

**TERRESTRIAL CONSERVATION MEASURES PROPOSED FOR EFFECTS ANALYSIS UNDER
BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN**

March 11, 2010

DRAFT

The Steering Committee requests analysis of the set of terrestrial conservation measures outlined in the attached handout titled *Natural Community and Covered Wildlife and Plant Habitat Conservation Targets* (including *Table 1. Proposed Natural Community Conservation Target Summary* and *Table 2. Summary of Proposed Covered Species Habitat Conservation Provided and Mitigation*) to determine the potential effects on wildlife and plant species that are proposed for coverage under the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). This analysis will support the further development of the BDCP, its Environmental Impact Statement/Report (EIS/R), and related Biological Assessment.

As required by the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCPA), and other applicable laws, the next step in the development of the BDCP will be a comprehensive analysis of positive and negative effects of these terrestrial conservation measures on covered species as well as other resources. The SAIC consultant team, with assistance from technical work groups, will now undertake this analysis, which will draw on all available models and new information that has become available in recent months.

The terrestrial conservation measures attached here reflect the current thinking of the Steering Committee on their appropriate shape and scale for the purpose of comprehensive effects analysis. They may become the final terrestrial conservation measures for the BDCP. Modifications may be made to these measures as the Steering Committee considers (i) the results of the effects analysis, (ii) the related alternatives analysis under NEPA/CEQA, (iii) the development of other plan elements described below, and (iv) how to optimize achievement of the ecosystem and water supply goals of this plan. In turn, the effects analysis will be as iterative as necessary to evaluate alternatives or refined analytical parameters.

The Steering Committee will continue to refine the conservation strategy, including more specific descriptions of these terrestrial conservation measures, as it prepares the draft BDCP. The current schedule calls for release of the draft plan for formal public review in Fall 2010. By agreeing to subject these measures to a comprehensive effects analysis, no member of the Steering Committee is committing that the draft or final BDCP will contain each or all of these measures.

Over the next several months, the Steering Committee will continue to develop other essential elements of the plan that have been only partly resolved in the working draft. All of these remaining elements will be included in the public review draft before its release. These include, but are not limited to:

- Goals and objectives, monitoring, and adaptive management program;
- Governance;
- Funding plan;
- Siting and design of proposed conveyance facilities; and
- Assurances and obligations.