

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

Steering Committee Meeting

December 14, 2007, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Resources Agency Bldg., Room 1311

Draft Meeting Notes

Associated documents/handouts:

- Agenda
- Working Draft: Outline of BDCP document
- Flow Diagram: BDCP Development Process and Schedule
- Diagram of Relationship Among Steering Committee (SC) Workgroups and Technical Teams
- Diagram of Biological Goals and Objectives Development Process and Relationships- Biological Goals and Objectives Workgroup
- Diagram of Habitat Restoration Program Development Process and Relationships- Habitat Restoration Program Technical Team
- Diagram of Process for Identifying Conveyance Configuration, Features, and Operations- Conveyance Workgroup
- Diagram of Other Conservation Measures Development Process and Relationships- Other Conservation Measures Technical Team
- Diagram of Process for Identifying Analytical Tools
- Diagram of Implementing Structure- Governance Development Process and Governance Workgroup
- Participants in BDCP Workgroup and Technical Teams (Draft, paper copy only)

Action Items and Key Decisions

- Workgroups and technical teams are being convened and will feed back into SC process and decisions

Updates

- Westlands recently purchased ~3500 acres in the Delta north of Liberty Island for habitat restoration.
- CALFED State of the Science 2008 report and Summary for Policymakers were released to the public.
- Delta Vision Task Force approved a vision for the Delta.
- Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) Draft Conservation Strategy end of Stage 1 document is complete and will be distributed to SC members on Monday.
- BDCP management met with California Senator Simitian's governance group to discuss coordinated implementation of BDCP and Delta Vision. BDCP and the Senator's team will continue to communicate as needed.
- State water bonds. There will not be any bonds on the February 2008 ballot but there is still interest in placing an initiative on the June ballot.
- Prospect Island. The levee is fixed and fish have been salvaged. The land is being disposed of by USBR and has already been offered to Department of Interior agencies. If

there are no takers, then it will be offered to other federal and non-federal agencies through the General Services Administration.

- NRDC v. Kempthorne - Judge Wanger is expected to issue a order soon.
- Longfin smelt proposed listing. Fish & Game Commission is considering listing of longfin smelt under the California Endangered Species Act. Commission will likely decide in February 2008 if it will designate the species as a “candidate.”

BDCP Timeline and Flowchart

Paul Cylinder and Pete Rawlings presenting. A timeline and flowchart showing BDCP deliverables, milestones, and workgroups was drafted to clarify the schedule and relationships among workgroups. See also Handouts and Associated Documents.

Overall BDCP goal is to have final permitting in 2010. Major deliverables with firm deadlines include:

- BDCP Chapter 3 Conservation Strategy: Due at end of 2008. This chapter will include all conservation measures and the adaptive management and monitoring plan sections.
- Administrative draft of the entire BDCP document: Internal draft will be completed middle of 2009. Public draft will be released at the end of 2009 with the NEPA/CEQA documents.

Outline

The draft proposed outline for the BDCP document captures the basic elements of a typical HCP/NCCP. See also Handouts and Associated Documents. Comments on content or structure should be sent to Marc Ebbin.

Workgroups and Technical Teams

Several new workgroups and technical teams are being formed, including Biological Goals and Objectives workgroup, Habitat Restoration technical team, and Analytical Tools technical team. Additional workgroups and technical teams will be convened as needed, including but not necessarily limited to, Conveyance workgroup, Other Conservation Measures technical team, Implementing Structure workgroup.

The goals of each workgroup/technical team are related and in many cases their work and products will interact. For example, the general Delta water conveyance design and operations, which will be studied in detail by the Conveyance workgroup, will feed into Covered Activities, which in turn will help define Covered Species.

BDCP management team identified potential participants for each workgroup and technical team, including chairs and a BDCP management team liaison. SAIC will work closely with each of the workgroups and technical teams. The time and date of the meetings will be posted on the BDCP website in advance. See also Draft Participants in BDCP Workgroups and Technical Teams in Handouts and Associated Documents.

The independent science process will be ongoing, overseen by the BDCP science liaisons and science facilitation team.

Current Status and Purpose of Workgroups and Technical Teams

Biological Goals and Objectives workgroup

See below- Biological Goals and Objectives Workgroup Update.

