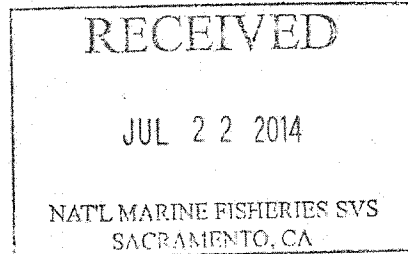


July 19, 2014

BDCP Comments
Ryan Wulff, NMFS
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
Sacramento, CA 95814



Re: Comments on Draft BDCP and EIR/EIS

Dear Ryan:

Your name will forever be known in California history as the receiver of public comment on the biggest fiasco in California water. The goal and vision for the HCP/NCCP was at the beginning right and honorable but the execution the last few years has been horrible, at least to this stage. But it isn't over until the deal is done, and where process goes after July 29, 2014 will be critical to all of us and our future generations. I suspect, depending on the outcome, a movie will eventually be made of these times.

Contrary to the agency advice to provide comments that are concise and focus on the analysis, I will digress substantially. More than enough technically-capable parties will provide the comments you seek and need. I just want to gripe. Further, the process of HCP/NCCP and EIS/EIR preparation has strayed so far from the realm of scientific accountability that the preparers need to hear the public sentiments. To keep compliant and silent on such a mistake would be unethical for me as it will be for the agency scientists to not say what has to be said. There is no room for politics in this science-review process.

What the draft HCP/NCCP offers is a cruel hoax - a spending program destined to resource restoration failure. A "spending program" is pitched like this: "If you let us get by this time we will throw money at the problem like you have never seen before." But in fact it is impossible to identify a spending program that has worked anywhere near like promised; every one has turned out to be a cruel hoax. Salmon hatcheries were some of the earliest hoaxes. With hatcheries came extreme concentration of fish, accompanying disease, unhealthy and unwise selection of genetic material, damaging juvenile release practices, and straying, degraded fitness to survive rivers and ocean conditions, and a fishery that could be harvested at rates guaranteed to knock the life out of any naturally reproducing stock of salmon. Other early hoaxes involved major dams and diversions. After they had completed the Trinity River Project in the 1960s, of course there was a hatchery, only 10 percent of the natural flow was left to continue downriver. This was not even close to right. Years later the hoax was acknowledged and some reparations made. Also in the 1960s, the Red Bluff Diversion Dam was built for water diversion into the Tehama Colusa Canal for agricultural purposes. The project blocked the Sacramento River and flooded eight miles of anadromous fish habitat, and helped further subsidize farmers. To get away with it, they threw more money at the fish problem they created, building the Tehama Colusa Fish Facility in 1971. This grandiose salmon propagation facility was eventually abandoned when discovered that it harmed, rather than helped, the

Sacramento River fishery. After some regulatory reviews in the 1970s, it was determined that the needs of aquatic resources in the estuary, specifically in the vicinity of Suisun Bay, could be met without water. We were told that all we needed was the Montezuma Slough Control Structure to manage the direction of flow in the slough and thus water quality. Again, unforeseen adverse impacts to fish migrations and other resources were experienced and for the last several years the salinity control gates of this expensive structure have been operated only about 45 days a year and not at all during 2011. Perhaps the oldest and biggest hoax was to prescribe "fish salvage" facilities at the south Delta export points. With no bypass flows, extensive and repeated screening is performed and then the few fish captured - dead, dying or alive - are lifted into a tank truck for a ride downstream. Operators jokingly told visitors that they were making fish chowder and all they needed to do was add potatoes. The more water the users demanded, the more money was invested in this failure-destined facility.

The next spending program should not be what the process now offers. Real ecological restoration has to mean beneficial ecological uses and functions accrue.

Accepting a dollars fix when the problem is insufficient water is a ruse that needs to be rejected. Environmentalists don't fear a real fix - they fear that we will end up water-short and with a spending program that fails to achieve anything but waste money.

If you are so inclined I would like to buy you lunch downtown someday on your lunch hour and I promise you I won't talk about water if that is your call. I would like to talk about our lives up to this point: How did we get here? What was our path? What is our purpose in life? Where do we want to be 10 years from now? I have ideas for me; I would like to hear your ideas for you.

Sincerely,



Richard Morat
2821 Berkshire Way
Sacramento, CA 95864
916-487-9030

From: Ryan Wulff - NOAA Federal <ryan.wulff@noaa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 3:03 PM
To: bdcpc comments - NOAA Service Account
Subject: Fwd: BDCP COMMENTS
Attachments: 20140722 - LiUNA - Laborers' International Union of North America.pdf; 20140722 - Richard Morat - Sacramento.pdf; 20140722 - Serrano Water District.pdf; 20140724 - City of Westminster.pdf; 20140724 - Coast Harbor Realty, Inc..pdf; 20140724 - Judy Stack - Stockton.pdf; 20140724 - Mission Valley Bank.pdf

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Anita Deguzman - NOAA Affiliate <anita.deguzman@noaa.gov>
Date: Thu, Jul 24, 2014 at 3:00 PM
Subject: BDCP COMMENTS
To: Ryan Wulff - NOAA Federal <ryan.wulff@noaa.gov>

I have attached the following comments for your files.

Copies have been made and are in your mailbox - original letters are up front at the reception desk.

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