

September 9, 2009

(Revised) Note To Reviewers:

This table describes a preliminary proposal for near-term Delta conservation measures, including near-term water operations, habitat actions and other measures, for purposes of conducting an effects analysis in fall, 2009, as part of the BDCP planning process. The SAIC consultant prepared this proposal, at the request of the BDCP Steering Committee, to assist with the development of Chapter 3 of BDCP (BDCP Conservation Strategy), which currently includes parameters solely for the long-term conservation strategy. The SAIC consultant will conduct hydrologic, hydrodynamic, and biological modeling and analysis of the proposal. The BDCP Steering Committee expects to use the information gained through this effort to complete its proposed near-term conservation strategy for inclusion in the revised draft of Chapter 3 of the BDCP, which is expected to occur prior to December 2009. The BDCP, including the conservation strategy, will be the subject of environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act and the California Environmental Quality Act.

This proposal is intended to be used for the purpose of modeling and analysis. It does not represent a consensus of the BDPC Steering Committee on the near-term conservation measures. Moreover, this proposal does not supersede the terms and conditions of the existing biological opinions governing the operations of the state and federal water projects.

As part of this effort, SAIC will analyze the existing biological opinions that govern the operation of the State and federal water projects. SAIC will also analyze the proposed suite of near-term conservation measures described in column 3 (covering water, habitat and other stressors) and Column 5 (water operational parameters). This analysis will provide a snapshot of the expected benefits and impacts associated with the implementation of these measures, assuming that they will be fully implemented by tenth year of the BDCP. SAIC is also conducting an effects analysis of the long-term conservation measures, which are assumed to be implemented after the tenth year of the plan, including for example, improvements to the existing conveyance system.

The near-term conservation measures differ from the measures included in the existing biological opinions primarily in two ways. First, they encompass a broader array of habitat and other conservation actions than prescribed by the biological opinions. Second, the proposed measures differ from the biological

opinions in terms of their approach to operations, particularly in the following ways: (1) they provide a more defined operational program within the range of the Old and Middle River values than the biological opinions; (2) they reflect modifications to spring-time San Joaquin inflow/export ratios and propose alternative measures to protect San Joaquin salmonids migrating through the Delta (NMFS, 2009); and (3) the proposed measures rely on the BDCP adaptive management program to guide the fall 'X2' outflow for delta smelt (FWS, 2008). SAIC proposed these measures to evaluate whether these alternative approaches, in combination with other near-term conservation measures, provide comparable or improved benefits for covered species, while enhancing water supply reliability. The results of the effects analysis of this proposal will then be used to refine the proposed conservation measures for the BDCP that will be further considered throughout the planning and environmental review processes.

This proposal makes no assumptions about the timing of implementation of these proposed measures. Issues of timing of implementation will be addressed over the course of the planning process and will be informed by the results of these analyses, and by other relevant information.

In conjunction with this modeling and analytic work, the BDCP Steering Committee is also developing a comprehensive set of metrics to track the effectiveness of the conservation measures in achieving the biological goals and objectives of the BDCP. Early drafts of these metrics developed by the SAIC team are being reviewed and revised by a technical team of experts being convened by the Steering Committee, which may be assisted by independent scientific input at the election of the Steering Committee. These metrics will be incorporated into the monitoring and adaptive management program for the BDCP over the course of the fall, 2009.