The Shasta County Water Agency appreciates this opportunity to comment during the scoping phase of the CEQA-NEPA process for the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan. We are optimistic about this program as it appears to view the Delta from a habitat viewpoint and, as such, it seems less likely to fall into the “one species at a time” trap set by the Endangered Species Act and similar laws.

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan has the benefit of the science and experience of the CalFed. One important lesson from CalFed is the need for a strong governing body or governance plan. BDCP is a body comprised of many contributing agencies and some of those agencies wield more power than BDCP. If all the agencies cannot be made to work in unison, the BDCP will fail. The people of California cannot tolerate more failures in the Delta.

BDCP contemplates an “Isolated Facility” and other unspecified actions at the habitat level. Northern Californians are surely as tired as Southern Californians of water supply reliability being held hostage to a hodge-podge of endangered species in the Delta. We are anxious for an improvement, but we cannot tolerate gains at the expense of Area of Origin protections, or other protections of our existing water rights.

We look forward to participating further in the BDCP process.

Sincerely,

Eric Wedemeyer
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