

Central Valley Flood Protection Board Meeting
November 21, 2014

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

(Russell Stein, DWR)

BRIEFING SUMMARY

Background/Overview

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) is a 50-year habitat conservation plan that proposes to environmentally retrofit and modernize California's primary water delivery system – the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta – and to restore and/or protect approximately 150,000 acres of habitat for fish and wildlife. The BDCP is one part of California's overall water portfolio. It aims to protect California's unique Delta ecosystem and secure water supplies for 25 million people and 3 million acres of farmland.

The BDCP is made up of specific actions, called Conservation Measures, to improve the Delta ecosystem. The BDCP includes 22 conservation measures aimed at improving water operations, protecting water supplies and water quality, and restoring the Delta ecosystem within a stable regulatory framework. As the Delta ecosystem improves in response to the implementation of the conservation measures, water operations would become more reliable, offering secure water supplies for 25 million Californians, an agricultural industry that feeds millions, and a thriving economy.

To date, \$216 million has been spent to develop the Draft BDCP, conduct the environmental review of the BDCP and its alternatives, host numerous public outreach activities, and complete preliminary engineering and design of the proposed conveyance facilities. Funding for this work has been provided to the California Department of Water Resource by state and federal water contractors that receive water from the State Water Project, the Central Valley Project, or both.

The BDCP is estimated to cost \$24.7 billion (in undiscounted 2012 dollars) over its 50-year implementation period, and will be paid in large part by the water users who will benefit from the system. Funding comes from three primary sources: State and federal water contractors, two state water bonds and federal appropriations and grants. Breakdown of costs and funding:

| Action | Total Cost | Responsibly Party |
|------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Tunnel Construction | \$14.5 billion | Public Water Agencies |
| Total Operating Expenditures | \$4.9 billion | Public Water Agencies & State/Federal Funding |

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|---|
| Habitat Restoration | \$4.2 billion | State/Federal Funding & Public Water Agencies |
| Other Stressors | \$.927 billion | Public Water Agencies & State/Federal Funding |
| Program Oversight | \$.184 billion | Public Water Agencies & State/Federal Funding |

Current Status

- In December 2013, the Draft BDCP and associated Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/ Statement (EIS) were released for a 228-day public review period, which concluded on July 29, 2014.
- Approximately 10,000 - 11,000 comment letters were received. Of those, approximately 2,000 are original, individual comments. Ten standardized letters make up the remaining 8,000-9,000 letters received. Letters have been received from a broad range of stakeholders, including local governments, elected officials, environmental, business, labor and community groups, and individuals.
- DWR is currently reviewing comment letters submitted on the BDCP.

Next Steps

- Complete and release the BDCP Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for public review – expected in 2015.
- Finalize the EIR/EIS, HCP, and Natural Communities Conservation Plan – expected late 2015.
- Begin permit applications.