

July 26, 2014

BDCP1788.

✓ BDCP Comments
Ryan Wulff, National Marine Fisheries Service
650 Capitol Mall Su 5-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Darrel Steinberg
Speaker of Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

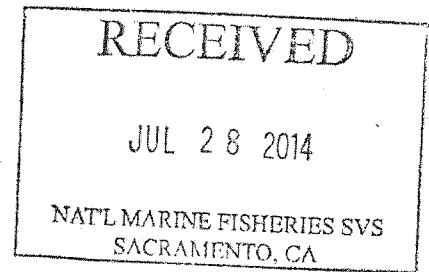
Barbara Boxer
U.S. Senate
501 I Street, Suite 7-600
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
One Post Street Suite 2450
San Francisco, CA 94104

Congresswoman Doris Matsui
6th District U.S. Congress
Robert T. Matsui U.S. Courthouse
501 I Street, Suite 12-600
Sacramento, CA 95814

Congressman John Garamendi
3rd District U.S. Congress
412 G Street
Davis, CA 95616

Assemblyman Roger Dickenson
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0007



Darian Calhoun
P O Box 161123
Sacramento, CA 95816
Tel: (916) 446-6177
e-mail: jockscot@comcast.net

July 26, 2014

Subject: **Proposed Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), associated Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Implementing Agreement (IA)**

I'm writing to express my concerns/observations about and opposition to the proposed BDCP and related documents.

Summarized points:

- Funding for completion of all proposed conservation measures is not yet secured
- The BDCP should be divided into two separate/distinct projects in order to make both projects more realistic and easily managed
- Combining the "co-equal goals" in the BDCP is deceptive and makes a complex effort even more complex, difficult and costly to administer than it need be
- The Director of Business Forecasting (Jeffery Michael, Phd) at the University of Pacific has demonstrated that the proposed BDCP is not cost effective and the analysis of alternatives in the EIR/EIS is incomplete
- Promoters of the BDCP claim benefits will arise to the economy, jobs, Delta environment, covered/listed species if approved. Said benefits have been overstated to gain acceptability on the part of the public.

- There is no guarantee that planned environmental restoration activities will be completed
- Proposed Issuance of "Incidental take permits" to SWP/CVP water contractors is unacceptable under any circumstance
- listing several alternatives in the EIR/EIS that are merely variations of the proposed alternative does not amount to real consideration/evaluation of alternatives
- The list of proposed alternatives in the EIR/EIS doesn't include alternatives outside of those proposed by DWR staff and SWP/CVP water contractors indicating a bias to the recommended solution
- A proposed agreement to reimburse county governments in the project area for Property Tax revenues lost due to conversion of real property for BDCP purposes is unacceptable
- Repayment of costs for bonded indebtedness on the part of SWP/CVP water contractors should be evidenced by a written promise to pay secured by the assets of those contractors since they will be the major beneficiaries of increased water diversions
- Uncertainty involving funding of Delta restoration is due mainly to the need for approval of three proposed bond issuances, each requiring approval by a vote of the public
- The statement that proposed diversion will average of 4.5 to 5.6 million acre feet (+ or – 10%) annually from the Sacramento River is ambiguous and unacceptable

July 26, 2014

- Stating that Diversion of large volumes of water from the Sacramento River and the south Delta, thereby converting the Delta to a salt water marsh to benefit covered/listed species of fish is not supported by science
- When combined with upstream diversions from the Sacramento River, operations of existing SWP/CVP conveyance facilities will substantially reduce the amount of fresh water flowing through the Delta
- Releases from storage for diversion, eco-system health and/or controlling saltwater intrusion will tend to reduce the amount of water stored in reservoirs upstream of the Delta over the course of a water year
- Many Delta growers and ranchers rely on water diverted directly from the Delta
- The value of the need for redundancy in having two bores (tunnels) is overstated and attempts to rely on creating fear of a potential unanticipated, catastrophic event
- There is no mention of providing support for collection/treatment of polluted run-off from agricultural and/or industrial activities
- There is no mention of regulation of pumping groundwater for irrigation included in the BDCP

July 26, 2014

Concerning the BDCP, the following quote sums it up for me: "There is always an easy solution to every problem - neat, plausible, and wrong." (emphasis added)

H. L. Mencken

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Darian Calhoun", followed by a horizontal line.

Darian Calhoun

From: Ryan Wulff - NOAA Federal <ryan.wulff@noaa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 9:10 AM
To: bdcg comments - NOAA Service Account
Subject: Fwd:
Attachments: 20140728 - Irvine Ranch Water District.pdf; 20140728 - Mario Evangelista - Stockton.pdf; 20140728 - Darian Calhoun - Sacramento (rec'd first 5 pages only - 6 to 17 not enclosed).pdf; 20140728 - City of Orange.pdf; 20140728 - Friend of the River - Disturbing Abuses of the BDCP Process.pdf

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Anita Deguzman - NOAA Affiliate <anita.deguzman@noaa.gov>
Date: Mon, Jul 28, 2014 at 3:00 PM
Subject:
To: Ryan Wulff - NOAA Federal <ryan.wulff@noaa.gov>

I have attached the following comments for your files.

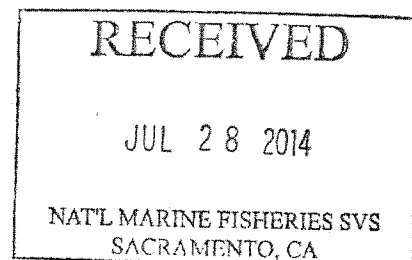
Copies have been made and are in your mailbox - original letters are up front at the reception desk.