Habitat Restoration technical team

Technical team leadership has convened. The team will synthesize information that already exists, identify conservation opportunity areas, assess each conservation opportunity area's potential for benefiting BDCP species, and develop screening process for selecting habitat restoration actions. The overall restoration program and plan will be part of Chapter 3 (Conservation Strategy).

Conveyance workgroup

Workgroup will convene early in 2008. Past planning processes in the Delta have analyzed activities and strategies, so this workgroup may draw on those studies. A number of aspects of conveyance (e.g., major screening facility) may potentially be part of the conservation strategy and therefore may be included in both Chapter 3 Conservation Strategy and Chapter 5 Covered Activities.

Other conservation measures technical team

Technical team will convene in 2008. The team will study conservation measures other than habitat restoration that could be included to address stressors (e.g., toxics, non-natives). Part of the purpose of this team is to identify whether additional workgroups/technical teams will be needed to study specific stressors and conservation measures to address those stressors.

Analytical tools technical team

First technical team meeting will be held next week. The purpose of this team is to identify what tools (e.g., hydrodynamic and species models) are already available, where there are knowledge gaps, and what tools should be used and/or developed for BDCP development and its implementation.

Implementing structure workgroup

Workgroup has not yet convened. This group will work closely with SC to help craft an implementation strategy for BDCP.

Biological Goals and Objectives (BGO) Workgroup Update

Jason Peltier and Will Stelle presenting. BGO workgroup held an initial conference call and an in-person meeting this week. SAIC prepared a draft set of potential Goals and Objectives to start the discussion, and the fisheries agencies submitted a set that they had composed for BDCP in early 2007. Participants agreed that the conversation is moving in a positive direction. The primary point of discussion was related to the level of detail/scale that appropriate for BGO's. Specifically, there was not consensus among participants on whether to quantify the objectives by including, e.g., acreages or population targets. Performance metrics and the manner in which uncertainty will be

included in the BGO's were also topics of discussion. The workgroup will meet again on 1/4/08.

Independent Science Process

Kim Delfino and Jason Peltier, representing the science liaison group, presenting. The group spoke with Denise Reed about the possibility of a spring 2008 workshop on analytical tools. They determined that the best venue for that discussion would be the Analytical Tools technical team, who will confer with the science liaisons group and take up the issue at their next meeting. SC will discuss this issue again at the 1/11 meeting.

At their next meeting the science liaisons will review SAIC recommendations for implementing science advisors' report.

Public Comment

Barbara Byrne. Planning and Conservation League. The Wanger court order is a good opportunity to do some experimentation with flows and operations and observe the physical and biological response in the Delta.

Next meeting

Friday 1/11/08, same time and location, and every other Friday thereafter throughout 2008. 12/28 meeting canceled for the holidays.

Attendees

Management and representatives

Karen Scarborough (Chair, The Resources Agency)
Marc Ebbin (The Resources Agency/DWR)
Will Stelle (The Resources Agency)
Ara Azhderian (SLDMWD)
Cindy Darling (The Resources Agency)
Kenny Watkins (CFBF)
Frank Michny (USBR)
Karla Nemeth (Zone 7)
Laura Simonek (Metropolitan)
Tracy Ligon (Santa Clara)
Leo Winternitz (CALFED)
Jason Peltier (Westlands)
Greg Thomas (Natural Heritage Institute)
Kim Delfino (Defenders of Wildlife)
Ann Hayden (Environmental Defense)
Campbell Ingram (The Nature Conservancy)
Jerry Johns (DWR)
Ron Kino (Mirant)

Susan Moore (FWS)
Russ Strach (NOAA Fisheries)
John McCamman (DFG)
Paul Cylinder (SAIC)
Laura King Moon (State Water Contractors)
Brent Walthall (Kern County)

By phone

Doug Wallace (EBMUD)
Dale Myers (Zone 7)
Anthony Saracino (TNC)
Melanie Rowland (FWS)
Steve Rothert (NHI)
John Chilemi (Mirant)
Chuck Hanson (SAIC/State Water Contractors)
Bruce DiGennaro (Science Facilitation team)
Denise Reed (Lead Scientist)

Other attendees

See sign-in sheets