Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

Steering Committee (SC) Meeting

December 5, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
California Farm Bureau Federation Conference Room
2300 River Plaza Ave, Sacramento, CA

Draft Meeting Notes

Associated documents/handouts:

- Agenda
- Draft BDCP Meeting Notes October 17, 2008
- Draft BDCP Schedule of Agenda Topics
- Draft (#2) Cover Note Bay Delta Conservation Plan Comprehensive Conservation Strategy
- Draft Guidance for Integration Team
- Draft Initial SAIC Recommended BDCP Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Objectives
- Draft North Delta Activities
- Draft Adaptive Management Section Chapter 3, Conservation Strategy (December 2, 2008)
- Draft BDCP Implementation Structure/Governance Work Group Working Concepts
- Draft BDCP Independent Science Advisors Workshop Agenda– December 17-19, 2008
- BDCP Tour of Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant – Agenda December 12, 2008

Action Items and Key Decisions

- Approved BDCP Draft Meeting Notes October 17, 2008 with minor corrections

Updates

- Steering Committee (SC) members were reminded about the goal of BDCP to strive for concurrence as a group and members were encouraged to provide their input on components of the plan.
- FWS provided an update on preparation of the OCAP biological opinion; it will be delivered on December 15.

Conservation Strategy Overview

Paul Cylinder presented the *Draft Schedule of Agenda Topics* (see associated handouts/documents).

Integration Team

Jerry Johns (co-chair) presented the *Guidance for Integration Team* (see associated handouts/documents). He discussed the structure and content of the document, stressing the integration of water operations and habitat conservation measures, along with the role of other stressors conservation measures. The Integration Team is looking at a subset of conservation measures as potential "core elements" of the plan. This is a new document and will be discussed for the first time later today in the Integration Team meeting.

SC members discussed the document and raised issues that included: the scope of the Integration Team's efforts and its relationship with the SC; whether to include upstream reservoir operations

as a component of BDCP; San Joaquin River inflows; draft list of potential "core elements;" the need to integrate water operations and habitat restoration measures; the need to address impacts on upstream operations; BDCP focus on legal Delta; concern with practicality of Integration Team schedule; role of CalLite interactive sessions; contents of an introduction to the "core elements" document; inclusion of terrestrial species measures; and the importance of articulating uncertainties.

Working Groups, Technical Teams, and Liaisons

Habitat Restoration Opportunities

Pete Rawlings presented HO#4 *Overview of Initial SAIC Recommended Habitat Restoration Opportunities* (see associated handouts/documents)

Discussion of document by SC members included: consequences and values of flooding Frank's Tract and Liberty Island; level of benefits provided by shallow aquatic subtidal habitats established in conjunction with restored tidal marsh; request for clarification of footnote regarding adaptive management; process discussion in Habitat Restoration TT; best locations for riparian restoration; and how terrestrial species would be addressed in habitat restoration planning.

Conveyance Working Group

Draft North Delta Activities

Paul Cylinder presented *Draft North Delta Activities* (see associated handouts/documents).

SC member discussion topics related to the handouts included: handout terminology; whether action WOCM1 (construction of diversion facilities and a canal) should be characterized as a conservation measure, a covered activity, or both; rationale for selecting 15,000 cfs as the capacity of a new north Delta diversion facility and a request that smaller capacities be analyzed; issues related to potential notching of the Fremont Weir; and environmental considerations of an eastern vs. western peripheral canal alignment. The SC identified the need to have a presentation regarding the regulatory issues associated with designating construction of an around-Delta canal a conservation measure or covered activity or both.

Implementing Structure/Governance Working Group

Presentation of *Draft Adaptive Management Section Chapter 3, Conservation Strategy (December 2, 2008)* and *Draft BDCP Implementation Structure/Governance Work Group Working Concepts* (see associated handouts/documents). The *Draft Adaptive Management Section* document is a progress report. Both documents are works in progress.

SC members addressed issues raised by the document including: who will implement the adaptive management plan; how will triggers for initiating an adaptive change be identified; incorporating existing Delta monitoring programs into BDCP monitoring; minimizing uncertainties; establishing adaptive management obligations of major permittees; adding monitoring plan into the WG's Working Concepts document; identifying the fish agencies role in adaptive management; ensuring

accountability; considering different approaches to an implementing structure; determining role of DWR in governance; and addressing unforeseen circumstances.

Public Comment:

Barbara Byrne of the PCL asked how initial commitments of funding will be determined and asked for an explanation on the difference between changed and unforeseen circumstances.

Science Liaisons

Wayne Spencer reported on the Independent Science Adaptive Management workshop agenda.

Biological Goals and Objectives Working Group

Pete Rawlings reported on the status of the WG. There is a specific request by WG for SAIC to meet with technical experts at fish agencies. Next meeting will be on December 11.

Public Outreach Liaisons

Karla Nemeth (co-chair) reported that a public outreach plan is being updated to be coordinated with the consultant's workplan. A tour of the Sacramento County Regional Sanitation plant and the Bufferlands has been scheduled for December 12.

Public Comment

Terry Mitchell from Sacramento County Regional Sanitation District wanted to remind SC members they are invited to tour their facilities.

Barbara Byrne of PCL asked for explicit clarification about what is being addressed in the document for the December 19 meeting. She wants to know what is being committed to in this document?

Attendees

Management and Representatives
Karen Scarborough (Chair, The Resources Agency)
Marc Ebbin (Resources Agency/DWR)
Laura King Moon (State Water Contractors)
Karla Nemeth (The Resources Agency)
Tom Howard (SWRCB)
Leo Winternitz (California Bay-Delta Authority)
Jerry Johns (DWR)
Sue Fry (USBR)
Brent Walthall (Kern County Water District)
Kurt Arends (Zone 7)
Jason Peltier (Westlands)
Ara Azhderian (SLDMWD)
Greg Gartrell (CCWD)
Cindy Kao (Santa Clara Valley)
Steve Ottemoeller (Friant Water Authority)
Kim Delfino (Defenders of Wildlife)

Ann Hayden (Environmental Defense)
Campbell Ingram (The Nature Conservancy)
Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute)
John McCamman (DFG)
John Engbring (USFWS)
Ted Meyers (NMFS)
Paul Cylinder (SAIC)

On phone
Roger Patterson (Metropolitan)
John Cain (Natural Heritage Institute)
Steve Rothert (American Rivers)
Richard Roos-Collins (American Rivers/Natural Heritage Institute)

Other attendees
See sign-in sheets