

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 22, 2012

The Hon. Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Washington DC

The Hon. Rebecca Blank  
Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington DC

Dear Secretary Salazar and Acting Secretary Blank:

As you know, we were recently briefed on a proposal to retool the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). It is our understanding that this revised proposal is designed to respond to the warnings from state and federal agencies that earlier versions of the plan would not meet statutory requirements.

However, the new proposal raises far more questions than it answers, and appears to turn the maxim of "policy before plumbing" on its head. We ask that you not finalize or formally announce this framework until a far more detailed description is made available for review.

Since the BDCP process began in 2006, we have warned that a poorly designed plan would cause significant disruptions to northern California and could increase water exports from the Bay-Delta estuary — while failing to restore the Bay-Delta ecosystem and rebuild salmon and other California fisheries as required by law. Our concerns have been echoed by northern California water agencies, flood control districts, cities, counties, the commercial and recreational fishing industries, and conservation groups.

We agree that the BDCP requires a significant overhaul if it is to succeed, and we genuinely appreciate the efforts that your departments and agencies have dedicated to the recent revisions. However, we do not believe it is wise to commit to massive new water pumping stations and conveyance tunnels while sustainable solutions to the problems of water quality, fish and ecosystem restoration, local impacts, and water flows are made to wait. Nor do we believe that the proposal on which we have been briefed is permissible under state or federal law.

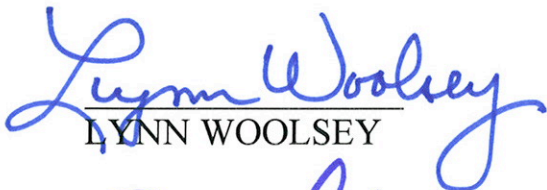
There is too much at stake in the BDCP for the federal government to announce a plan that defers important decisions while an expensive and potentially damaging water diversion project is allowed to proceed.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns. We look forward to reviewing a detailed proposal and hope to work with you to improve this process further.

Sincerely,

  
GEORGE MILLER

  
JERRY McNERNEY

  
LYNN WOOLSEY

  
FORTNEY PETE STARK

  
ZOE LOFGREN

  
BARBARA LEE

  
JACKIE SPEIER

  
DORIS MATSUI

  
JOHN GARAMENDI

  
ANNA G. ESHOO

  
MIKE THOMPSON

  
MICHAEL M. HONDA