Defining the Range of Alternatives for BDCP Draft EIR/EIS

June 15, 2010 –BECT Presentation

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Overview of Presentation

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- Identification of Initial Alternative Concepts
- Development and application of screening criteria
- Range of alternatives to be evaluated in detail in the BDCP Draft EIR/EIS

Identification of Initial Alternative Concepts

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- Concepts in the Notice of Preparation and Notice of Intent
- Concepts identified during Scoping Process
  - Over 1,051 comments related to alternatives
  - Requests to include concepts described in 2007 and 2008 reports by Public Policy Institute of California
  - Request to include concepts presented to the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force
- Concepts included in BDCP Steering Committee handouts over past four years

All Initial Alternative Concepts include Three Components

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- Restoration Components
- Measures to Reduce Other Stressors Components
- Conveyance Components
  - Isolated Conveyance
  - Dual Conveyance
  - Through Delta Conveyance

Isolated Conveyance Concepts

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- Central Delta Pipeline/Tunnel
- Eastern Unlined and Lined Canal
- Eastern Unlined Canal plus connection to San Joaquin River near Mossdale
- Eastern Unlined Canal plus connection to EBMUD and SFPUC
- Western Unlined and Lined Canal
- Western Unlined Canal plus use of Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel
- Eastern Foothill Unlined Canal from Sacramento River near Verona

Dual Conveyance Concepts

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- Central Delta Pipeline/Tunnel
- Eastern Unlined and Lined Canal
- Eastern Unlined Canal plus connection to San Joaquin River near Mossdale
- Western Unlined and Lined Canal
- Western Unlined Canal plus use of Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel
- Eastern Foothill Unlined Canal from Sacramento River near Verona

Through Delta Conveyance Concepts

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- Continued use of existing water supply systems
  - Levee armoring and new setback levees along South Fork Mokelumne and Middle rivers and Victoria Canal
  - ~~Minimal or no maintenance to m~~Manage Delta for habitat, not local or SWP/CVP water supplies
- Separate Corridors
  - Water supply corridor along Mokelumne and Middle rivers and fish movement corridor along Old River
- Use of existing water supply systems with Delta salt water barrier installed near Benicia Bridge

Multiple-Step Screening Criteria Process

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- First and Second Screening Levels
  - Defining alternatives under CEQA and NEPA
- Third Screening Level
  - Defining "potentially feasible alternatives" under CEQA and "reasonable alternatives" under NEPA
- Consideration of Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act requirements
- Consideration ~~of alternative concepts identified during scoping by~~ CEQA responsible agencies and NEPA cooperating agencies raised during scoping

First and Second Screening Levels

- First Screening Level
  - Could the potential alternative concept meet the ~~Purpose Statements~~ projects purpose/objectives in Notice of Preparation and Notice of Intent?
- Second Screening Level
  - Under CEQA, consider: Would the potential alternative avoid or substantially lessen any of the expected significant environmental effects of the proposed project?
  - Under NEPA, consider: Would the potential alternative address one or more significant issues related to the proposed action?

~~Does not need to comply with both CEQA and NEPA~~

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Third Screening Level

- Could the potential alternative concept be "feasible" under CEQA? **DRAFT**
  - Capable of being accomplished in reasonable time period taking into account economic, legal, social, and technological factors?
- Could the potential alternative concept be "reasonable" under NEPA?
  - Practical or feasible from technical or economic standpoint?

CEQA and NEPA allow~~s~~ consideration of a reasonable balance of environmental, economic, social, and technical factors and legal feasibility under species protection ~~laws /~~ and other laws

Consideration of Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act

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- Do alternatives provide a reasonable range of:
  - Flow criteria? Diversion rates?
  - Other operational criteria to satisfy the criteria of approval as a Natural Community Conservation Plan?
  - Hydrologic conditions?
- Does the range of alternatives include a:
  - Through Delta Conveyance alternative?
  - Dual Conveyance alternative?
  - Isolated Conveyance alternative?
  - Dual or Isolated Conveyance – Lined Canal alternative?
  - Dual or Isolated Conveyance – Unlined Canal alternative?
  - Pipeline/Tunnel Conveyance alternative?

Consideration of Responsible/Cooperating Agencies Scoping Comments

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- Does range of alternatives include:
  - Broad range of water quality objectives and operational strategies?
  - Potential interim changes to SWRCB Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan?
  - Long-term changes to SWRCB Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan with and without new conveyance facilities?
  - Reduced diversions lower than diversions allowed in USFWS and NMFS biological opinions to assure continued existence of the species and some level of rehabilitation for estuary?
  - Delta outflows, and potentially inflows, that reflect a more natural hydrograph than current SWRCB Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan?

Development of Range of Alternatives to be Evaluated in Detail in Draft EIR/EIS

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- Applied the screening criteria to the range of alternative concepts to identify the alternatives for Draft EIR/EIS
- All alternatives in Draft EIR/EIS address conveyance, capacity, operations, restoration, and other stressors components

Array of Alternatives to be Evaluated in Detail in Draft EIR/EIS of June 15, 2010

Move to become 3rd column

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ALTERNATIVE	NORTH DELTA DIVERSION CAPACITY (cfs)	DELTA ALIGNMENT	OPERATIONAL CRITERIA	RESTORATION AND OTHER STRESSORS
Alternative 1 – Dual Conveyance	15,000	Pipeline/Tunnel East Unlined East Lined West Unlined West Lined	Per BDCP Proposed Project (2/11/10 BDCP Handout)	Per BDCP Proposed Project (3/25/10 BDCP Handout)
Alternative 2 – Dual Conveyance	6,000	Pipeline/Tunnel	Same as Alternative 1	Same as Alternative 1
Alternative 3 – Isolated Conveyance	15,000	Pipeline/Tunnel East Unlined East Lined West Unlined West Lined	Similar to Alternative 1 with Fall X2	Same as Alternative 1
Alternative 4 – Dual Conveyance: Enhanced Aquatic Conservation	~~12,000~~ To be Determined	Pipeline/Tunnel	Modified from Alternative 1	Similar to Alternative 1 with Increased Restoration
Alternative 5 – Through Delta Conveyance: Separate Corridors	15,000	Through Delta Channel Modifications	Modified from Alternative 1	Same as Alternative 1

This array of alternatives is preliminary and subject to change based upon information developed/reviewed during impact assessment