

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

Steering Committee (SC) Meeting

December 12, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
California Farm Bureau Federation Conference Room
2300 River Plaza Ave, Sacramento, CA

Draft Meeting Notes

Associated documents/handouts:

- Agenda
- Handout #1 Conservation Strategy Overview

Action Items and Key Decisions

- None identified

Updates

- FWS announced that the OCAP Biological Opinion will be delivered to Reclamation on December 15.
- The last Delta Vision Cabinet Committee workshop will be next Tuesday December 16.
- Reminder that the next Steering Committee meeting will be at the Resources Building, room 1131 on December 19.

Conservation Strategy Overview

The BDCP Management Team and the Integration Team discussed the content and process for preparation of the *Draft Conservation Strategy Overview* (see associated documents/handouts) as well as Chapter 3. This included the different sections of Chapter 3 along with the timeline for upcoming documents to be distributed in the next week.

Will Stelle presented the *Draft Overview of the Conservation Strategy for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan*. The document is a synopsis of where BDCP is today and the direction it is going. Key measures or “core elements” will be developed next week by the Integration Team. The next steps for the document were also outlined and included refinements to the adaptive management and goals and objectives sections and addressing terrestrial covered species, governance, and public outreach in the document.

SC members engaged in a discussion of the document raising questions and concerns including: how core measures will be integrated; consideration of interim actions; addressing terrestrial covered species, the need to reach agreement on quantities referenced in conservation measures; appropriateness for establishing parameters for inflow; addressing impacts on upstream operations; expanding modeling options and parameters; the need for balancing diversion operations between the north Delta and the south Delta; the Integration Team’s focus on integrating hydrology and physical habitat conservation measures; designation of selected other stressors conservation measures as core elements within the document; how and when will water supply goals be addressed; and the need for a broad range of alternatives.

Comments on the overview document are due by COB Monday December 15.

Public Comments:

Jonas Minton (PCL) would like to see the remaining issues clearly articulated in the overview document and affirmed the importance of adaptive management to address significant uncertainties. He is concerned that there is no discussion of governance determination in the overview document as well as how current decisions are being made.

Mark Pruner (North Delta Cares) asked that the Overview document be sent out to all in MSWord format.

Oshe Meserve (City of Antioch) addressed reliable water supply issue and suggested that water conservation measures should be included as a core element.

Ann Spaulding (City of Antioch) asked when draft Chapter 3, *Conservation Strategy*, will be posted to the BDCP website. Currently, only draft sections of the Chapter have been posted.

Dean Ruiz (CDWA) asked about the discussion on water operations as a conservation measure.

Integration Team

John Cain (co chair) gave an update of the Integration Team process. He described the upcoming Overview document as the nucleus of the Conservation Strategy. It will identify and describe approximately ten core elements. The document will also describe the anticipated benefits, potential impacts, and uncertainties associated with each of the core elements. The most important parameters will be the Hood bypass and outflow criteria. High and low ranges need to be determined for each operational parameter. The Team is having an additional meeting this afternoon to address the core elements. An update on the Callite sessions was given. Some of the scenarios resulted in substantial impacts on upstream operations.

Working Groups, Technical Teams and Liaisons

Public Outreach Liaisons

Karla Nemeth (co-chair) reported on the meeting with the Yolo Bypass Planning Forum. The group has concerns about the impacts of changes in bypass flooding. There are upcoming meetings with Sacramento County and RD 999. The tour of the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant has been postponed to January.

Science Liaisons

Kim Delfino (co chair) reported on the Science Liaisons call. An update on the upcoming Independent Science Advisor (ISA) adaptive management workshop was given. At opening of the workshop SAIC will make a presentation on BDCP to the advisors, followed by presentations by representatives of the PREs, NGOs, and Fishery Agencies. They expect workshop results will be presented in a memorandum. Wayne Spencer mentioned that the CALFED lead scientist would like to participate in the workshop; SC members were in agreement. He also indicated that BDCP is very advanced in their use and planning of adaptive management.

John Cain asked that the Overview document be provided to the advisors.

Attendees

Management and Representatives

Karen Scarborough (Chair, The Resources Agency)
Will Stelle (The Resources Agency)
Laura King Moon (State Water Contractors)
Marc Ebbin (The Resources Agency/DWR)
Karla Nemeth (The Resources Agency)
Leo Winternitz (California Bay-Delta Authority)
Tom Howard (SWRCB)
Jerry Johns (DWR)
Sue Fry (USBR)
Brent Walthall (Kern County Water District)
Roger Patterson (Metropolitan)
Ara Azhderian (SLDMWA)
Cindy Kao (Santa Clara Valley)
Jason Peltier (Westlands)
Kurt Arends (Zone 7)
Melinda Terry (North Delta Water Authority)
Richard Roos-Collins (American Rivers/Natural Heritage Institute)
Kim Delfino (Defenders of Wildlife)
Ann Hayden (Environmental Defense)
Greg Thomas (Natural Heritage Institute)
Maurice Hall (The Nature Conservancy)
Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute)
Greg Gartrell (Contra Costa Water District)
John McCamman (DFG)
John Engbring (USFWS)
Russ Strach (NMFS)
Paul Cylinder (SAIC)
Pete Rawlings (SAIC)

On phone

Steve Ottemoeller (Friant Water Authority)
Wayne Spencer

Other attendees

See sign-in sheets
