

**Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)
Steering Committee (SC) Meeting**
January 30, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.
California Farm Bureau Federation Conference Room
2300 River Plaza Ave, Sacramento, CA

Draft Meeting Notes

Associated documents/handouts:

- Agenda
- Handout Draft Tentative Schedule of Agenda Topics for Working Groups and Steering Committee for January – February 2009
- Draft BDCP Planning Priorities for January and February 2009
- Preliminary Draft Recommendations for Governance Structure
- Draft BDCP Monitoring and Research Program
- Draft Adaptive Management Section Chapter 3, Conservation Strategy
- BDCP Outreach Meeting Log and Summary Issues

Action Items and Key Decisions

Updates

- Introduction of Paul Robershotte who will represent the US Army Corps of Engineers on BDCP Steering Committee (ex-officio)
- There will be a presentation on status of the BDCP EIR/EIS process at the February 13 SC meeting
- DWR report on the Sierra snow survey indicates it is at 61% of normal, and therefore water allocations will be down to 15%. This year, there is a risk that reservoirs could run out of storage. In order to maintain cold water pools to support salmon habitat, DWR may request the State Board to waive the standard for X2 in the face of a developing drought. Situation is very serious.
- USBR will be announcing new water allocations in mid-February
- DFG reported that, based on the longfin smelt status review, the Fish and Game Commission will be recommending longfin smelt be listed as a threatened species.

Process and Schedule

The *Draft Tentative Schedule of Agenda Topics for Working Groups and Steering Committee for January and February 2009* (see associated handouts/documents) was presented. Scheduling updates were highlighted, including the new schedule for the next Habitat TT, which will meet on February 11, and the DRERIP evaluations, which will be presented at the February 13 meeting.

Working Groups, Technical Teams and Liaisons

Implementing Structure/Governance Working Group

Richard Roos-Collins (co-chair) presented handout *Preliminary Draft Recommendations for Governance Structure* (see associated handouts/documents). He discussed the challenges the WG

is facing with the document and asked for assistance and feedback from SC members. They are concerned with how to implement the permit in relationship with the “larger” world. SC members engaged in a lengthy discussion of the issues facing the WG including: our current use of the term “BDCP implementing entity” as a generic placeholder (not a legal term) until such time as we can identify the structure of this entity or entities; the WG’s concept for an “implementation council”, including membership eligibility, role in dispute resolution, and compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA); regulatory compliance; relationship to regional governance; Delta Vision CDEW proposal; anticipated relationship between DWR and water contractors, including potential formation of JPA among water contractors; creation of subgroups to focus on technical issues; ownership of the peripheral canal and how its operation will be governed; and determination of assurances.

Public comment:

Ann Spaulding from the City of Antioch asked about the Governor’s Delta Vision Task Force and what will be actually done and reminded the SC that the Governor’s Delta Vision Cabinet Committee recommended use of the Delta Policy Group, rather than the CDEW proposal.

Science Liaisons

The *Draft BDCP Monitoring and Research Program* (see associated handouts/documents) was presented and discussed. The document is a work in progress. SC members discussed elements of the document including: anticipation that monitoring detail will be embedded in the conservation measures; need to discuss process for analyzing monitoring data; and how DRERIIP evaluation will be integrated into BDCP documents. Relevant WGs and TTs will review proposed monitoring related to specific conservation measures under their purview (e.g., the discussion for water operations measures will take place in the Integration Team). Suggestion to construct monitoring around critical uncertainties.

Paul Cylinder presented the *Draft Adaptive Management Section Chapter 3, Conservation Strategy* (see associated handouts/documents). The document has not changed since December 2, 2008. No comments have been received to date; however, there is still time to send comments.

SC members discussed issues including: process for permit suspension or revocation (in the event that species survival is in jeopardy); expansion of changed circumstances section; level of certainty needed to determine the cause of specific effects on species; and determination of what entity would implement the adaptive management process.

Public Comment:

Mr. Jonas Minton (Planning and Conservation League) suggests input from outside sources, not just inside, be solicited; that external science reviews be mandated; that funding limits be avoided; and that precautionary principles be identified at the beginning of implementation.

Integration Team

Jerry Johns (co chair) reported on the Integration Team’s efforts to address outflow criteria. The discussion will be continued at the next Team meeting. He anticipates there will be a range of outflows within which the system would be adaptively managed.

Paul Cylinder presented Preliminary Modeling Evaluation of Draft Conservation Strategy Core Elements, a summary of the presentation given at the last Integration Team meeting. Though preliminary, the results were very promising regarding balancing flows for fisheries, conveyance for water supply, and salinity criteria for in-Delta users.

SC members discussed the presentation with issues that included: the need to triple check modeling, whether or not Sacramento River “bypass” flows change during seasons, fish screen performance criteria, fish screen sweeping velocity criteria, discovery that water quality of the south Delta will not be as adversely affected with a new north Delta diversion as some had expected, and effects on cold water storage.

Public comment:

Justin Fredrickson of the CFBF asked about the BDCP EIR/EIS preparation schedule in relationship with the BDCP HCP/NCCP preparation schedule.

Ann Spaulding and Terrence Dermody requested copies of the presentation be put on the website.

Public Outreach Liaisons

Karla Nemeth (co-chair) presented *BDCP Outreach Meeting Log and Summary Issues* (see associated handouts/documents). She discussed the upcoming briefings, schedule, and the webinar to be held on February 18.

Other Stressors Sub Group:

Brent Walthall (co chair) reporting: Subgroup had a good meeting and got through all of the conservation measures. They will have a report at the next SC meeting.

Public Comment

Ann Spaulding asked about disposition of public comment letters on Chapter 3.

Attendees

Management and Representatives

- Karen Scarborough (Chair, The Resources Agency)
- Will Stelle (The Resources Agency)
- Laura King Moon (State Water Contractors)
- Karla Nemeth (The Resources Agency)
- Keith Coolidge (California Bay-Delta Authority)
- Jerry Johns (DWR)
- Ann Lubas-Williams (USBR)
- Brent Walthall (Kern County Water District)
- Roger Patterson (Metropolitan)
- Jason Peltier (Westlands)
- Kurt Arends (Zone 7)
- Melinda Terry (North Delta Water Authority)
- Richard Roos-Collins (American Rivers/Natural Heritage Institute)
- Kim Delfino (Defenders of Wildlife)

Ann Hayden (Environmental Defense)
Anthony Saracino (The Nature Conservancy)
Kenny Watkins (California Farm Bureau Federation)
John McCamman (DFG)
Russ Strach (NMFS)
Paul Cylinder (SAIC)
Pete Rawlings (SAIC)

On phone

Randall Neudeck (Metropolitan)
Steve Ottemoeller (Friant Water Authority)
Cindy Kao (Santa Clara Valley)
Ron Kino (Mirant)
John Cain (NHI)
Greg Gartrell (CCWD)
Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute)

Other attendees

See sign-in sheets