--

~~~~~  
Anita deGuzman  
*Administrative Assistant*  
NOAA Fisheries \* West Coast Region  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[916-930-3600](tel:916-930-3600) - main  
[916-930-3629](tel:916-930-3629) - fax  
[Anita.deGuzman@noaa.gov](mailto:Anita.deGuzman@noaa.gov)

January 25, 2014

To: Ryan Wuff, National Marine Fisheries Service  
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100  
Sacramento, CA 95814



From: Mario Evangelista  
727 N. Monroe St.  
Stockton, CA 95203

Re: Comments to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan

## Comments to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan submitted by Mario Evangelista

I am opposed to the proposed Bay Delta Conservation Plan because the "preferred alternative", alternative 4, includes a "dual conveyance" (twin tunnels) diverting Sacramento River water under the Delta instead of through it. This plan is fundamentally flawed for at least three significant reasons.

**Point No. 1: There is no study indicating the state can accurately predict the extent of salt intrusion caused by the twin tunnels. Salt intrusions could be catastrophic. California's fresh water resources, delta habitats and delta farmland are too precious to leave to chance guesswork.**

The relationship between upstream diversions of water headed for the delta and increased salinity in the delta is well understood: decreased outflows cause increased salt intrusions. "Freshwater **inflow** into the Delta is highly correlated with salinity at Delta diversions pumps and is thus an extremely important driver." "The amount of water flowing into the Delta is the single most important determinant of salinity at the export pumps."

([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb5/water\\_issues/drinking\\_water\\_policy/salinity\\_conceptual\\_model/pgs28\\_38.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb5/water_issues/drinking_water_policy/salinity_conceptual_model/pgs28_38.pdf)) Salinity is driven by the complex interplay of many factors, some of which are out of our control. (ibid) We can monitor salt but we can't predict its future levels.

The BDCP EIR/EIS acknowledges that increased salt intrusion into the delta will be an adverse environmental consequence of the twin tunnels. But how bad will it get? We don't know. Some predict it will eliminate fresh water habitats in the eastern delta harming ducks, egrets and other wildlife, drive salmon and other anadromous fish to extinction due to lack of attraction flows, kill delta agriculture causing the collapse of the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta regional economy, and contaminate ground water thus eliminating drinking water for the counties on the east side of the delta.



**Until a detailed study can accurately predict the full adverse consequences caused by the twin tunnel water diversions we must reject alternative 4 (twin tunnels).**

Intrusion of ocean water from the west through the bay isn't the only source of salt in the delta. Agricultural runoff brings salts (as well as selenium and other toxic substances) from the south. Ironically, California's massive water conveyance system, the largest on the planet, causes salt to recycle through the environment instead of washing out to sea. The federal Central Valley Project began delivering Northern California water in the 1930ies, primarily for irrigation in the southern portion of the Central Valley. In 1968, the pumps in Tracy began shipping more water south via the Governor Edmund G. Brown California Aqueduct. Irrigation with this water leached salts out of the soil. Some of that salt washed into the San Joaquin River which carried it to the delta. Irrigation districts in Fresno and Kern Counties now push for the twin tunnels to avoid receiving the salts *they* put into delta water!

The drought, coupled with rising sea levels, will increase salt intrusion. This is the time to **decrease**, not increase **diversions** of water nature intended for the delta. The delta is suffering from lack of inflows of fresh water. It needs all the water it can get.

**Point No. 2: BDCP dismisses desalinization as a viable option, ignoring recent technology which will make desalinization cost effective and sustainable.**

Underlying all California's water problems is a simple fact: there is not enough water. Much more water is contracted for than exists in the state. Merely moving water around does nothing to solve this basic problem. Diverting water is not only extremely harmful to the environment but unreliable and ultimately ineffective. To solve California's water problems long term we must stop moving water and start making water. **Our water management system should mandate water recycling and reuse, rain water capture, conservation, and more efficient irrigation practices. These strategies should be exhausted before any further diversions are permitted. We must also develop sustainable desalinization.**

Although 71% of the Earth's surface is covered with water, our blue planet is in the grip of a water shortage. The reason: only 2.5% of all that water is fresh, and most of that fresh water is ice (glaciers and ice caps). All told, less than 1% of

the world's water is accessible for direct human uses ■ It can be argued that there is only one way for humanity to preserve itself from a future catastrophe - tapping that other 97.5%- in other words, desalinizing water from the sea. Given the geographical configuration of California, tapping the Pacific Ocean is a key component for future survival. Why not start now, as Saudi Arabia, Australia and some other countries have. Over 1,500 large desalinization plants are operating around the world. Why has California lagged behind?

BDCP has dismissed desalinization as too costly to play more than a very small role in providing water to California. Currently that is true because California has failed to develop this option. But it need not stay true. New technologies, such as grapheme filtering, promise to be cheaper and more environmentally friendly than existing desalinization methods. California has the brainpower, research facilities, and high level universities (Cal Tech, Stanford, UC systems especially UC Davis, UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz, UC Santa Barbara, and UC San Diego) to make desalinization a viable option to meet California's future water needs. California should invest in research and development in new technologies that will actually *make* fresh water instead of going broke on unsustainable, backward thinking, divisive diversions that do not add a single drop to the state's water supply.

California's coastal counties hurt by drought (Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego) are well positioned to use desalinization as a water source. San Diego has contracted to purchase 50,000,000 gallons of purified sea water per day and other coastal counties are exploring this option. The coastal counties being hurt by the prolonged drought should determine whether each county wants to consider a desalinization plant. The State of California should not make that determination. Let's build a future for California where Southern California becomes more self-reliant in managing its water supply. Let's give Northern California an opportunity to rebuild its water resources.

But what about the inland areas? The infamous Westside Mutual Water Co. in Central California covers land that once pumped oil and piped it to the coast for refining. Let's reverse that flow. The area has plenty of sunshine to use solar energy to pump sea water from the coast for desalinization. This is no more difficult than pumping it from Northern California, as we currently do. In fact, the trip is significantly shorter. Let's stop fighting over the limited percentage of earth's water that is fresh and start using the planet's water in the ocean. Ultimately the state would benefit from a more diversified water system. Currently our centralized water system is vulnerable to acts of terrorism. Water will never truly be reliable until it is locally controlled and sustainable. Each county should make its own decision about desalinization and the state should support this with research and development money.

**Point 3: Don't trust the fox to guard the hen house. California's highly politicized water governance system cannot be trusted to carry out the conservation goals of the BDCP. California's water deals have a long history of lack of transparency and avoidance of environmental protections.**

While I object to the twin tunnels, I strongly support the habitat restoration projects and conservation measures found in the BDCP. Unfortunately, the benefits of the "conservation" measures, if they are ever carried out, will be nullified by the diversions of the twin tunnels. Proponents of the BDCC claim that the twin tunnels will not increase diversions, just change the intake point, because permits for diversions are conditioned upon the needs of the environment. On paper this is true; in practice it is not. Numerous federal and state regulations, as well as the contractual terms of permits to divert, have always conditioned diversions on environmental needs, as mandated by law, and required mitigation for environmental harm. Yet the spring run Mokelumne gene pool of salmon is now extinct, the Delta smelt is endangered, and the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta ecosystem is on the point of collapse. The State of California is unwilling and unable to enforce its own laws, as shown by the poor condition of the delta and number of its species on the endangered list.

