
From: Friends of the River <info@friendsoftheriver.org> on behalf of Stephen Melz <fsh2lv@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 11:23 AM
To: BDCP.Comments@noaa.gov
Subject: I oppose all alternatives in the BDCP that propose construction of new diversions and tunnels under the Delta

Feb 26, 2014

Mr. Ryan Wulff, NMFS
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Wulff, NMFS,

Thank you for receiving public comments in response to the Draft BDCP Plan and Draft EIR/EIS.

I oppose all alternatives in the BDCP that propose construction of new diversions and tunnels under the Delta. I oppose the project because:

It is too costly (up to \$54 billion with interest and other hidden costs) and the general public should not have to cover any of this outrageous, including habitat restoration costs. These should be paid by those who receive the water (since the Delta diversions degraded the habitat in the first place).

Operation of the diversions and tunnels threaten to dewater major upstream reservoirs in northern California and reduce downstream river flows, to the detriment of fish, wildlife, recreation, and other public trust values.

Diversion and tunnel facilities would adversely impact too much Delta farmland and habitat, harm Brannan Island State Park, infringe on the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, and degrade other essential conservation lands.

You cannot restore Delta habitat without first determining how much fresh water the Delta needs to survive and thrive. Restoration of fresh water flows from the San Joaquin River in the south Delta are particularly important.

The tunnels will need more upstream storage facilities to feed fresh water into them. These include raising Shasta Dam, building the Sites Reservoir, and possibly reviving the Auburn Dam on the American River and the Dos Rios Dam on the Eel. The environmental, cultural, and financial impacts of these controversial projects are a significant foreseeable but ignored impact of the BDCP.

.Only two options for California's water problems exist, more resevoirs and desalinization plants. Altering the amount of fresh water going through the delta will not only destroy the Salmon but it will also severely impact the Dungeness Crab. Dungeness Crab Larva need a clean estuary to survive and without the fresh water flowing, the San francisco Bay's water quality will plummet. Please do not destroy California's Natural Estuary.

Stephen Melz
President, S&J Fisheries

I believe that the BDCP should include, and I would support, an alternative that significantly reduces Delta exports and focuses instead on restoring habitat and threatened and endangered species in the Delta, improves Delta water quality by providing sufficient fresh water inflow from both the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, and that includes a

pragmatic plan to sustainably meeting California's water needs. This can be done by increasing agricultural and urban water use efficiency, capturing and treating storm water, recycling urban waste water, cleaning up polluted groundwater, and reducing irrigation of desert lands in the southern Central Valley with severe drainage problems. We don't need to build more dams or tunnels.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Mr. Stephen Melz
1380 Orange Ave
San Carlos, CA 94070-4635
(650) 610-0773