

**Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)
Steering Committee (SC) Meeting**
March 27, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
California Farm Bureau Federation Conference Room
2300 River Plaza Ave, Sacramento, CA

Draft Meeting Notes

Associated documents/handouts:

- Agenda
- BDCP Draft SC Meeting Notes December 12, 2008
- Draft Biological Goals and Objectives Flow Chart
- Draft Template Spreadsheet for use in Documenting the Relationship among Individual Species Stressors and Outcomes with Implementation of Conservation Measures
- Draft Current Proposed Covered Species
- Draft SAIC Recommended Additional Species for BDCP Coverage
- Draft Revised Preliminary Recommendations for Governance Structure
- Draft Revised Preliminary Recommendations for Governance Structure-track changes
- Draft SAIC “Straw” Proposal for Draft Habitat Restoration Recommendations
- Draft Conceptual Approach to Tidal Marsh Restoration Targets
- Summary Draft BDCP Other Stressor Conservation Measures

Action Items and Key Decisions

- BDCP Draft SC Meeting Notes December 12, 2008 approved
- SC members gave affirmation to the Governance WG to proceed with drafting Chapter 7

Updates

- Friant Water Agency reported House Lands Bill passed with funds slated for San Joaquin River restoration.
- DWR announced the Delta Risk Management Strategy Phase I report is now available. The Phase II report has been delayed and may be completed by the end of year. The report was revised to incorporate USACE comments. The report can be found on the CALFED Website.
- Jason Peltier reported on the Delta Wetlands project site tour and mentioned that future tours were possible. He also indicated there will be a short meeting with USACE immediately following the SC meeting to discuss Fremont Weir issues.
- USBR reported that new water allocations have been posted. Michael O’Connor has been nominated to be the new commissioner of USBR.
- Friant WA reported their water allocations have been increased.
- NOAA Fisheries announced that Federal agencies have been asked to report to Congress on the California drought.

Public Outreach

Karla Nemeth reported on the EIR/EIS scoping meetings. She expressed appreciation for the several people, including consultants and agency staff that participated in the 12 scoping meetings. Gwen Buccholtz (DHCCP) reported on attendance figures: 714 sign-ins for the 12 meetings. The Clarksburg meeting was well-attended, with over 200 participants.

Karla Nemeth reported that Clarksburg meeting attendees indicated a desire for more details about elements of the BDCP. She indicated there will be BDCP public outreach events in the various

communities that will provide for more detail on the proposed conservation plan once the administrative draft HCP/NCCP has been prepared.

SC members discussed the Outreach report. They asked questions and affirmed Karla Nemeth's approach to public outreach. They also inquired about legal issues relating to scoping meetings and content limitations imposed by EIR/EIS scoping requirements. SC members made requests for better notification of future public meetings and for more public workshops. A need for additional SC members to join the Public Outreach Liaisons was also identified.

Biological Goals and Objectives Working Group

Gary Bobker (co-chair) reported the WG is making good progress. They need a better framework to address and integrate covered species, other stressors, goals and objectives, and conservation measures.

Will Stelle presented the *Draft Biological Goals and Objectives Flow Chart* (see associated handouts/documents). The document includes a response to number of recommendations from the Independent Science Advisors.

Will Stelle discussed the proposed *Draft Template Spreadsheet for use in Documenting the Relationship among Individual Species Stressors and Outcomes with Implementation of Conservation Measures* (see associated handouts/documents). The key message of the document is that it relates objectives to other components of the plan including stressors, hypotheses, conservation measures, and monitoring.

SC members responded with questions about: whether there will be enough time for SC members to properly evaluate metrics for the objectives; use of a habitat/life history metric in the framework; addition of preliminary tables showing a suite of conservation measures; process for establishing metric values; incorporation of DRERIP evaluation results; overdependence on DRERIP evaluations for plan development; focus on monitoring metrics; schedule for providing all metrics; and completion of conservation measures evaluation.

Public comment:

Anita Pawley representing Stillwater Sciences indicated she thinks the current schedule is unrealistic and recommended the SC not create unrealistic expectations.

Covered Species

Paul Cylinder presented as a reminder to the SC the *Draft Current Proposed Covered Species* (see associated handouts/documents) and presented SAIC's recommendations for additional covered species in the document *Draft SAIC Recommended Additional Species for BDCP Coverage* (see associated handouts/documents).

