Defining the Range of Alternatives for BDCP Draft EIR/EIS

June 15, 2010 –BECT Presentation

ED_000733_DD_NSF_00079561-00001

Overview of Presentation

- Identification of Lead Agencies of the EIR/EIS
- 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

EIR/EIS Lead Agencies

- CEQA Lead Agency
  - California Department of Water Resources
- NEPA Lead Agencies
  - Bureau of Reclamation
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - National Marine Fisheries Service

Identification of Initial Alternative Concepts

- 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

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

Isolated Conveyance Concepts

- 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

- 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

- Continued use of existing water supply systems
  - Levee armoring and new setback levees along South Fork Mokelumne and Middle rivers and Victoria Canal
  - 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

- 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 criteria identified by CEQA responsible agencies and NEPA cooperating agencies raised during scoping

CEQA Responsible or Trustee Agencies

- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- California State Water Resources Control Board
- California Air Resources Control Board
- California Department of Boating and Waterways
- California Department of Transportation
- California State Lands Commission
- San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

NEPA Cooperating Agencies

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- State and Federal Contractors Water Agency

First and Second Screening Levels

- First Screening Level
  - Could the potential alternative concept meet the project's 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?

Third Screening Level

- Could the potential alternative concept be "feasible" under CEQA?
  - 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 allows consideration of a reasonable balance of environmental, economic, social, and technical factors and legal feasibility under species protection and other laws

Consideration of Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act

- 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

- 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

- 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 as of June 15, 2010

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

Next Steps

- Impact assessments will begin to identify potential adverse impacts and related mitigation measures
- The array of alternatives is preliminary and subject to change based upon information developed/reviewed during impact assessment