

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

Steering Committee (SC) Meeting

May 22, 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*
- *Draft BDCP Development Process and Schedule*
- *Draft BDCP SC Meeting Notes April 3, 2009*
- *Draft BDCP SC Meeting Notes April 17, 2009*
- *Draft BDCP SC Meeting Notes April 24, 2009*
- *Draft HO#1 Table 1 from An Overview of the Draft Conservation Strategy*
- *Draft HO#2 Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Recommendations*
- *Draft HO#3 Summary of Physical Habitat Restoration Conservation Measures Development*
- *Draft HO#4 In-Delta Facilities*

Action Items and Key Decisions

- Approved Draft BDCP SC Meeting Notes April 3, 2009 with change
- Approved Draft BDCP SC Meeting Notes April 17, 2009
- Approved Draft BDCP SC Meeting Notes April 24, 2009

Updates

- A meeting with the State Attorney General is being scheduled to discuss a joint defense/response to lawsuits that may potentially be brought concerning the BDCP.
- USBR will announce new water allocations today.
- USBR announced that David Hayes was confirmed by Senate as Deputy Interior Secretary.
- DWR announced an increase of water allocations to 40%.

Process and Schedule

The updated schedule for BDCP was presented in the *Draft BDCP Development Process and Schedule* (see associated documents/handouts). SC members discussed issues raised by the schedule including: feasibility producing a draft Chapter 3 by June and an administrative draft BDCP by September; status of meetings with surrounding HCP/NCCPs; update on progress of the Terrestrial Resources Subgroup; potential scope of an implementation plan; challenge of making water operations decisions over the next two weeks; and agenda topics for June Steering Committee meeting.

Public Outreach

Karen Scarborough reported on Secretary Chrisman's monthly meetings with Delta counties. The Secretary has met with Yolo, Solano and Sacramento. Today he is scheduled to meet with

Contra Costa County. SC members have occasionally assisted in the meetings. Today, there will be a meeting with the five counties that will include a discussion of governance.

Karla Nemeth reported on the new activities of Public Outreach, including a redesign of the BDCP website to include links to the BDCP EIR/EIS website; an upcoming meeting on May 25 with the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors; presentations to legislative committees staff and members; creation of a public document that describes the draft Conservation Strategy (Chapter 3) upon its release; and a meeting with interested tribes to discuss BDCP.

DRERIP Evaluation Results Status

The summary report of DRERIP evaluation results are being posted on the BDCP website today.

Conveyance and Water Operations

Jerry Johns presented: “Water Operations Combined: Continuing *Water Ops 101*” which summarized presentations from several joint Conveyance Working Group/Habitat and Operations Technical Team meetings.

SC members discussed water operations issues, including: how the State and federal projects relate to total water use; how existing diversions, including upstream diversions, will be dealt with in the BDCP; need for clarification of data contained in the presentation; verification of the accuracy and interpretation of information presented; clarification that the percentage of all diverted water to total flows is higher in dry years than normal or wet years; recognition of the challenge of reaching agreements and decisions on water operations by June; relationship of water supply operations to flood control criteria; need for information regarding the percentage of years water is anticipated to flow over Fremont Weir presently and with proposed modifications; need for further investigation of inflow scenarios; and the value of carrying forward multiple alternatives concurrently.

Public Comment:

Dan Kelly (Sacramento County) asked for clarification regarding the Fremont Weir diversion rates. Mr. Kelly also indicated that the slide used in the presentation that had been created by the Delta Vision Task Force has discrepancies.

Habitat Restoration Targets

The handouts setting out proposed habitat restoration targets were presented in *Draft HO#2 Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Recommendations* and *Draft HO#3 Summary of Physical Habitat Restoration Conservation Measures Development* (see associated documents/handouts). SC members are being asked to concur with the numbers presented in handout #2.

SC members had an extensive discussion on the subject of habitat restoration targets. Members raised a number of issues, including: adding terrestrial habitat restoration into next set of habitat conservation targets; establishing criteria for setting restoration targets for the north Delta (Cache Slough area); ensuring that criteria recognize surrounding HCP/NCCP efforts and that BDCP efforts are coordinated with these local plans; taking into account recommendations for the

DRERIP evaluations; defining role of DHCCP in developing engineering designs for specific public lands and the importance of early implementation; clarifying the meaning of “contingent” targets; ensuring coordinated efforts for conveyance and habitat restoration; addressing issues concerning the amount of land that would be taken out of agricultural production; defining regulatory issues concerning what’s in the BDCP and what is not; resolving questions about who will implement targeted restoration and contingent restoration; resolving disagreements about tidal marsh restoration targets; identifying parties responsible for funding habitat restoration; determining relationship of adaptive management and habitat restoration targets; and determining the practicability of restoring 55,000-80,000 acres.

Habitat Restoration TT or a subgroup of that team were tasked to identify criteria by which early restoration actions will be identified.

Public comment:

Anitra Pawley with Stillwater Sciences asked whether there was comparison table of habitat acreages. Response: It was distributed at the first meeting of the Terrestrial Subgroup as a handout.

In-Delta Facilities

Paul Cylinder presented *Draft HO#4 In-Delta Facilities* (see associated handouts/documents) Discussion of 2-Gate Project: comment supporting the project; and request for summary information about 2-Gate Project. Discussion of South Delta Improvements Project (SDIP): State Board views SDIP as a mitigation project, but supports not including in BDCP; State Board and Reclamation identified the need for DWR to meet commitments under SDIP..

Other Stressors Conservation Measures

The May 2009 draft of Other Stressors Conservation Measures (OSCMs) can be found on the BDCP website. SC members discussed Fishery Agency questions regarding how OSCMs will be addressed in the BDCP; suggestions regarding how best to categorize OSCMs; uncertainties as to who ensures OSCMs are implemented; uncertainty as to benefits to fish species; questions as to regulatory implications of how these measures are described and relied upon in the BDCP (e.g., under “adaptive management” rather than “conservation measures”); desire not to diminish the importance of OSCMs to the success of the BDCP. Other Stressors WG or a subgroup will meet to discuss these topics.

Public comment:

Linda Dorn (SCRSD) asked when she can comment on this document.

Attendees

Management and Representatives

Karen Scarborough (Chair, The Natural Resources Agency)
Marc Ebbin (DWR, 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)
Paul Robershotte (USACE)
Brent Walthall (KCWA)
Roger Patterson (Metropolitan Water District)
Ara Azhderian (SLDMWD)
Greg Zlotnick (Santa Clara Valley)
Kurt Arends (Zone 7)
Richard Roos-Collins (American Rivers)
Kim Delfino (Defenders of Wildlife)
Ann Hayden (EDF)
Greg Thomas (NHI)
Anthony Saracino (The Nature Conservancy)
Kenny Watkins (CFBF)
Steve Ottemoeller (Friant Water Authority)
Melinda Terry (North Delta Water Authority)
John McCamman (DFG)
Dan Castleberry (FWS)
Russ Strach (NMFS)
Paul Cylinder (SAIC)
Pete Rawlings (SAIC)

On phone

Ron Kino (Mirant)
Gary Bobker (TBI)

Other attendees

See sign-in sheets