Water contractors have the money and political clout to get what they want no matter what their permits require. Here are a few examples. (1) East Bay Municipal Utility District is permitted to dam the Mokelumne River and divert some of its water into an aqueduct to the east bay. Its permit requires it to release enough water into the river to support salmon and other wildlife. None the less, salmon populations in the Mokelumne plummeted. Biologists from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (then Fish & Game) studied the problem and wrote a report setting forth the minimum amount of water EBMUD needed to release back into the river to support wildlife. EBMUD ignored the report. A public interest group sued EBMUD to comply with the report, and received an order requiring EBMUD to release water. EBMUD went over the head of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists. The biologists were reassigned and a political appointee negotiated with EBMUD, allowing them to release much less water than the science indicated.

(2) In the mid 1980ies, the state spent close to \$75,000,000.00 in bond money to purchase the land and do the initial planning, permitting, and plumbing for the Kern Water Bank. But it never finished the project or got it operational. Instead, it transferred this public asset into private hands in a complex, multiparty deal. How the transfer came about is a bit murky because the deal was negotiated behind closed doors, as are many water deals. The public, small farmers, environmentalists and other stake holders were locked out of the negotiations. Lack of transparency is typical of these complex deals. The transfer happened at the height of a seven year drought. The state was not able to fully meet the contractual obligation to its water customers because the water just wasn't there. Everyone had to conserve. According Los Angeles Times staff writer Mark Arax, (December 19, 2003) Kern County farmers got only 5% of the water contracted for and they threatened to sue the state Water Resource Board. The state blinked. The state agreed to transfer the Kern Water Bank to the Kern County Water Agency in exchange for a 45,000 acre feet reduction in Kern's 1,100,000 acre feet water contract. The state did not receive a dime for this asset that had cost the public \$75,000,000. Critics have pointed out that the "paper water" payment was an illusion. The water agency had junior rights and thus was

only entitled to water when water was available, which it wasn't. The state could not have delivered the additional 45,000 acre feet of water in any event because the water just wasn't there. The Kern Water Agency immediately turned the water bank over to its clients, Westside Mutual Water Co. and several other water agencies controlled by large private agricultural interests. The majority owner, Westside Mutual, is a subsidiary of Paramount Farming Co. which is a subsidiary of Roll International, a private holding company owned by politically well connected Los Angeles businessman Stewart Resnick. The new owners of the water bank started selling some of the usurped public water at a profit on the open market.

These examples are typical of water politics in California. Permit requirements mandated by federal and state environmental laws are rarely fully implemented and rarely enforced. The lack of transparency within the system hides this fact. Administering the BDCP will be no different. Effective June 1, 2014, The California Department of Water Resources turned the construction planning of the twin tunnels over to a new entity in which the diverters who will benefit from the diversions, including Los Angeles' Metropolitan and the Westside Mutual Water Co., will play a large role. These players know how to get around environmental protections. They have been doing it for years. **If the twin tunnels get built, the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta ecosystem will die because of lack of fresh water.**

**From:** Ryan Wulff - NOAA Federal <ryan.wulff@noaa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 30, 2014 9:10 AM  
**To:** bdcg comments - NOAA Service Account  
**Subject:** Fwd:  
**Attachments:** 20140728 - Irvine Ranch Water District.pdf; 20140728 - Mario Evangelista - Stockton.pdf; 20140728 - Darian Calhoun - Sacramento (rec'd first 5 pages only - 6 to 17 not enclosed).pdf; 20140728 - City of Orange.pdf; 20140728 - Friend of the River - Disturbing Abuses of the BDCP Process.pdf

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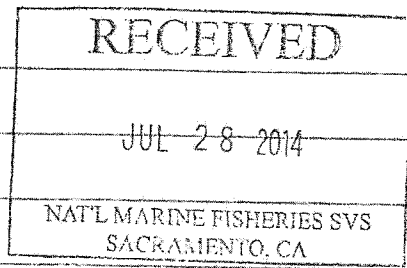
**From:** Anita Deguzman - NOAA Affiliate <[anita.deguzman@noaa.gov](mailto:anita.deguzman@noaa.gov)>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 28, 2014 at 3:00 PM  
**Subject:**  
**To:** Ryan Wulff - NOAA Federal <[ryan.wulff@noaa.gov](mailto:ryan.wulff@noaa.gov)>

I have attached the following comments for your files.

Copies have been made and are in your mailbox - original letters are up front at the reception desk.

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~~~~~  
Anita deGuzman
Administrative Assistant
NOAA Fisheries * West Coast Region
U.S. Department of Commerce
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-930-3600 - main
916-930-3629 - fax
Anita.deGuzman@noaa.gov



159 Lynn Dr
Brentwood, CA
94513

July 25, 2014

BDCP Comments
650 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA

Dear Mr Wulff:

The tunnel is an environmental disaster. It would spoil many areas, including our beloved Delta.

Southern California residents are going to have to conserve water like the rest of us

Sincerely,
Carole A. Mann

From: Ryan Wulff - NOAA Federal <ryan.wulff@noaa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 9:13 AM
To: bdcpc comments - NOAA Service Account
Subject: Fwd: BDCP COMMENTS
Attachments: 20140728 - Lowell Kebschull - Santa Clarita.pdf; 20140728 - Fresno, Madera, Kings & Tulare Counties - Building & Construction Trades Council.pdf; 20140728 - California Alliance for Jobs.pdf; 20140728 - San Francisco Building & Construction Trades Council.pdf; 20140728 - California Small Business Association.pdf; 20140728 - Carole Main - Brentwood.pdf; 20140728 - Will Risseuw - Redwood City.pdf

Received before end of comment period.

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From: Anita Deguzman - NOAA Affiliate <anita.deguzman@noaa.gov>
Date: Mon, Jul 28, 2014 at 1:46 PM
Subject: BDCP COMMENTS
To: Ryan Wulff - NOAA Federal <ryan.wulff@noaa.gov>

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Anita deGuzman  
*Administrative Assistant*  
NOAA Fisheries \* West Coast Region  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[916-930-3600](tel:916-930-3600) - main  
[916-930-3629](tel:916-930-3629) - fax  
[Anita.deGuzman@noaa.gov](mailto:Anita.deGuzman@noaa.gov)



**Draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan and  
Associated Draft Environmental Impact Report/  
Environmental Impact Statement**

**Public review and comment period is  
December 13, 2013 through April 14, 2014**

**COMMENT CARD**

JUL 29 2014

Name Don & Judy Serpa Organization Farmers NATL. MAR. FIS. PERMITS SVS  
Address P.O. BOX 527 City CLARKSBURG SACRAMENTO, CA  
State CA Zip 95612

to Whom this may concern -  
I am hoping there is someone in your  
Organization that can read longhand and try to  
have some compassion for all "delta residents"  
and what we have gone through the last 8 years.  
Yes, it's been lots of meeting and much frustration  
over the fact that we called "lose our heritage" on  
these islands and our lively hoods. Our family has  
been farming since 1856 and most of us don't know  
another way to live.  
You have to ask yourselves if you are willing to  
change the lives of 10,000 people to get water to  
Southern Calif. It doesn't even sound right. Does it?  
We don't have that water anymore. We are also rationing  
water for our crops. We only wish Southern Calif. did  
the same.  
We can only hope and pray for a "decent law" to  
protect us and other communities that are in the  
same spot we are in.

Thank You -  
Judy & Daniel Serpa

Public comment period extended to

~~JUNE 13, 2014~~ 7-29-14

**From:** Ryan Wulff - NOAA Federal <[ryan.wulff@noaa.gov](mailto:ryan.wulff@noaa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 30, 2014 9:18 AM  
**To:** bdcpl comments - NOAA Service Account  
**Subject:** Fwd: BDCP COMMENTS  
**Attachments:** 20140729 - Yuba County Water Agency.pdf; 20140729 - Jesse Castellanos - Granite Bay.pdf; 20140729 - Franklin D. Merck, Sr. - Stockton.pdf; 20140729 - Dan & Judy Serpa - Clarksburg - 1 of 2.pdf; 20140729 - Dan & Judy Serpa - Clarksburg - 2 of 2.pdf; 20140729 - Western Growers - Sacramento.pdf; 20140729 - Steve Soriano - Walnut Grove.pdf

Received before end of comment period.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Anita Deguzman - NOAA Affiliate <[anita.deguzman@noaa.gov](mailto:anita.deguzman@noaa.gov)>  
**Date:** Tue, Jul 29, 2014 at 3:06 PM  
**Subject:** BDCP COMMENTS  
**To:** Ryan Wulff - NOAA Federal <[ryan.wulff@noaa.gov](mailto:ryan.wulff@noaa.gov)>

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Administrative Assistant
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U.S. Department of Commerce
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-930-3600 - main
916-930-3629 - fax
Anita.deGuzman@noaa.gov

**Draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan and
Associated Draft Environmental Impact Report/
Environmental Impact Statement**

Public review and comment period is
December 13, 2013 through April 14, 2014

COMMENT CARD

Name ^{2 DAN} JUDY SERPA Organization Farmers Date 5-1-14
Address P.O. BOX 527 City CLARKSBURG State CA Zip 95612