Among the issues discussed by the SC members were: the need for additional time to review and comment on the recommended additions to the covered species list; possibility of reaching out to bird conservation groups to address needs of species associated with seasonal wetlands; need for clarification on why some of the species recommended for coverage in the terrestrial Independent Science Advisors report are not recommended for coverage by SAIC.

Public comment:

Maria Wong representing Yolo Natural Heritage Program (NHP) inquired as to when representatives of the adjacent HCPs will be engaged in the discussion on terrestrial species. She also passed out two letters from the Yolo County Board of Supervisors and the Yolo NHP Board.

Implementing Structure/Governance Working Group

Richard Roos-Collins (co-chair) presented the revised document *Draft Revised Preliminary Recommendations for Governance Structure* (see associated handouts/documents). He asked SC members for the authority to proceed with development of Chapter 7 *Implementation Structure*. There are still five policy issues to be further addressed and refined: 1) integration of ESA section 7 and section 10 compliance 2) proposed water contractor JPA's role in implementation; 3) moving to formalize description of non-routine and routine adaptive management decision making processes; 4) mechanism for governance of water operations; and 5) relationship of BDCP to larger proposed regional governance. There is still the need to describe the structure of the implementing entity.

SC members asked: whether the WG was asking for agreement with the draft document or if the draft would be further revised; for clarification on the difference between current governance structures (e.g., WOMT) and new governance concepts; how non-binding vs. binding actions by the recommended BDCP Implementation Council would be addressed; clarification of role of JPA with water operations; and asked that the five policy points be bracketed in the next version to make clear these are unresolved issues.

Public comment:

Dean Ruiz representing Central Delta WA raised concerns that local Delta agencies and counties roles would be diminished on the basis of the concepts in the governance document.

Richard Roos-Collins responded that it was not the intent of the WG to diminish the role of counties.

Habitat Restoration Program Technical Team

Dave Harlow (co-chair) presented the new co-chair of the Habitat TT, Campbell Ingram, who will replace John Cain in that capacity. Dave and Campbell presented *Draft SAIC "Straw" Proposal for Draft Habitat Restoration Recommendations* and *Draft Conceptual Approach to Tidal Marsh Restoration Targets* (see associated handouts/documents). Key points included: indication that terrestrial natural communities have been added; establishment of minimum acreages (no ranges) by habitat for each Restoration Opportunity Area (ROA); setting of restoration milestones within the permit period; and proposal of a simple step graph depicting the amount of habitat restoration over time.

SC members raised issues including: concern about single acreage goals; assurance of a role for adaptive management; preference for a range of acreages vs. single goal; need for ranges and hard targets in the near term; credit from the Fishery Agencies for interim projects; clarification of "non-routine vs. routine" adaptive management; concern that habitat restoration objectives may be inappropriately set low in response to uncertainties; and possibility of restoring habitats upstream of the Delta.

Public comment:

Justin Frederickson (CFBF) raised the issue of ranges for habitat restoration acreage targets and looks forward to seeing a similar chart for different ROAs.

Linda Dorn (SCRSD) asked about the other stressors summary provided at previous SC meeting and when the full text of other stressors conservation measures will be available. She would also like to see the DRERIP analysis results.

Anita Pawley representing Stillwater Sciences asked for clarification of the targets, brackets, and intermediate goals for habitat restoration.

Attendees

Management and Representatives

Karen Scarborough (Chair, The Natural Resources Agency)
Will Stelle (The Natural Resources Agency)
Laura King Moon (State Water Contractors)
Karla Nemeth (The Natural Resources Agency)
Keith Coolidge (California Bay-Delta Authority)
Jerry Johns (DWR)
Federico Barajas (USBR)
Brent Walthall (KCWA)
Jason Peltier (Westlands)
Kurt Arends (Zone 7)
Richard Roos-Collins (American Rivers/Natural Heritage Institute)
John Cain (Natural Heritage Institute)
Anthony Saracino (The Nature Conservancy)
Chris Scheuring (California Farm Bureau Federation)
Steve Ottemoeller (Friant Water Authority)
Greg Gartrell (CCWD)
Melinda Terry (North Delta Water Authority)
John McCamman (DFG)
Dan Castleberry (FWS)
Russ Strach (NMFS)
Paul Robershotte (USACE)
Paul Cylinder (SAIC)
Pete Rawlings (SAIC)

On phone

Roger Patterson (Metropolitan)
Ron Kino (Mirant)
Ara Azhderian (SLDMWA)
Kim Delfino (Defenders of Wildlife)
Gary Bobker (TBI)
Ann Hayden (Environmental Defense Fund)

Other attendees

See sign-in sheets
