

**Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)
Steering Committee (SC) Meeting**
August 22, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Resources Agency Building, Room 1131
Draft Meeting Notes

Associated documents/handouts:

- Agenda
- June 13, 2008 Draft SC Meeting Notes
- Draft BDCP Specific Outreach Strategy
- Fall Schedule: BDCP Steering Committee
- Fall Calendar: BDCP Steering Committee
- Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Administrative Draft ERP Conservation Strategy Level 2 Implementation
- Habitat Restoration Program Technical Team Presentation

Action Items and Key Decisions

- June 13, 2008 Draft SC Meeting Notes approved with correction to Greg Zlotnick's affiliation.

Updates

- Future BDCP SC meetings will be held at the California Farm Bureau Federation offices, effective September 5. The meetings will be held in the main conference room.
- Gary Bobker introduced new conservation biologist Jon Rosenfield who is replacing Tina Swanson, now Executive Director of The Bay Institute.
- Today's tour of Clarksburg will begin immediately after the SC meeting. Steve Johnson, the videographer, will be along on the tour.
- Delta Vision (DV) has released the 3rd Draft Staff Strategic Plan.
- Secretary Mike Chrisman is meeting today with elected officials from around the Delta. These meetings will occur monthly and will focus on all of the different aspects of water strategy, vision, and perspective.
- Another DWR tour of Fremont Weir may be scheduled. A sign-up sheet with suggested dates will be sent around to gather names of interested individuals.
- DWR reported on the first meetings with landowners to discuss the land surveys. There was good constructive dialogue addressing several issues, including landowner involvement in the BDCP process and the consequences of an isolated conveyance system.
- SC members are reminded that the working group/technical team process will soon be completed and that discussions regarding the BDCP conservation strategy will occur at the SC during the fall.
- The subject of the next day-long Delta tour was discussed, with the suggestion that SC members reserve a non-SC meeting Friday for future tours.
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has sent out one notice on the San Joaquin River Flow (SJRF) salinity workshop. There will be other workshops concerning water conservation issues on October 1 and a scoping workshop focused on Bay Delta issues on October 8. The SWRCB has yet to schedule evidentiary hearings on Delta issues as the SWRCB is waiting for feedback to determine the need for the hearings. The upcoming OCAP-related biological opinions may have an impact on the hearing process.
- SC will investigate alternative telecommunication options.

DFG Administrative Draft ERP Conservation Strategy Level 2 Implementation

John McCamman presented a brief overview of the document. DFG has been working for several years on a conceptual plan for the ERP conservation strategy. This document has been submitted this week to Delta Vision. The ERP conservation strategy is a refinement of CALFED ERP plan with a narrower focus on the Delta and Suisun. The document is consistent with the conceptual approaches to habitat conservation that have been discussed in the BDCP process. It focuses especially on Delta species, specifically the POD species and anadromous fishes, as well as on terrestrial species. DFG will continue to update and refine the document for other geographic areas, and will likely be modified to reflect aspects of the NMFS recovery plan for central

valley salmonids and the US Fish and Wildlife recovery plan for Delta fishes as those plans become available. Currently, the ERP document is under administrative draft review. It will likely be reviewed by the NMFS and FWS in September. CDFG is interested in receiving comments from SC. CDFG intends for this document to assist in the discussion of conservation measures for BDCP. Comments should be sent to Carl Wilcox. A request was made for a more detailed briefing on the document to be scheduled later.

June 13, 2008 Draft SC Notes

- June 13, 2008 Draft SC Meeting Notes approved with correction to Greg Zlotnick's affiliation.

Public Comments

Osha Meserve, representing the City of Antioch, requests that SC notes reflect detailed minutes of the meetings to help the public understand the efforts and process of BDCP.

Stan Dean, representing the Sacramento Regional Sanitation District, will make his comments during the update for the Other Stressors Working Group.

Terrence Dermody, representing San Joaquin County, requests more detailed meeting notes, for example, "what was said and who was saying it" in order for the public to evaluate what BDCP is doing.

BDCP Fall Calendar and Schedule

Paul Cylinder presented the current fall 2008 BDCP calendar and schedule.

SC members discussed details of the fall [2008] BDCP calendar, including the following:

- Schedules for working groups and technical teams
- Process for the conservation measures developed by the working groups and technical teams to be considered and discussed by the SC
- Establishment of an Adaptive Management Working Group
- Approach to address terrestrial species, water fowl, and other species in the Delta
- Convene an independent science workshop on non-aquatic covered species in September
- Establishment of an iterative approach to developing and revising the Conservation Strategy chapter.

It was emphasized that schedule will not override the quality of the content of the BDCP.