As Farmers in the Delta since 1856, our main concern is the prospect of the building of the "tunnels" to transport water to Southern California from our Delta. If this happens, there will be no more Delta. We are the largest estuary west of the Mississippi. If Jerry Brown builds the "tunnels" we will have lost our delta and our "heritage". Please concentrate on water storage, thought-out the state, yes, I mean especially Southern Calif. to try to solve this problem of water that they have made it worse. Please be smart & reasonable about this whole situation and please make them use those "3" lakes in the Tehachians to bring them water.

Thank You

Don & Judy Serpa

RECEIVED
JUL 29 2014
NATL MARINE FISHERIES SVS SACRAMENTO, CA

From: Ryan Wulff - NOAA Federal <ryan.wulff@noaa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 9:18 AM
To: bdcpl comments - NOAA Service Account
Subject: Fwd: BDCP COMMENTS
Attachments: 20140729 - Yuba County Water Agency.pdf; 20140729 - Jesse Castellanos - Granite Bay.pdf; 20140729 - Franklin D. Merck, Sr. - Stockton.pdf; 20140729 - Dan & Judy Serpa - Clarksburg - 1 of 2.pdf; 20140729 - Dan & Judy Serpa - Clarksburg - 2 of 2.pdf; 20140729 - Western Growers - Sacramento.pdf; 20140729 - Steve Soriano - Walnut Grove.pdf

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To: Ryan Wulff - NOAA Federal <ryan.wulff@noaa.gov>

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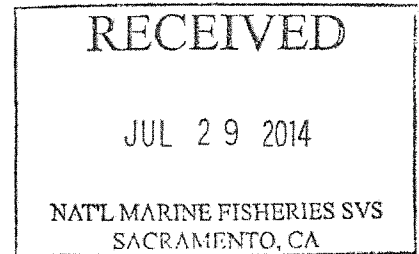
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Anita deGuzman  
*Administrative Assistant*  
NOAA Fisheries \* West Coast Region  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-930-3600 - main  
916-930-3629 - fax  
[Anita.deGuzman@noaa.gov](mailto:Anita.deGuzman@noaa.gov)

To: *Mark Cowin - California DWR  
PO Box 942836 Room 1145-1  
Sacramento Ca 94236-0001*

From: Patrick E. Kelly  
900 East 19th St.  
Chico, CA 95928



Subject: Bay Delta Conservation Plan

I am told that the entire BDCP is 40,000 pages and very complex. It's stated in the California Environmental Quality Act. Section 15124 that an EIR must be written in a way that is understandable to the general public. The BDCP is not so written and maybe it's impossible for it to be so.

I am personally concerned with the Twin Tunnels which will take a large amount of fresh water from the delta. Am I over simplifying the problem by stating that a wetland or body of water cannot be maintained or restored by taking water out of the system? This is what I understand the Twin Tunnels will do. I am therefore opposed to the construction of the tunnels.

In the past I've spent time in the Suisun tule marshes. The tules (*Scurpis ocutus*) grow to fifteen feet tall and produce more biomass per acre than tropical rainforest. As such they are performing a function which I believe has been overlooked by the BDCP. For thousands of years they have been creating a peat soil which sequester large amounts of carbon dioxide. These plants require a great deal of fresh or brackish water to prosper.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patrick E. Kelly*

Patrick E. Kelly

**From:** Ryan Wulff - NOAA Federal <ryan.wulff@noaa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 30, 2014 12:34 PM  
**To:** bdcg comments - NOAA Service Account  
**Subject:** Fwd: BDCP COMMENTS  
**Attachments:** 20140729 - Auburn Dam Council.pdf; 20140729 - Building Trades Council.pdf; 20140729 - Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission.pdf; 20140729 - Irrigation Drainage - Reclamation District No. 2068.pdf; 20140729 - Patrick E. Kelly - Chico.pdf

postmarked by 7/29

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**From:** Anita Deguzman - NOAA Affiliate <[anita.deguzman@noaa.gov](mailto:anita.deguzman@noaa.gov)>  
**Date:** Wed, Jul 30, 2014 at 11:48 AM  
**Subject:** Re: BDCP COMMENTS  
**To:** Ryan Wulff - NOAA Federal <[ryan.wulff@noaa.gov](mailto:ryan.wulff@noaa.gov)>

On Tue, Jul 29, 2014 at 3:06 PM, Anita Deguzman - NOAA Affiliate <[anita.deguzman@noaa.gov](mailto:anita.deguzman@noaa.gov)> wrote:

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Anita deGuzman
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Sacramento, CA 95814
[916-930-3600](tel:916-930-3600) - main
[916-930-3629](tel:916-930-3629) - fax
Anita.deGuzman@noaa.gov

RECEIVED

JUL 29 2014

Nat'l Marine Fisheries Svs.
Sacramento, CA

Hi all!

A quick summary: It's a bad idea: *So please write a new plan that addresses these issues. The Twin Tunnels are not viable* July 29, 2014

Agriculturally: The plan calls for the destruction of highly productive farmland, more uncertain water availability within the entire state, increased salinity and decreased fresh water flows through the Delta which will cause another severe blow to many areas of agriculture in the state.

Environmentally: The plan necessitates the killing of unknown multitudes of endangered smelt, salmon, bass, geese, ducks, herons, sand hill cranes, salt marsh mice, and frogs - the same species it seeks to protect. All told 250+ species will be impacted. The habitat restoration portion of the BDCP is not well thought out, is only in the "theoretical" state according to the EIR, and will take years of research to figure out if it will work, and even then may not.

Legally: The BDCP conflicts with six other current water plans for the state of California, numerous county land use plans, and an international treaty of bird migration between multiple countries from Columbia through Canada. It defies water rights and land use practices that have been in place since before 1914. There are already several large suits in the Courts against the State regarding it's proposals and actions on the BDCP.

Financially: The tunnels portion of the plan requires financing by the water agencies who benefit from the water use including Metropolitan Water (L.A.), Westlands Water (San Joaquin Valley farmers), Solano Water District (including Benicia), Contra Costa county, and the City of Yuba City among others. Water rates for all those places will be elevated and there will be no guarantee of water consistency or water quality.

The tunnels financing also requires funding by state and federal resources. The state has a water bond on the November ballot, while the legislature tries to write a better one and can't. The Feds have declined so far to provide any funding.

Economically: In addition to the funding issues, the plan has significant indirect costs as well. For example, the "preferred alternative" plan would cause Highway 12, SR 160, and parts of I-5 to be rerouted. Several bridges would need to be moved or extended, and the railroad (Capitol Corridor line) would need to be moved. Of course, buying off farmland to build the tunnels and the habitat mitigation area would also come at a high cost. The amount of these expenses is largely unknown which is one reason the Federal government hasn't agreed to any funding yet. The Water Contractors have set limits (in the millions) on what they will spend on this multi-billion dollar project.

These are the most glaring reasons to fight the BDCP. There are literally dozens of more reasons listed in the EIR. *Sincerely, Nancy Schroeder, 49 Buena Vista, Benicia, CA - 94510*
(707) 745-8103

From: Ryan Wulff - NOAA Federal <ryan.wulff@noaa.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2014 1:49 PM
To: bdcg comments - NOAA Service Account
Subject: Fwd: BDCP COMMENTS | Received 07.29.2014
Attachments: 20140729 - Anderson Cottonwood Irrigation District.pdf; 20140729 - Reclamation District No. 800 - Byron Tract.pdf; 20140729 - CalSTA - California State Transportation Agency.pdf; 20140729 - Nancy Schroder - Benicia.pdf; 20140729 - City of Rio Vista.pdf; 20140729 - Pat Borison - Discovery Bay.pdf; 20140729 - BayArea Council.pdf

----- Forwarded message -----

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Date: Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 1:43 PM
Subject: BDCP COMMENTS | Received 07.29.2014
To: Ryan Wulff - NOAA Federal <ryan.wulff@noaa.gov>

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Copies have been made and are in your mailbox - original letters are up front at the reception desk.

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~~~~~  
Anita deGuzman  
*Administrative Assistant*  
NOAA Fisheries \* West Coast Region  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-930-3600 - main  
916-930-3629 - fax  
[Anita.deGuzman@noaa.gov](mailto:Anita.deGuzman@noaa.gov)



Pat Borison  
2225 Cypress Point  
Discovery Bay CA 94505  
pborison@yahoo.com

July 28, 2014

BDCP Comments  
Ryan Wulff, NMFS  
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100  
Sacramento CA 95814

RECEIVED

JUL 29 2014

Nat'l Marine Fisheries Svs.  
Sacramento, CA

Dear Mr. Wulff

I have lived on the water in Discovery Bay for 14 years and have been boating on the Delta since 1968. I still remember the first time I saw the Delta from the water, on a sailboat going under the Antioch Bridge; I marveled then, and still do, at the expanse of fresh water, the birds and wildlife, the many sloughs and the peacefulness of anchorages. From my house, I enjoy watching fishermen ghosting along just after dawn.

I am also a native Southern Californian, have many relatives in Orange and San Diego Counties and have done my best to share information about the Delta with them and to hear their opinions. Over the past several years I have reviewed websites and news articles from throughout the state to learn more about the Delta's water and ecology issues and possible solutions.

#### COMPLEXITY AND TRANSPARENCY

That said, it has been very frustrating to try to understand the BDCP. The EIR/EIS and other BDCP-related documents are, it seems, intentionally complex and confusing. They are biased toward the twin tunnel "answer" without seriously examining alternatives.

