation targets, stressor reduction measures, and various avoidance and minimization measures.

The BDCP will include approximately 150,000 acres of restored and protected habitat for 56 covered species, and improve flow conditions to benefit fish in the Delta.

Alternative	Maximum Water Diversions	Intakes
1A	15,000 cfs	1-5
2A	15,000 cfs	1-3, 6, 7, or 1-5
3	6,000 cfs	1 & 2
4	9,000 cfs	2, 3 & 5
5	3,000 cfs	1
6A	15,000 cfs	1-5
7	9,000 cfs	2, 3 & 5
8	9,000 cfs	2, 3 & 5
1B	15,000 cfs	1-5
2B	15,000 cfs	1-3, 6, 7, or 1-5
6B	15,000 cfs	1-5 isolated
1C	15,000 cfs	West (W1)
2C	15,000 cfs	W1-W5
6C	15,000 cfs	W1-W5
9	15,000 cfs	Delta Cross Channel and Georgiana Slough channel modifications
NO ACTION/NO PROJECT	Current operations	N/A

ALTERNATIVE 4:

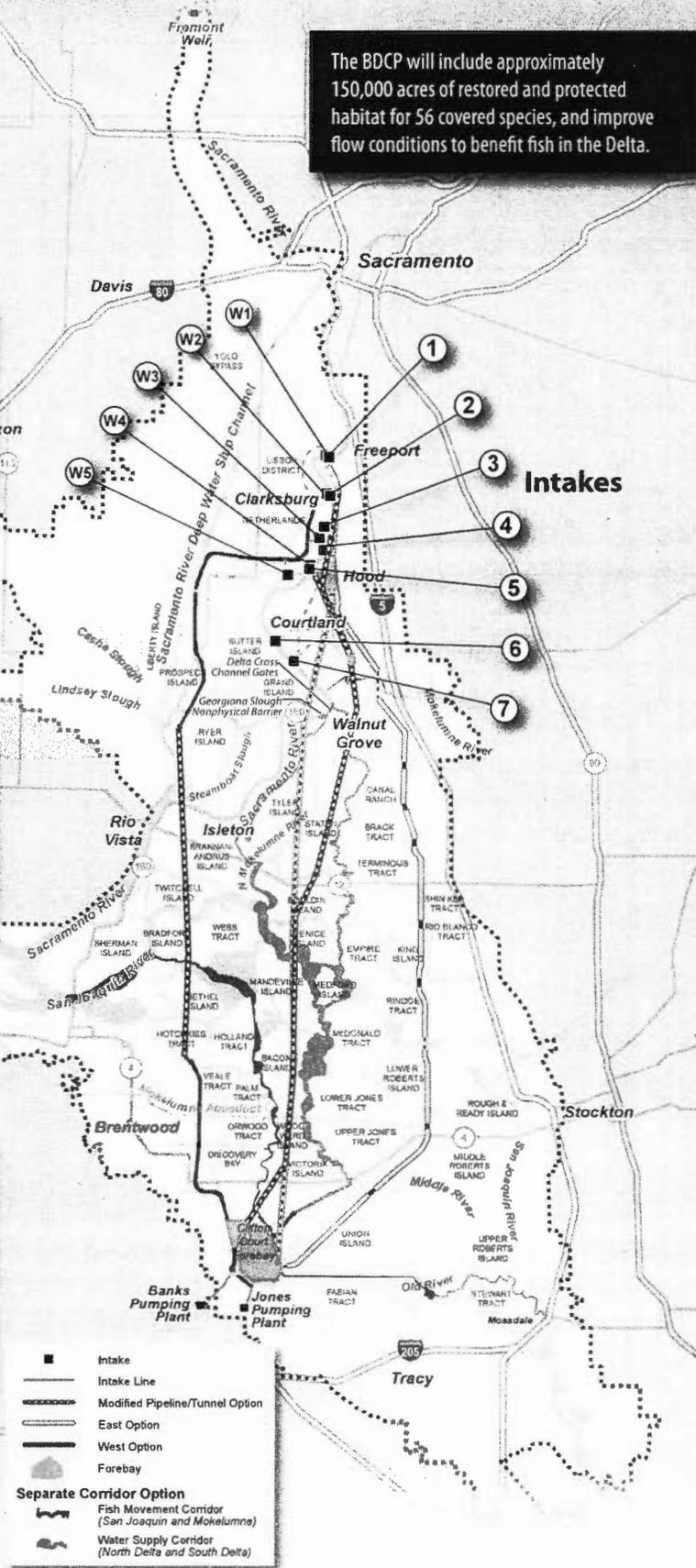
- CEQA (or state) Preferred Project
- Recently improved to reduce the footprint by nearly one-half of its original size

ALTERNATIVE 1B:

- Eastern Delta lined or unlined open canal
- Five intakes between Clarksburg and Walnut Grove

ALTERNATIVE 9:

- Screened intakes at Delta Cross Channel and Georgiana Slough
- Four basic corridors:
 - North Delta corridor (Sacramento River to Middle River)
 - South Delta corridor (Middle River and Victoria Canal to Clifton Court Forebay)
 - San Joaquin separate fish movement corridor
 - Mokelumne separate fish movement corridor



NOTE: A full description of the 15 Action Alternatives, and the No Action Alternative, can be found in Chapter 3 (Alternatives) of the Draft EIR/EIS.

For more information, or to submit comments, visit www.BayDeltaConservationPlan.com, call 1-866-924-9955, or email BDCPComments@NOAA.gov.