

August 17, 2012

Jerry Brown
General Manager
Contra Costa Water District
1331 Concord Ave.
Concord, CA 94524-2099

Dear Mr. Brown:

Secretary Laird asked me to reply to your July 19, 2012 letter regarding Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) potential impacts on Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) and its customers. I can assure you that the science-driven process developing the BDCP will, as we prepare for the next phase of formal review of its overall environmental impact, continue to refine the analysis and disclose potential project impacts of interest to CCWD and its customers including impacts to Delta water quality.

DWR staff and consultants will continue to consult with your staff as we have coordinated and responded to prior modeling concerns over the last few years. We want to ensure that the Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Study (EIR/S) includes a complete and accurate evaluation of the BDCP's effects on Delta water quality and CCWD operations, as well as appropriate mitigation designed to avoid or mitigate such effects. As you are aware, changes are being made to the operational ranges that have been considered to date, and these may reduce potential adverse impacts found in previous studies.

The EIR/S contains a range of alternatives under evaluation. As an example of evaluations, preliminary DSM2 model results for Alternative 4 indicate an overall improvement in salinity at Old River Rock Slough and CCWD Old River Intake compared to No Action Alternative or Alternative 1. However, model results indicate an overall increase in salinity at the CCWD intake on Victoria Canal (especially for the months of October and February through June). It has been shown that this increase is mostly due to a change in assumption for the Head of Old River Barrier operation during the months of October and January through June. A reduction of flow through Head of Old River causes an increase in contribution from San Joaquin River source at Victoria Canal. In the months of November through January, results for Alternative 4 actually show salinity improvements at Victoria Canal as compared to both Alternative 1 and No Action Alternative.

To address your concerns we plan to take the following steps:

- The EIR/S will evaluate and identify changes in Delta water quality, due both to water operations and restoration of habitat. This analysis will include project level analysis of proposed water

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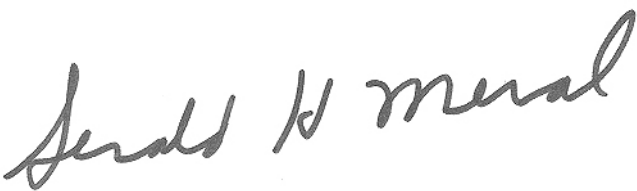
operation effects on water quality as well as programmatic evaluation of effects associated with the habitat restoration contemplated by the BDCP.

- The EIR/S will disclose the extent to which changes in Delta water quality are caused by the BDCP. Additional analysis of water quality effects will be in the Public Draft EIR/S relative to the Administrative Draft released in February.
- The EIR/S will assess the impacts on Delta water quality that may adversely affect CCWD's operations.
- The EIR/S will identify project alternatives and mitigation measures that will avoid or mitigate adverse impacts to CCWD.
- We will meet with your staff to discuss:
 - The potential impact of the BDCP on CCWD's ability to fill the Los Vaqueros Reservoir based on CCWD's water quality objectives.
 - CCWD's ability to meet its delivered water quality goal.
 - The significance of any adverse environmental impacts.

Our intent is that the details of the water quality modeling approach, operational assumptions, and conclusions will be worked through during a meeting or meetings with your staff. Please have your staff contact BG Heiland at 916 657-4389 to schedule a meeting.

Once our technical staff have done their best to arrive at a mutually satisfying course of action, we should meet to discuss any remaining issues. I look forward to your continued constructive involvement in the BDCP process as it continues on its path towards providing benefits for all Californians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry Meral". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jerry Meral