

1 water conveyance structures under Alternative 4. To the extent that this anticipated economic shift  
 2 away from agriculture and towards construction results in demographic changes in population,  
 3 employment level, income, age, gender, or race, the study area would be expected to see changes to  
 4 its character, particularly in those Delta communities most substantially affected by demographic  
 5 changes based on their size, ability to accommodate growth, or proximity to BDCP activities. In  
 6 comparing the existing demographic composition of agricultural workers and construction laborers  
 7 within the five-county Delta Region, men make up a large proportion of both occupations: 84  
 8 percent of agricultural workers were male, compared with 98 percent of construction laborers.  
 9 Approximately 92 percent of agricultural workers made less than \$35,000, while 60 percent of  
 10 construction laborers made less than \$35,000. Additionally, 87 percent of agricultural workers  
 11 within the study area report Hispanic origin, while 54 percent of construction laborers claim  
 12 Hispanic origin within the five-county area (U.S. Census Bureau 2012b).

13 Legacy communities in the Delta, which are those identified as containing distinct historical and  
 14 cultural character, include Locke, Bethel Island, Clarksburg, Courtland, Freeport, Hood, Isleton,  
 15 Knightsen, Rio Vista, Ryde, and Walnut Grove. These communities provide support services and  
 16 limited workforce housing for the area's agricultural industry. Some housing is also provided to  
 17 retirees and workers commuting to nearby urban areas including Sacramento. Construction  
 18 activities associated with BDCP water conveyance facilities would be anticipated to result in changes  
 19 to the rural qualities of these communities during the construction period (characterized by  
 20 predominantly agricultural land uses, relatively low population densities, and low levels of  
 21 associated noise and vehicular traffic), particularly for those communities in proximity to water  
 22 conveyance structures, including Clarksburg, Hood, and Walnut Grove. Effects associated with  
 23 construction activities could also result in changes to community cohesion if they were to restrict  
 24 mobility, reduce opportunities for maintaining face-to-face relationships, or disrupt the functions of  
 25 community organizations or community gathering places (such as schools, libraries, places of  
 26 worship, and recreational facilities). Under Alternative 4, several gathering places that lie in the  
 27 vicinity of construction areas could be indirectly affected by noise and traffic associated with  
 28 construction activities, including Delta High School, the Clarksburg Library, Clarksburg Community  
 29 Church, Resurrection Life Community Church, Citizen Land Alliance, Discovery Bay Chamber of  
 30 Commerce, Courtland Fire Department, and several marinas or other recreational facilities (see  
 31 Chapter 15, *Recreation*, Table 15-15).

32 In addition to potential changes in the demographic composition of communities in the study area,  
 33 construction of water conveyance facilities under Alternative 4 could also affect the size of the  
 34 communities, as suggested above. Based upon the projections developed under Impacts ECON-1 and  
 35 ECON-2, the total population and employment base of the study area would expand during water  
 36 facility construction. This expansion could provide economic opportunities during this period, which  
 37 could support community stability by increasing investment in Delta communities. However, as  
 38 noted under the discussion of housing above, predicting the specific location of such investments  
 39 within the study area would be speculative.

40 Under Alternative 4, additional regional employment and income could create net positive effects on  
 41 the character of Delta communities. In addition to potential demographic effects associated with  
 42 changes in employment, however, property values may decline in areas that become less desirable  
 43 in which to live, work, shop, or participate in recreational activities. For instance, negative visual- or  
 44 noise-related effects on residential property could lead to localized abandonment of buildings. While  
 45 water conveyance construction could result in beneficial effects relating to the economic welfare of a  
 46 community, adverse social effects could also arise as a result of declining economic stability in