BDCP
Bay Delta Conservation Plan
EIR/EIS

Comments
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In the first place, to call this the Bay Delta Conservation Plan has been very misleading from the beginning, and has rightly garnered you unbridled negative reaction. I would suggest that Delta Water Conveyance Plan would have been a far more accurate description of your activity.

Be advised that any construction on a conservation easement will cost far more to condemn (and condemnation will be almost assuredly required) than agricultural value. Lands adjacent to the Glide Memorial Easement (which is crossed by most of the northernmost feeder alternative), have sold for $75,000 per acre, which may well set the price for this land.

That you will come up with the most cost effective alternative for the water contractors almost goes without saying, and leaves only the question of mitigation to be considered.

I believe very strongly that all mitigation should be concentrated on shoring up existing lower delta levees, as the massive seawater flooding of this area would be an environmental disaster to all, and there is simply no way to restore the sunken land to its original state of 160 years ago. It is almost laughable that flooding an island or 2 is being considered for study, since there are already several available flooded islands. I certainly wouldn’t consider asking the water contractors to take on all of the flooding problems of the lower delta, but I do think all available mitigation funds should be used for this purpose, and it seems to me that the biggest and deepest islands should take 1st priority, since this is where you could get the most “bang for the buck”.

Creating marshes on sea-level land is something that could be undertaken at a later time, but protecting the lower delta from flooding should be tackled now!

Sincerely,

Greg Merwin