Research from the Pacific Institute and the Natural Resources Defense Council has shown that "California could be saving up to 14 million acre-feet of untapped water...with an aggressive statewide effort to use water-saving practices, reuse water, and capture lost storm water..." San Diego is building a desalination plant, and Orange County effectively reuses water. Were these and other alternatives adequately evaluated?

The lack of transparency in this whole review process is appalling. Why it was decided not to post all comments online as they come in, so that everyone can see what others are saying-- and be assured that our comments were received. Posting comments in an online docket during an EIS process is a standard

federal government procedure. Why has this highly controversial project been selected for special, secretive treatment?

## FAILURE TO MEET DUAL GOALS

The EIR/EIS documents fail to meet the co-equal goals of conservation and water supply stability. Why is the so-called "balanced and neutral" BDCP so focused on "tunnel vision" without seriously examining alternatives? How a project that does so much harm to the Delta be labeled a "conservation" project?

Why is it OK to destroy one set of farmland in order to send water to another?

The various documents fail to explain why many times more water than exists, even without a drought, has been promised via contracts. Researchers from the Pacific Institute and the Natural Resources Defense Council have examined the large and growing gap between water use in California and the available water supply – a water deficit in excess of 6 million acre-feet, most of it from the Sacramento-San Joaquin watershed. The current drought also has highlighted problems of overdrafting ground water. There are solutions – but they need to be seriously considered, instead of the current "tunnel vision" approach.

The proposed twin tunnels will NOT produce additional water for California.

## NO ECONOMIC PLAN

The EIR lacks a viable economic plan. How will the tunnels be paid for? What happens if the water contractors who promised to pay for construction default? What guarantees are there that water taken from the Delta will not be resold at a profit?

Recent news stories indicated that property taxes could be increased to cover construction costs. How could this happen without a vote? And who will pay for the severe damage construction will make on Delta habitats? What guarantees are there that the "muck" is not toxic and will actually be reusable – or that we will not be left with pyramids of smelly muck and once-navigable waterways reduced in depth.

I urge you to reject this EIR as incomplete and to look for better solutions as to how to meet the many needs of everyone in California and not just a small, elite group.

Sincerely,

  
Pat Borison

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[916-930-3629](tel:916-930-3629) - fax
Anita.deGuzman@noaa.gov

JUL 29 2014

Al Guidice EIT 150018
5/8/14

Nat'l Marine Fisheries Svs.
Sacramento, CA

Comments on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) EIR/EIS

After reviewing certain sections within the BDCP EIR/EIS my comments are below. The main focus of my review was to evaluate the methods for conservation, then understand who would be managing and maintaining the conservation process. Also, try to determine where the funds to implement the BDCP were going to come from.

General Comments: Geographic Scope of the Plan Area –

The Plan Area is not a true representation of the affected area, therefore recommend reevaluating The Plan Area to include the entire watershed of the Sacramento and San-Joaquin River Basins.

Pg3.2-4 line 11: The conservation measures based on the Plan Area is not adequate, because the affected area is much greater than the Plan Area. Have additional conservation measures for the areas outside the Plan Area been evaluated? If none, then recommend considering the greater area.

3.2 Methods and Approaches Used –

Pg3.2-3: Unclear as to what will happen if the flows unpredictably change direction. Has an unforeseen change in flow direction been examined?

Pg3.2-9 line 44: "5,000 acres of riparian natural community will be restored." This is a very small area that is to be restored compared to the area that is being affected by the diversion system. The Sacramento Delta, as claimed by Wikipedia, is roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ of a million acres. In order to truly help restore the Delta more than 5,000 acres of the riparian natural community should be restored.

Appendix 3A Background on the process of Developing the BDCP Conservation Measures –

Was the 'Do Nothing' alternative considered? It is recommended that all options even the Do Nothing alternative should be evaluated to compare the feasibility of this project.

If the goals are not met and/or the effects of the BDCP are contrary to the goals, whom is to take responsibility and fund new efforts to remediate the negative effects?

Pg 3.A-21: The max diversion is stated as up to 15,000 cfs. What is the duration of this diversion? What are the limiting factors; water flows for fish or water usage for the public? During a long duration of drought years how will the diversion system be operated?

7.1 Roles and Responsibilities of Entities Involved in BDCP Implementation -

The "Authorized Entity Group" has a majority of the power to impose regulations for the BDCP. How can members be removed or added based on the performance of the BDCP? Will any Native American tribes be a voting member on the Authorized Entity Group?

Pg 7-12 line 9: A minimum of "quarterly meetings" for the Authorized Entity Group is not adequate, at least for the beginning stages of the project. It is recommend that for the first 5 years a minimum of one monthly meetings take place to continually address the changing environment and system.

Pg 7-15 line 33: It is recommended that a minimum, ie: quarterly bases, independent science review be required for the Adaptive Management Team. If the review process is solely a choice of the Adaptive Management Team then mismanagement could occur.

Overall, the BDCP is still not ready to be implemented because to the lack the research covered thus far. Some of the comments above may be answered somewhere in the document, but do to the size of this document it is difficult to locate this answers. Please take these comments as suggestions and if there is any question about these comments please contact me at: alguidice@gmail.com.

Al Guidice
GEOG 426
BDCP Notes

General Comments-

It is unclear which body governs which part of the plan. If restoration is a success then who gets the credit and adversely if there is a failure then who gets the blame and who has to fund the repairs?

Executive Summary –

Overview

"The conservation strategy is based on the best available science and was founded on an array of broad conservation goals adopted and agreed to by stakeholders in 2006." Who are the stakeholders?

(SEE CH 10 section 3) – independent science review ???

Geographic Scope of the Plan Area

Comment – The BDCP will affect the entire Sacramento and San-Joaquin River Basins therefore the BDCP Plan Area is much greater in reality than in the Geographic Scope. I propose to increase the size of the BDCP Plan Area to the full extent of the Sacramento and San-Joaquin Rivers and all their tributaries. (SEE CH 5 Effects Analysis)

Cover Species

"Rather, the covered species list reflects the range of species that might experience incidental take associated with the activities covered by the BDCP" Please define???

"Take that is not purposeful and that occurs during the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity."

Chapter 3 – Conservation Strategy

3.1 Introduction

"including substantial alterations to water conveyance infrastructure and water management regimes" – Is this talking about the tunnels? What type of alterations are to be made?

3.1.3.1

To whom is in charge of the "adaptive management" process and what is the over-site body?

3.2 Methods and Approaches Used

3.2.1.1

"The conservation strategy is divided into near-term and long-term implementation timeframes. The 29 near-term implementation period, anticipated to be 15 years, begins with the issuance of the BDCP's 30 final permit and ends with the onset of operation of the new north Delta diversions and 31 tunnel/pipeline facility to allow for dual conveyance." – *first mention of the tunnels*

"For example, diversions in the north Delta will reduce the need to export at the south Delta diversions, thereby reducing reverse flows in Old and Middle Rivers." Pg 3.2-3 line 5 and 6

"For example, restoration of tidal natural communities in the Cache Slough area is projected to result in reduced tidal range and greater unidirectional flows in Sutter and Steamboat Sloughs, increasing habitat suitability for, and speeding the passage of, juvenile salmonids migrating through these sloughs and thereby reducing their exposure to predation" pg 3.2-3 line 14,15,16

What happens when the inverse of these examples take place?

3.2.1.2

Pg 3.2-4 line 11

In the list on this page 2. is a major concern because it is stated that the level on conservation is based, "Only [on] limiting factors/stressors that occur in the Plan Area". The "Plan Area" considered does not take into account a true representation of the area affected there the "level of conservation" **CAN NOT** be accurate

Pg 3.2-4 line 34

Monitoring Data- will this be done with one or many agencies and how will these agencies be monitored to make sure they are recording true measurements?

3.2.3

Pg 3.2-7 line 24

"diversions is essential... to achieve improvements in water supply reliability" in the mean time it could provide new opportunities to restore the ecological health of the Delta.

What about using these funds to solely restore the ecological health of the delta which would improve water quality, improve native habitat, and create a safer water conveyance to increase public safety?

