

American Rivers
The Bay Institute
Defenders of Wildlife
Environmental Defense Fund
The Nature Conservancy
Natural Heritage Institute

Karen Scarborough
Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sent via Email to karen.scarborough@resources.ca.gov

January 22, 2010

Dear Karen:

Our organizations believe in the importance of developing a comprehensive Bay Delta Conservation Plan that is both scientifically credible and sufficient under all applicable laws, including the new Delta legislation. Having collectively invested thousands of hours in the BDCP process over the last three years, we are concerned that insufficient progress on some key elements threatens timely completion and implementation of the plan.

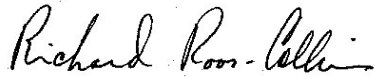
Before releasing a draft plan, the Steering Committee must resolve, at a minimum, the following issues -- nearly all of which were identified as "next steps" in the January 2009 Overview Document:

- Developing specific, measurable and quantitative objectives by late March in order to refine the project description, assess the biological effects of the project description against the conservation goals and objectives, and develop a meaningful adaptive management program.
- Developing a strategy for enhancing inflows from both the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers to advance the objectives of the BDCP.
- Embedding adaptive management as a central element of the conservation strategy through development and application of a logical framework that utilizes science to reduce uncertainty and measure progress as implementation proceeds.
- Revising the preliminary project description and including appropriate assumptions in modeling analyses to reduce the probability that climate change or catastrophic levee failure will preclude achievement of the conservation goals and objectives.
- Further developing the governance mechanism to assure that operations and other elements of the conservation strategy achieve the conservation goals and objectives, and specifically, the plan's specified contribution to ecosystem recovery.

We will continue to work diligently to narrow and refine the preliminary project description by January 29, 2010. This is on the understanding that the preliminary description (i) will be revised as appropriate upon resolution of the above-identified outstanding issues and (ii) will be subject to subsequent application of the effects analysis depending upon the results of the effects analysis done on the preliminary description and other new information.

We look forward to working with you in the near future to revise our planning process to facilitate timely completion of a high quality and scientifically credible plan which we can all support.

Sincerely,



Richard Roos-Collins
American Rivers



Gary Bobker
The Bay Institute



Kim Delfino
Defenders of Wildlife



Ann Hayden
Environmental Defense Fund



Greg Thomas
Natural Heritage Institute



Anthony Saracino
The Nature Conservancy