Dear Ms. Brown,

Here are my Scoping Comments on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

I think the Delta should be restored as described in the BDCP; but, I do not think it can be restored and still allow as little water to flow into the ocean and as much water to pass through the Delta as passes through now. Therefore I think that conservation measures outside the planning area must occur and be listed and described as a part of the BDCP.

I do not think the BDCP should assume that an isolated conveyance around the Delta is necessary; I will not comment further on the peripheral canal.

Here are ways to decrease the amount of water that must come from the Delta and allow more Delta water to flow into the ocean.

1 Californians should be told that the state has a water shortage and that increasing our population worsens the water shortage.

2 Water for agricultural use should be directed to the land that produces the most food or fiber per unit water. Land that contains a lot of salt, so that it requires water to push the salt down below the root zone, should not be farmed. Westlands water district has such soil. Much of the best land is on the periphery of cities; urban sprawl onto such land wastes water; we need to eliminate urban sprawl.

3 Domestic users should conserve water; this means loosing our lawns, xeriscaping our homes and highways, using low flow toilets and other changes in our everyday routine. One fifth of the water from the delta is for domestic use. We should not use pools and fountains to decorate our streets, parks or yards; these evaporate water.
4 Farmers should continue to use water more efficiently. This includes much more use of subsurface drip irrigation.

5 California needs to determine how much water should be directed to certain thirsty crops.

Should the Central Valley be home to CAFOs? How much water from the Delta is used to grow feed for dairy and beef cattle? Would it save water if California imported, or at least did not export, milk? Would the energy and Green House Gas (GHG) generated by importing milk offset the water saving? Would pumping less water from the delta reduce energy use, criteria pollutants and GHG? I assume solar water pumps would not be used.

Can America’s cotton and rice be grown in the southeast? We should not use federally subsidized water to flood rice and cotton fields.

6 Consider using gray water for non food crops and for domestic use.

7 Californians need to realize that all the water belongs to all of us. Kern County should not conserve less than others because it has the Kern River. The Sacramento River basin is as important in finding water for southern California as is Los Angeles and should conserve as vigorously.

Placing notices in water bills would be a good way to inform water users of concerns numbered one and three above.

It might be worthwhile to remember that southern California once got water from the Colorado River. The Colorado River’s water shed is stressed by an exploding population just as California’s rivers are. I do not know if it is realistic to hope that Colorado River water will ever again be available to California.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Arthur Unger
2815 La Cresta Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93305-1719
(661) 323 5569
artunger@att.net  preferred