BASIC AND OVERALL PROJECT PURPOSE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 404 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT FOR THE BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN: CONSERVATION MEASURE 1 - WATER OPERATIONS AND CONVEYANCE

INTRODUCTION

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) has been designed to achieve the co-equal goals of providing for the conservation and management of aquatic and terrestrial species, including the restoration and enhancement of ecological functions in the Delta, and improving current water supplies and the reliability of delivery of water supplies conveyed through the State Water Project (SWP) and the Central Valley Project (CVP). To accomplish these goals, the BDCP sets out a comprehensive, integrated conservation strategy that involves: 1) substantial modifications and improvements to SWP and CVP water conveyance facilities in the Delta and vicinity, including the addition of new points of diversion in the north Delta and other facilities to convey water around the Delta; 2) operational changes to the SWP and CVP; 3) extensive protection and restoration of physical habitat, including actions to expand the extent and quality of intertidal, floodplain and other aquatic habitats in the Delta and vicinity; and 4) actions to address other stressors that adversely affect covered species. The BDCP will achieve these goals in a manner that meets the requirements of applicable federal and state laws, including the Endangered Species and Clean Water acts, and in accord with the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009.

As part of the process of implementing the BDCP, DWR will seek permits from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to undertake a range of actions set out in the plan. The following basic and overall project purpose statements concern those BDCP actions relating to the construction and operation of the water conveyance infrastructure improvements and modifications comprising Conservation Measure 1 of the plan.

BASIC PURPOSE

The construction and operation of modifications and improvements to SWP and CVP water conveyance facilities in the Delta and vicinity, including the addition of new points of diversion in the north Delta and other facilities to convey water around the Delta, consistent with the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

OVERALL PROJECT PURPOSE

The overall purpose of the project is to construct and operate modifications and improvements to the State Water Project (SWP) facilities in the Delta. The project includes the construction of new diversion facilities in the north Delta, the construction of new facilities to convey water from the new diversion facilities to existing SWP and Central Valley Project water export facilities, and modifications to the operations of the SWP. The project would align SWP water project operations in the Delta to better reflect seasonal flow patterns, reduce the usage of the existing SWP diversion facilities in the south Delta, and protect fish with state of the art fish screens.