May 7, 2009

Ms. Dolores Brown, Chief,
Office of Environmental Compliance
Department of Water Resources
P. O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Dear Ms. Brown:

Please evaluate the following in the Final EIR/EIS:

1) Re: The Revised Notice of Preparation of EIR/EIS for the BDCP (February 13, 2009):

(a) Under "Project Area" (p.6) it is stated, "Any conservation actions outside the Statutory Delta would be implemented pursuant to cooperative agreements or similar mechanisms with local agencies, interested non-governmental organizations, landowners, and others." (underlinings mine) Since it is not stated elsewhere in this document that conservation actions inside the Statutory Delta would be implemented pursuant to cooperative agreements with landowners, etc., please confirm whether conservation measures will be implemented through cooperative (voluntary?) agreements with landowners within the Statutory Delta, or not.

(b) Please answer the question: "Is the proposed new North Delta diversion and conveyance a conservation measure under the BDCP?" If so, will this measure be implemented pursuant to cooperative agreements with landowners? If not, please state which of the Covered Activities numbered 2 through 9 (p.4) 1 are not conservation measures under the BDCP, and 2) will be implemented if necessary through the exercise of eminent domain power. Then evaluate the impacts of the use of eminent domain seizures on the economic and social viability and cohesiveness of affected Delta communities (agricultural and water-based recreational). By "communities" is meant not just the so-called "legacy towns", but the much larger rural communities surrounding them of which they are a part.

2) This request targets all future BDCP and indeed DWR map and document publication, with a further request to update, edit, or revise past publications to accomplish the following: Identify or designate on any map or list of Delta islands, districts, or tracts two of the northernmost of these, that is, Netherlands District (Reclamation District 999) and Lisbon District (Reclamation District 307). These comprise together more than 30,000 acres of the Primary Zone of the Statutory Delta, yet they have been omitted from all of the following recent Delta resources: the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force Report (October
2007) and Strategic Plan (December 2008), both of the recent Public Policy Institute of California Delta reports (which list 74 Delta islands, but not these), DWR’s Delta Overview and Delta Atlas, and the Delta map accompanying the Revised BDCP NOP, to name only a few. In addition, State Highway 84, the northernmost portion of which is known locally as Jefferson Boulevard, is also routinely left off of Delta maps and lists of Delta infrastructure that accompany publications by various entities engaged in Delta planning. The North Delta is more than a blank space. As a matter of justice, courtesy, accuracy, and for the public and historical record, please put us “on the map”.

Thank you for your consideration.

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