PUBLIC COMMENTS SOUGHT ON BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Bureau of Reclamation are announcing an opportunity for the public to comment on the "First Amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Regarding Collaboration on the Planning, Preliminary Design and Environmental Compliance For the Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program in Connection with the Development of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan" (BDCP MOA).

DWR, Reclamation, and several federal and state water contractor agencies (Public Water Agencies) developed a BDCP MOA intended to enable timely analysis of conservation and water supply measures developed in the BDCP and to address related financial matters. The BDCP MOA is intended to replace in its entirety an earlier MOA signed by the same parties in March 2009. The MOA would not alter any of the fundamental roles and responsibilities of Reclamation, other federal agencies, or DWR with respect to preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the BDCP.

In addition, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the California Natural Resources Agency and the Department of Commerce are establishing a series of actions designed to enhance opportunities for public input into key issues related to the BDCP and the associated EIS/EIR process.

The BDCP MOA was posted on the BDCP website on September 6, 2011, and can be found at http://baydeltaconservationplan.com/news/news/11-09-06/Memorandum_of_Agreement_MOA.aspx. Additionally, information describing the MOA and the basis for the comment period are available at this website. Comments on the MOA may be submitted by e-mail to BDO@USBR.GOV or by mail to Bureau of Reclamation, Bay-Delta Office, 801 I Street, Ste. 140, Sacramento, CA 95814. Comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 16, 2011.

For additional information, please contact Pete Lucero, Public Affairs Officer, 916-978-5100 or e-mail plucero@usbr.gov.

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