Pg 3.2-9 line 44

"5,000 acres of riparian natural community will be restored." This seems like a very small area that is to be restored compared to the area that is being affected by the tunnels. The Sacramento Delta as claimed by Wikipedia is roughly ¾ of a million acres.

3.6 Adaptive Management and Monitoring Program

Pg 3.6-2 line 17

"dedicated Adaptive Management Team is essential..." Who?

Appendix 3A Background on the Process of Developing the BDCP Conservation Measures

Pg 3.A-10 line 14-16

Options 3 and 4 provide "significant improvements over options 1 and 2". Not sure this is the case because how is removing water going to help the delta?

Pg 3.A-17 line 19-30

Where does it mention the actions taken when goal are not met, or worse the effects are contrary to the goals?

Pg 3.A-21

The max diversion is stated as up to 15,000 cfs. What is the duration of this diversion? What are the limiting factors; water flows for fish or water usage for the public?

During a long duration of drought years how will the diversion system be operated?

Chapter 7 Implementation Structure

7.1 Roles and Responsibilities of Entities Involved in BDCP Implementation

"Authorized Entity Group", who is this consisted of and if they are not doing the right job how can they be replace? See 7.1.3

7.1.3.1

Pg 7-12 line 9

A minimum quarterly meetings, is not adequate to make sure every one is on the same page within the Authorized Entity Group

7.1.5

Pg 7-13

When there is a conflict between the Authorized Entity Group and the Permit Oversight Group, whom has the right to accept or reject the other? What is the hierarchical system? See 7.1.7

7.1.6

Pg 7-15 line 33

The Adaptive Management Team "will decide when and on what terms the seek independent science review to evaluate technical issues for the purpose of supporting adaptive management decision making." There should be constant independent review on a monthly or quarterly bases.

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Sent: Monday, August 04, 2014 7:11 AM
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U.S. Department of Commerce  
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Sacramento, CA 95814  
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650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-930-3600 - main
916-930-3629 - fax
Anita.deGuzman@noaa.gov

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BDCP1797

JUL 29 2014

5/7/2014

Natl Marine Fisheries Svs.
Sacramento, CA

To whom it may concern:

After reviewing the Draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and the draft EIR/EIS for the BDCP many concerns regarding the project have been brought to my attention. Ultimately, I feel that the BDCP is insufficient at combating its proposed goals of restoration, relieving the stresses of climate change, and providing an adequate and reliable water source for Californians (1.1 of BDCP). The proposed method of the construction of tunnels, canals, intake areas, and expanding water storage facilities contradict the restoration goals also part of the BDCP. The irreversible and environmentally damaging construction plans have significant adverse affects on the environment as well as the future of our state. Although mitigation measures are proposed for relieving many adverse effects on the environment, it is hard to overlook the areas that do not have sufficient mitigation measures and will cause significant unavoidable impacts that will alter the health of Delta communities. As part of the background and introduction it is explained that in the past, irreversible damages, such as altered soil hydrology, acquisition of 60% of important delta lands/habitats, and changes in water quality, have been a result of the construction of levees, dams, and flood management programs (2.2 of BDCP). If the BDCP is aware of these historical damages, then shouldn't it be obvious that the construction of an even larger water infrastructure system is not a solution to the declining health of our state? The BDCP attempts to link restoration projects with the construction of pipelines that will change the flow of our already suffering waterways. It is clear the BDCP is more focused on the construction of the pipelines and tunnels than it is the restoration projects or improving the environmental health of California. The construction of the pipes directly contradict restoration goals as they damage or destroy physical aspects of the environment, as well as important cultural and aesthetic features of California.

In Chapter 17 the BDCP proposes that Clifton Forebay, Byron CA undergo construction to expand and add intake areas as part of the larger BDCP plan. This construction will cause significant aesthetic changes to the community. Section 17.3.3.2 explains that the proposed Forebay will not blend with the existing visual environment and will be in view of sensitive receptors in the area. In addition to negative aesthetic impacts, the construction may also cause dust clouds that impair visibility, which affects the health and safety of nearby residents (17-53). In addition, lines 35 and 36 of page 17-53 explain that residents will be displaced while

construction occurs, which could take as long as 7.5 years. Following construction, the community's visual resources will be damaged without sufficient mitigation measures (lines 1-12). Construction plans include permanent topological changes to the area and will remove vegetation (lines 30-42) which will cause adverse aesthetic changes as well as possible environmental damages that seemed to be overlooked in the plan.

Permanent topological changes, the removal of vegetation, and increased dust particles in the air do not seem to follow the BDCP goals of environmental integrity. Proper mitigation measures are needed so that residents in this area do not have to suffer aesthetic and environmental changes and will not be displaced for construction. The plan does not currently account for the significant consequences that will occur as a result from construction in this area.

Important cultural resources will be damaged and destroyed as part of the BDCP. I urge that more alternatives and mitigation measures be provided to save the states historical areas and resources. The first problem I noticed in the draft EIR/EIS was in section 18.1.5.3 that explained that no known ceremonial or sacred sites were found within the Plan Area (lines 13 and 14). Given the large size of the Plan Area and its proximity within and near numerous Native American areas it is hard to believe that all groups were asked and that no sacred or ceremonial site was identified. Page 18-78 states that many significant cultural and historical resources will be destroyed or demolished as a result of the construction of intakes, the canal, and reusable material areas. Although mitigations will be used, it is stated that they are not sufficient in guaranteeing that these sites will remain. This is a major flaw in the BDCP that will result in the loss of important cultural resources for our state. Page 18-65 states that construction has the potential to damage or demolish Native American Gathering Halls or Activity areas. Page 18-74 through 18-77 explains that ground disturbing construction of intake areas 1-5 will negatively impact and impair archeological sites, including human burial sites. These sites are important for Native American groups who continually face the loss of important heritage sites. These sites are also important for the general California public by offering rich cultural and historical resources. Proper mitigation measures and alternatives need to be provided to mitigate for the loss of these resources or change the area of construction to exclude cultural sites.

My next concern was the emissions and air quality changes as a result of construction. Chapter 22 was clogged with acronyms that frustrated the general reader. Once I battled my way along I found this area to be a major concern. Despite the BDCP's claim of compliance with air

quality laws, policies, and ordinances, I felt like the BDCP still needed better mitigation measures to combat air quality. Page 22-93 and 22-94 explained that the NOx emissions generated during construction of the water conveyance facility would exceed the SMAQMD threshold and would disturb 15 acres a day due to the 24 hour construction Monday through Friday. According to Table 22-26 NOx levels would be elevated above the SMAQMD threshold for 5 years (2014-2019) during construction. In addition, construction would also disturb PM levels without mitigation measures that reduce emissions below the threshold. This is a particular concern since the BDCP claims to have goals in environmental restorative activities while also polluting our air? This doesn't add up. I urge that proper mitigation measures be added to reduce emissions so that our airways stay clean.

These are only a few of the concerns I have with the BDCP. Ultimately, I do not understand how restorative activities can be linked with a project that will destroy more of our environment. The expansion of our already flawed water infrastructure system is not a solution; but rather, just a way to further hurt our environment. Changes to California's environment will irreversibly and adversely affect our resources. Building more infrastructures is not the answer—we need to focus on restoring what we already have. I urge that proper mitigation measures be put into place and that more studies be conducted to determine how this project will affect the whole state. This is too big for so many people to have concerns and to not be allowed to vote on the project. Thanks for your time.

-Aimee Zarzynski, concerned citizen of Chico, California



5/8/2014

