

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Steering Committee (SC) Meeting

May 8, 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 Comparison of East and West Isolated Conveyance Alignments
- Fifth Draft Other Stressors Conservation Measures
- Draft Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Recommendations
- Draft Aquatic Conservation Measures x Goals and Objectives Matrices
- Draft Proposed Conveyance Working Group Recommendation Regarding Alignment
- Revised SAIC Terrestrial Species Goals and Objectives Working Draft

Action Items and Key Decisions

- BDCP planning focus will be on eastern alignment with an option to consider a western alignment if warranted based on new information.
- SC members agree on language of *Draft Proposed Conveyance Working Group Recommendation Regarding Alignment* (see associated handouts/documents), with deletion of last clause.

Updates

- DWR reported that the experimental “bubble curtain” at the head of Old River is now functional. They are getting good results in changing fish movement patterns. A tour to visit the bubble curtain is being arranged.
- DWR also reported that it sent a request to FWS for a reconsultation on OCAP to avoid possible litigation.
- Several NGOs have sent a letter to FWS opposing DWR’s request for a reconsultation on OCAP.

Public Outreach

Secretary Chrisman continues to meet with representatives from the Delta counties and has had positive discussions of key issues. Breakout meetings with individual counties are being scheduled with attendance also by DWR and DFG representatives.

Karla Nemeth described the second meeting with the Yolo Bypass Planning Forum in which the discussion focused on potential habitat restoration in the Cache Slough area. BDCP Public Outreach representatives have also received a letter from the Planning Forum requesting a meeting with the SC to discuss options for habitat restoration in the Yolo Bypass.

Ms. Nemeth also reported that she gave a presentation to the Bay Delta Public Advisory Committee (BDPAC) subcommittee on Flood Control and Levees on flood control issues related to BDCP. The committee is concerned about appropriate integration of levee integrity needs with potential BDCP actions. DWR indicated there is a special projects program that funds levee-ecosystem projects and are anticipating allocating \$20 million to selected proposals.

Ms. Nemeth reported meetings in Washington, D.C. during April 28-29 with congressional members and Department of the Interior agency representatives were productive.

Paul Robershotte reported the meeting with Rich Sanchez (DWR) was a successful effort to increase awareness of challenges on multiple levels and the need to focus on flood issues as USACE looks at BDCP proposals.

Implementing Structure/Governance Working Group

Roger Patterson (co-chair) reported that Tim Quinn presented to the WG an update on SB 12, sponsored by Senator Simitian, regarding Delta governance. Of the five policy issues the WG is working on, they focused on two, regional Delta governance and how BDCP governance may relate a broader governance structure for the Delta, and on routine versus non-routine decision making processes in the BDCP adaptive management plan. Chair requested that Governance WG come back to SC with report on progress.

Biological Goals and Objectives Working Group

The Terrestrial Subgroup will be addressing terrestrial goals and objectives at their meeting today. DFG is meeting with surrounding local government that are developing or implementing HCPs and/or NCCPs and considering means for ensuring coordination among these plans and the BDCP.

Conveyance and Water Operations

Jerry Johns and John Lehigh (DWR Operations) gave an overview of SWP and CVP facilities and operations.

SC members engaged in a discussion about the presentation that included issues such as: Delta inflow; determination of minimum flows; the current shape of the hydrograph versus a more natural pattern; senior water rights; in-Delta diversions; State Water Resources Control Board process for addressing San Joaquin River flows; adjustments to reservoir releases; use of operational buffers to deal with uncertainties; challenges of achieving the X2 standard; addressing operational criteria; context and scope of BDCP; and continuation of the joint Conveyance/HOTT meetings.

Public comment:

Dan Kelly (Sacramento County) asked for clarification on the discussion during the meeting that suggested that BDCP may expand into upstream areas. Karen Scarborough responded that the discussion is not about expanding BDCP, but rather the need to address upstream changes that may result from in-Delta operational changes.

Draft Comparison of East and West Isolated Conveyance Alignments hand out

Paul Cylinder presented *Draft Comparison of East and West Isolated Conveyance Alignments* (see associated handouts/documents)

SC members discussed issues and concerns raised by the handout regarding the eastside versus the westside alignment, including: the relative energy use and costs; relative generation and impacts of greenhouse gases; clarification of assumptions regarding major and unplanned outages; whether the alignments require difference in points of diversion; suggestion that consultants continue evaluation of the eastern alignment; potential evaluation of western alignment as an EIR/EIS alternative; purpose of alignment comparisons for purposes of the HCP/NCCP versus the EIR/S; how to direct the consultant team on moving forward with evaluation; consideration of potential effect on schedule of considering more than one alignment option during the development of the BDCP; and consideration of comparative effects of the two alignments on natural habitats and terrestrial species.

Chair stated that SC requests SAIC consultant team to focus on evaluation of eastside alignment, but to continue to look at and consider effects on terrestrial species of westside alignment.

Preliminary DRERIP Evaluation Results

Carl Wilcox presented a summary of DRERIP evaluation results (see associated PowerPoint presentation.)

Public comment:

Barbara Byrne (PCL) asked for clarification of the DRERIP results.

Terry Mitchell (SCRSD) asked if there would be a public review process for the DRERIP results.

Draft Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Recommendations

Laura King Moon presented *Draft Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Recommendations* and *Draft Aquatic Conservation Measures x Goals and Objectives Matrices* (see associated handouts/documents). The draft recommendations include an aggressive amount of restoration in the “committed” column and still more in the “contingent” column.

Other Stressors Conservation Measures

Will Stelle presented: *Fifth Draft Other Stressors Conservation Measures* (see associated handouts/documents). Other stressor conservation measures have been revised to address comments received.

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)
Joe Grindstaff (California Bay-Delta Authority)
Tom Howard (SWRCB)
Paul Robershotte (USACE)
Jerry Johns (DWR)
Federico Barajas (USBR)
Brent Walthall (KCWA)
Greg Zlotnick (Santa Clara Valley)
Kurt Arends (Zone 7)
Richard Roos-Collins (American Rivers)
Ann Hayden (EDF)
John Cain (NHI)
Gary Bobker (TBI)
Kenny Watkins (CFBF)
Greg Gartrell (CCWD)
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)
Jason Peltier (Westlands)

Other attendees

See sign-in sheets
