The Delta plans

**Bay Delta Conservation Plan.** BDCP is a voluntary Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) under the federal Endangered Species Act, and a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) under the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act. Under BDCP, the state and federal governments would take actions to comprehensively address the effects of the State Water Project (SWP) and the Central Valley Project (CVP) on populations of the dozens of plant and animal species listed in the Delta region under the state and federal endangered species laws, and help begin to restore those populations.

The plan is being developed by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), with assistance from the California Natural Resources Agency. Other agencies involved are the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), US Army Corps of Engineers, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). Plan development is paid for by the State and Federal water contractors.

The BDCP may propose the development of a new water transportation facility to move water from the Sacramento River to the state and federal water pumps in the South Delta near Tracy. This would help provide for a more reliable water supply, since the current method of transporting water across the Delta makes these water supplies vulnerable to flooding, earthquakes and sea level rise, all of which could collapse fragile Delta levees, making it impossible to continue to move water across the Delta. Such a facility would also partially restore the natural direction of flow from the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers towards the Pacific Ocean, benefitting fish populations.

BDCP also includes more than twenty other measures that will contribute to the recovery of various species, such as restoring habitat for native fish and many terrestrial species, reducing poaching, reducing predation on native species of fish, and many more.

In 2009 the Legislature passed the Delta Reform Act, which provides a process by which the BDCP can be incorporated into the Delta Plan to be approved by the Delta Stewardship Council (Council). Such incorporation will occur if (i) USFWS and NMFS approve the BDCP as an HCP, (ii) DFG approves the BDCP as an NCCP, and (iii) DFG concludes that the BDCP process has satisfied environmental review requirements spelled out in the California Water Code. DFG’s determinations can be appealed to the Council. To build new facilities, several permits would be needed, such as from the USACOE for compliance under the Clean Water Act and from the SWRCB to add new points of water diversion for the state and federal water projects.

BDCP seeks to meet the coequal goals of reliable state water supply and ecological restoration in the Bay-Delta ecosystem. It is expected to be completed in 2013.

Read more about BDCP at [www.baydeltaconservationplan.com](http://www.baydeltaconservationplan.com)

**The Delta Plan.** This plan is being developed by the Delta Stewardship Council. The Council was created by the Legislature in 2009, and charged with overseeing land use and other actions which affect achievement of the co-equal goals. The Delta Plan is therefore intended to achieve the co-equal goals of
“providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place.” It includes recommendations to agencies as well as some regulation of covered actions in the Delta, including land development, water resource management, and habitat restoration. The Plan is expected to be approved by the Council in the summer of 2012.

BDCP will be included in the Delta Plan if it meets requirements imposed by law as determined by the California Department of Fish and Game. That decision may then be appealed to the Council, which must either approve or reject it. It may not be amended by the Council. Since BDCP will not be completed in time for the first version of the Delta Plan in 2012, it will have to be included in the Delta Plan after approval by the Council, probably in 2013.

Learn more about the Delta Plan at www.deltacouncil.ca.gov

**Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan.** This Plan is updated periodically by the State Water Resources Control Board pursuant to the state Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and under delegation from US EPA under the Federal Clean Water Act. The Plan regulates water quality in the San Francisco Bay-Delta through the establishment of water quality standards, including standards specifically adopted to protect the Bay Delta ecosystem. The Plan is usually updated every five to twelve years. It is currently undergoing an update, which should be completed in 2014.

Actions taken under BDCP would be subject to regulation by this Plan. After the BDCP is incorporated into the Delta Plan, the State Water Resources Control will consider applications from DWR and its federal partner the United States Bureau of Reclamation to add new points for the diversion of water from the Sacramento River (assuming a diversion facility is included in BDCP). In order to accommodate the BDCP, SWRCB would have to approve amendments to the water rights held by the state and federal water projects. SWRCB regulates the water rights of the state and federal water projects.

The State Water Resources Control Board’s current update of the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan will include a review of changes that should be made to water quality objectives and the program of implementation to protect beneficial uses in the Bay-Delta in the immediate future under existing conditions, and in the longer term with and without changes to the environment that may occur as the result of the BDCP. The Board may impose additional conditions on BDCP pursuant to their water quality, environmental, and water rights authorities.

Learn more about the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/bay_delta_plan/water_quality_control_planning](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/bay_delta_plan/water_quality_control_planning)

**Delta Economic Sustainability Plan** This advisory plan is being developed by the Delta Protection Commission, which is charged by law with formulating land use and resource management policies for
the Primary Zone of the Delta, and which provides appellate review over contested local land use
decision in the Primary Zone. The Economic Sustainability Plan has been submitted to the Delta
Stewardship Council, for consideration for inclusion in the Delta Plan. The Council is considering which
parts of the Economic Sustainability Plan will be included in the Delta Plan. The Economic Sustainability
Plan was required by the same 2009 legislation which created both the Council and the process by which
the BDCP may be incorporated into the Delta Plan.

Learn more about the Delta Economic Sustainability Plan at [www.delta.ca.gov](http://www.delta.ca.gov)

**Delta Protection Commission Land Use and Resource Management Plan:** The goals of this Plan, as set
out in the Delta Protection Act of 1992, are to "protect, maintain, and where possible, enhance and
restore the overall quality of the Delta environment, including but not limited to agriculture, wildlife
habitat, and recreational activities; assure orderly, balanced conservation and development of Delta
land resources and improve flood protection by structural and nonstructural means to ensure an
increased level of public health and safety." Every five years the DPC considers the plan in its entirety
for appropriate revisions. The most recent revisions were completed in 2010.

Learn more about the DPC’s Land Use and Resource Management Plan at

**Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan:** The Delta Conservancy, established through the 2009 Delta Reform
Act, may implement Delta ecosystem restoration in collaboration and cooperation with local
governments and interested parties. The Conservancy is to support efforts that advance the
environmental protection and economic well-being of Delta residents and is to adopt a Strategic Plan to
achieve these goals. In early 2012, the Conservancy held public meetings to gather public information on
what should be included in the Strategic Plan, which must be consistent with the Delta Plan, The Delta
Protection Commission’s resources management plan, the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, and the
Suisun Marsh Habitat Preservation and Restoration Plan. The Conservancy is developing an interim
strategic plan to guide Conservancy operations until the final Strategic Plan is completed.

Learn more about the Delta Conservancy’s Strategic Plan at
[http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov/strategic_plan/sp_overview.html](http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov/strategic_plan/sp_overview.html)