aimee.zarzynski@yahoo.com

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916-930-3629 - fax  
[Anita.deGuzman@noaa.gov](mailto:Anita.deGuzman@noaa.gov)

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BDCP1798

JUL 29 2014

Dear Bay Delta Conservation Plan agencies,

Nat'l Marine Fisheries Svs.  
Sacramento, CA

As a Physical and Environmental Geography major and soon to be graduate from California State University, Chico, I am very concerned about plans in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan to make water transporting tunnels under the delta and how California will subsequently be affected both anthropologically and ecologically. I have a unique perspective because I grew up in San Bernardino County in Southern California but upon graduation of high school I moved to Chico, Ca and became more aware of water resources issues in the state of California. I am concerned about future water resources for my family that lives in Southern California but my main concern is how future plans in the State Water Project and Central Valley Water Project will affect the thriving biodiversity across the state.

After learning a great deal at CSU Chico about California river systems, wetlands, and estuaries and the biota that reside there, I am concerned that plans in the BDCP will decimate plant and animal populations in the region. To start, the migration of Chinook salmon has been decimated in the last 50 years through alteration of habitat and climate change. Chinook Salmon are a native species to the Pacific Northwest that has thrived for thousands of years. Not only do the Salmon have to adapt to loss of habitat along migration paths due to dams, levees and other infrastructure, the species is now faced with the proposed plan of tunnels that will greatly alter the estuaries in which they mature, grow and adapt. Salinity levels in these estuaries is so key to their survival, that any more alterations to estuaries or the tributaries and rivers that flow into them, could potentially decimate the populations even more. We have already seen populations in the Sacramento River decrease by nearly 70%

between 1950 and 2000, and it frightens me what the next 50 years could have in store for Chinook salmon if these tunnels were put in place.

I have had the privilege to visit the delicate and beautiful vernal pools of the Sacramento Valley many times during my experience at CSU Chico, giving me a deep appreciation for the micro ecosystems that reside there. The BDCP does not provide sufficient protection for these resources since wetland micro-ecosystems support larger aquatic and terrestrial animals in the food chain. From Tiger Salamanders to the many species of shrimp that inhabit these delicate and temperate ecosystems these species have an impact on life in the entire region. Wetlands rely heavily on stable groundwater levels and I am concerned that the planned tunnels will destroy these wetland habitats by permanently altering groundwater levels. Human populations will also be affected in regions such as the central coast because this "region has the most reliance on groundwater to meet its local uses, with more than 80% of its water use supplied by groundwater in an average year" (Chapter 5 of BDCP).

Apart from biotic affects of tunnel plans outlined in the BDCP, I am also concerned with human impacts from water contamination and potentially hazardous infrastructure. As surface water infiltrates into groundwater, vital filtration processes occur. Without these processes, the health and well being of all California residents is at stake. Carcinogenic chemicals are already found in our water table due to industry, agriculture, and pharmaceuticals. If the proposed tunnels are put in place it is probable that many communities will have difficulty accessing potable water. Although current filtration methods are mostly effective in removing chemicals from drinking water, projections have not been made based on increased toxicity of water due to the destruction of wetlands that would take place if tunnels were put in place.



Chapter 9 outlines threats of Geologic and Seismic activity to river systems and the delta but does not sufficiently plan for climate change and sea level rise. Even a slight rise of five meters in sea level could decimate infrastructure in rivers and estuaries, and even flood the state capital. Government published map projections of sea level rise predict frightening results in the northern valley and entire state. Residents of El Dorado Hills, Ca, Auburn, Ca and Rocklin, Ca could have prime beach front real estate in the coming years. The BDCP in no way prepares or addresses climate change in a realistic way. Negligence and slow political action on behalf of government agencies has sufficed in the past as environmental issues arise, but future climate change, flooding, and earthquakes could destroy all current and proposed hydrologic infrastructures in California. State political figures and multiple agencies could potentially have the blood of thousands of Californians on their hands if delta tunnels are put in place.

I am a concerned citizen of California and I desire to see the state shift its water policies from being focused on economic gains and future building of dams and other infrastructure, to attempting to allow the state's hydrologic system to function as close to natural as possible. Further alteration of rivers and estuaries could be catastrophic to all forms of life including the human race. The majority of water in the State Water Project and Central Valley Project is used to feed the nation and world, which is also imperative to human survival, but I suggest removing farms in regions such as the Coachella Valley and Imperial Valley that use extreme amounts of water. These farmers need to be subsidized and supported in moving to other industries and careers, or simply move to a more agriculturally efficient region.

I hope you as a state agency create the right policies and laws to protect the beautiful natural environment of California rather than destroying it for economic gain. Please consider the letters of my classmates and I, and I hope that you make the right decisions in protecting the well being of California's environment and water supply.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Brummitt

CSU Chico Physical and Environmental Geography Student

jbrummitt1@mail.csuchico.edu

**From:** Ryan Wulff - NOAA Federal <ryan.wulff@noaa.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 04, 2014 7:11 AM  
**To:** bdcg comments - NOAA Service Account  
**Subject:** Fwd: BDCP COMMENTS | Received 07.29.2014  
**Attachments:** 20140729 - Coalition for a Sustainable Delta.pdf; 20140729 - Ducks Unlimited.pdf;  
20140729 - Al-Guidice - Chico.pdf; 20140729 - Aimee Zarzynsk - Chico.pdf; 20140729 -  
Jeremy Laniksmith - Chico.pdf; 20140729 - Jeremy Brummitt - Chico.pdf

received by 7/29

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Anita Deguzman - NOAA Affiliate <[anita.deguzman@noaa.gov](mailto:anita.deguzman@noaa.gov)>  
**Date:** Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 3:54 PM  
**Subject:** BDCP COMMENTS | Received 07.29.2014  
**To:** Ryan Wulff - NOAA Federal <[ryan.wulff@noaa.gov](mailto:ryan.wulff@noaa.gov)>

I have attached the following comments for your files.

Copies have been made and are in your mailbox - original letters are up front at the reception desk.

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~~~~~  
Anita deGuzman
Administrative Assistant
NOAA Fisheries * West Coast Region
U.S. Department of Commerce
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
Sacramento, CA 95814
[916-930-3600](tel:916-930-3600) - main
[916-930-3629](tel:916-930-3629) - fax
Anita.deGuzman@noaa.gov

May 7, 2014

Jeremy Laniksmith

42050 Cosmic dr

Temecula, Ca 92592

BDCP Comments

Ryan Wulff, NMFS

650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100

Sacramento, CA 95814

JUL 29 2014

Nat'l Marine Fisheries Svs.
Sacramento, CA

Dear Mr. Wulff:

I am currently enrolled in Geography 426 at CSU Chico, which is titled "Water Resources, Policy and Planning". Our class has done extensive research on, and has also had many discussions regarding the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP); we also went on a field trip to the bay delta. During our efforts we were encouraged to form our own opinions regarding the BDCP while simultaneously assessing potential risks and benefits from it. We were at no point given a biased assessment of the situation. Everything stated in this letter is 100% my own assessment.

Preliminary assessments of the delta based on observations made during our field trip suggest that the delta is already under tremendous stress due to human impacts. The Natural Riparian wetlands are noticeably struggling to survive where human "improvements" have been made. Salmon populations (along with many other species of fish) have been declining for years now, and research has shown that human development is at least partly to blame. Hydropower dams, water diversions, non-native fish/predatory fish, habitat loss and fragmentation, and over-harvesting are only a few of the human impacts that salmon have suffered from. It is evident and conclusive that the natural ecosystems associated with the delta need much restoration.

Looking over some basic principles of delta restoration, one could conclude that taking more water from the system would be the exact opposite of helping it. When regarding natural preservation, endangered species, riparian restoration, habitat conservation, and even economic stability (at least in northern California), it is obvious that they are all at risk if the