HOTT: Lessons Learned Presentation

Paul Cylinder, Armin Munevar, and John Cain presented a discussion on the lessons learned from the HOTT efforts. Issues addressed included:

- North Delta Bypasses and Floodplains
 - Benefits of modification of Fremont Weir
 - Diminishing floodplain habitat benefits in Yolo Bypass above 5,000 cfs
- Sutter and Steamboat Sloughs
 - Effects of Hood diversion
 - Concerns about predation, invasive species, and transport if flows in sloughs are reduced
- Benefits of Hood Diversion Facility
- Hood Bypass Flows
 - Preferences for operation
 - Coordination benefits with DCC and Rio Vista Flows
- Aspects of Rio Vista Flows and DCC
- Suisun Marsh, Salinity Control Gate
 - Effects of salinity
- Open Water Habitat Salinity Conditions
- South Delta Channel Conditions
- South Delta Tidal Marsh
 - Tidal dampening
 - Limited potential for restoration near pump facilities

- Entrainment issues at the pumps if habitat restored nearby
- Other solutions to habitat protection

SC members asked several questions about the issues raised in the presentation including the following: constraints on Hood bypass flows, effects of climate change, protecting low flows, south Delta restoration challenges, use of isolated Old River corridor, flow induced habitat quality, concerns about specific scenarios, scientific uncertainty of effects of restoration actions, ongoing work by the subgroups to the Conveyance WG.

Working Groups and Technical Teams

Public Outreach Working Group

Karla Nemeth (co chair) presented Draft BDCP-Specific Outreach Strategy (see Associated Handouts/Documents). Suggested strategies included the following:

- Monthly meetings with Secretary of Resources Mike Chrisman and elected officials from the Delta region
- Monthly meetings with senior policy and programmatic staff from local Delta agencies
- Targeted meetings with local interest groups
- Improved web access to information about BDCP
- Create opportunities for greater public input in SC meetings

This new outreach strategy will incorporate ways for greater public involvement, including alternatives to a formal seat on the SC. The WG is asking for comments on the strategy from SC members. While this Outreach Strategy is primarily focused on local Delta interests, the WG acknowledges the need to reach out to other interests, for example, upstream entities.

SC members discussed the outreach strategy and raised concerns about the consequences of posting WG and TT materials, expressed a desire for adequate participation of SC members outreach meetings, noted the importance of holding the meetings in the Delta communities and scheduling those meetings at times convenient to the community.

Public Comments:

Mark Pruner, representing North Delta C.A.R.E.S., encouraged BDCP SC to make use of input from local Delta interests and expertise. In addition, he expressed concern that without this local knowledge the BDCP process will suffer.

David Breninger, from the Placer County Water Agency, encouraged BDCP to keep the process more open and less restrictive to the public. He expressed concern about the placement of barriers across waterways that would limit multiple use. Upstream interests don't want to provide mitigation opportunities for those who benefit from export of water to southern California.

Osha Meserve, representing the City of Antioch, asked about establishing an in-Delta working group that could review products coming out of the technical teams, and provide feedback to the SC.

A recommendation is made that the first monthly meeting of a local in-Delta working group be scheduled sometime in next 2 weeks before the next SC.

Membership Working Group

Interview schedules with the applicants are being coordinated.

Science Liaisons Working Group

Independent science workshop to be held in September.

Other Stressors and Water Quality Working Groups

WG is on schedule.

Implementing Structure/Governance Working Group

WG met at 7:00am today prior to the SC meeting to accommodate the Clarksburg tour that leaves after the SC meeting.

Habitat Restoration Technical Team

Dave Harlow reported the Habitat TT will be back on September 19 with a report to the SC on conservations measures.

Habitat Restoration Program TT Presentation

Pete Rawlings and John Cain presented an update on the development of draft habitat restoration conservations measures. A summary of the presentation included:

- The approach to the development of conservation measures
- Restoration concepts
 - Floodplain restoration
 - Intertidal marsh restoration
 - Channel margin habitat restoration
 - Transitional grassland/sea level rise accommodation
- Overview of promising restoration zones
 - Yolo Bypass floodplain
 - Upper San Joaquin River floodplain restoration
 - Cache Slough intertidal marsh restoration
 - West Delta intertidal marsh restoration
 - Suisun Marsh intertidal marsh restoration
- Next steps for HRPTT
 - Follow up meeting scheduled for next week
 - Questions to be sent to the science advisors

Attendees

Management and Representatives

Karen Scarborough (Chair, The Resources Agency)
Marc Ebbin (The Resources Agency/DWR)
Will Stelle (The Resources Agency)
Laura King Moon (State Water Contractors)
Joe Grindstaff (CBDA)
Tom Howard (SWRCB)
Jerry Johns (DWR)
Ann Lubas-Williams (USBR)
Roger Patterson (Metropolitan)
Ara Azhderian (SLDMWD)
Greg Zlotnick (Santa Clara Valley Water District)
Jason Peltier (Westlands)
Karla Nemeth (Zone 7)

Richard Roos-Collins (American Rivers/Natural Heritage Institute)
Kim Delfino (Defenders of Wildlife)
Ann Hayden (Environmental Defense)
Greg Thomas (Natural Heritage Institute)
John Cain (Natural Heritage Institute)
Anthony Saracino (The Natural Conservancy)
Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute)
Chris Scheuring (California Farm Bureau Federation)
John McCamman (DFG)
Kathy Wood (USFWS)
Ted Meyers (NMFS)
Paul Cylinder (SAIC)

On phone

Greg Gartrell (CCWD)
Ron Kino (Mirant)
Campbell Ingram (The Natural Conservancy)

Other attendees

See sign-in sheets