BDCP gets approved. The BDCP implies that all of these things have been assessed and taken into account. It also suggests that the BDCP will help restore these issues, however research has shown that degradation of natural ecosystems are directly related to the declining state of the delta. The fact that this project will be diverting more water from the natural waterways in the delta greatly contradicts the idea that this project will help restore the delta.

Another big issue in regards to the BDCP: it only takes into consideration a small amount of species that may be affected. Obviously people care a lot about salmon and delta smelt so these things need to be addressed and analyzed thoroughly before anyone approves this plan, but what about the other species? What effect will it have on them? And most importantly, how has this plan somehow surpassed the Endangered Species act? The length of the document did not facilitate understanding of the environmental impact statement. I would like to know how this is going to help the endangered species of the delta and I would also like to know how this evidence was gathered and by who?

Most importantly, the biggest flaw I have found with the BDCP is that it has not properly analyzed the impacts it will have on the delta. If this project was indeed a habitat conservation plan, it should provide conclusive evidence backing this claim. In the document itself I could not find any concrete facts that suggest this will be of any benefit to the state of the delta. I would like to see some valid, evidence based facts/research that prove this will help the delta.

The myth going around is that the BDCP is a gigantic cover up using habitat conservation as a mask for a huge water transfer. I would like to say that this is exactly what it is, a myth, however it hard to argue against when most of the research I have done on this project suggests that it is more concerned with financing and who is going to get how much water than it is anything else. Shouldn't the main focus be habitat conservation?

In conclusion I would like it to be known that I am not just some conspirator who wants to complain about government corporations and policies. I believe that the delta is in dire need of some sort of human intervention and I would support the implementation of the BDCP if its intentions were indeed sincere and the outcome would be as proposed. All in all, my biggest fear is that the effects of this project are being overlooked and catastrophic results will follow the project. I don't want to see a repeat of the Owens valley disaster, I want my home state to remain beautiful through the years and I would like my grandchildren to be able to enjoy the fruits of our state and not have to suffer from the consequences of our actions. The magnitude of this project makes me any many other Californians very nervous because ultimately this project is irreversible and whatever the outcome is we have to live with for the rest of our lives... Additionally I do have a few concerning questions I would like to be answered;

If the BDCP gets approved/built and things go horribly wrong, what will be done to counter the effects of the BDCP? Furthermore, who would be responsible and pay for damages?

If the salmon populations continue to decrease after the BDCP, what will be done to prevent total extinction? For delta smelt?

In the proposal of the project it implies that the delta is vulnerable to a great number of things including natural disasters or tidal fluctuations, how can this be if the delta has been around long before humans impacted it? Has it never encountered a natural disaster before? Why all of a sudden is that a big fear?

As a civil engineering student I couldn't help but notice some of the infrastructures in the levees were not up to code, shouldn't we be focused on fixing the problems that are currently at hand rather than inducing another potential problem?

What will happen to the agriculture of northern California if this project destroys wetlands and lowers aquifers?

Lake Oroville, along with many other lakes that extra water will be extracted from, are already extremely low, if California is already in a drought, where is the extra water going to come from?

What if the promised amount of acre footage of water to contracted agencies is not available? Where will it come from?

If conditions for northern California agriculture continue to get worse after the BDCP is in place, what will be done to prevent the loss of farmland in Northern California?

Assuming that everything goes according to plan and the BDCP does fulfill the proposed requirements; will the BDCP actually be more sustainable than the current state of the delta?

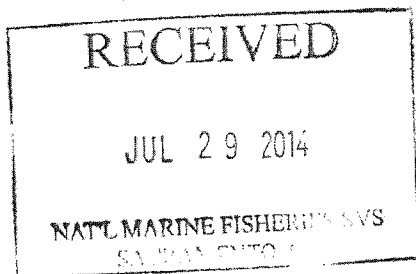
The universal question I would like ask is: is the BDCP really necessary? Are there no better ideas to follow? Is this really the solution to our problem? What if it is not? How will fix it if it is a gigantic failure?

Overall I, as a born and raised Californian, feel suppressed by this proposal. The BDCP document is obsessively long, convoluted, hard to follow, misleading, and extremely confusing. It makes me feel like this was intentional to prevent people from opposing it. It seems as though it doesn't matter what people say and think, that the plan will continue anyways. The fact that the BDCP has somehow become exempt from the regulations provided by state and federal policies makes me very uncomfortable and I propose that further research is to be conducted and displayed in an understandable way so that an accurate public review is possible.

Public Comment to Bay-Delta Conservation Plan

Attn: Mr. Ryan Wulff
National Marine Fisheries Services
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Submitted July 29, 2014



STATE CAPITOL

N

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor, the State of California
State Capitol Building, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Ryan Wulff
National Marine Fisheries Services
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

RECEIVED

JUL 29 2014

NAT'L MARINE FISHERIES SVS
SACRAMENTO, CA

RE: Concerns over proposed Delta plans

Dear Governor Brown and Mr. Wulff,

I'm writing you today, as a concerned citizen, to ask that any Delta solution developed by the state does not come at the expense of those who live and work in the Sacramento region. The proposed solutions in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan focus on solving the Delta's environmental problems and Central and Southern California's water supply needs. However, it continues to ignore the needs of Northern California upstream of the Delta. This poses serious risks to our economy, environment and quality of life.

In early 2014, I was shocked and saddened by the drought's impacts upon Folsom Lake and the lower American River. The lake and river are key to the Sacramento region's economy, lifestyle and environment and are crucial in providing water for California's water system and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The current draft of the BDCP's Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact report states that as the BDCP is implemented, Folsom Reservoir could go to "dead pool" approximately once every ten years. Folsom Lake is crucial not only to our water supplies, but for the entire state. The BDCP acknowledges the possibility of Folsom Lake going dry, but the state is not proactively working toward solving this critical issue.

In this "dead pool" scenario, significant urban populations in Sacramento, Placer and El Dorado counties – including Granite Bay and the cities of Folsom and Roseville – would be essentially cut off from critical surface water supplies for several months. This would devastate the region's economy, devalue property and likely lead to depopulation of cities. It would also ultimately devastate the same environment that the BDCP is looking to restore -- the San Francisco- San Joaquin Bay Delta. These economic and environmental impacts would not only harm the Sacramento Region, but also harm the entire state.

The Sacramento region's water agencies, cities and counties have worked together on a comprehensive review of the current draft of the BDCP and its related documents and have identified fatal flaws. As a concerned citizen of California, I feel it is critical to reiterate the fatal flaws in the current draft of the BDCP.

The current draft of the BDCP is fundamentally inconsistent with existing water rights and contracts held by diverters from Folsom Reservoir (cities of Roseville and Folsom and San Juan Water District). The current plan does not meet the basic federal and state criteria to be considered complete. The BDCP lacks an operational plan for the proposed twin tunnels, and the overall governance of the twin tunnels is unclear. Without clarity in the BDCP about the operation of the twin tunnels, the impacts to Folsom

Reservoir remain unclear and our region continues to face the potential of "dead pool" with no clear solutions.

With too many unanswered questions, errors and questionable assumptions, I strongly feel that the current draft of the BDCP should be considered incomplete. I ask that you direct the Department of Water Resources to do a better and more complete job and provide the public with a document that clearly defines a solution to the Delta and also supports a good, comprehensive water plan for all of California.

Sincerely,

Jesse Castellanos, Granite Bay, CA

From: Ryan Wulff - NOAA Federal <ryan.wulff@noaa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 9:18 AM
To: bdcf comments - NOAA Service Account
Subject: Fwd: BDCP COMMENTS
Attachments: 20140729 - Yuba County Water Agency.pdf; 20140729 - Jesse Castellanos - Granite Bay.pdf; 20140729 - Franklin D. Merck, Sr. - Stockton.pdf; 20140729 - Dan & Judy Serpa - Clarksburg - 1 of 2.pdf; 20140729 - Dan & Judy Serpa - Clarksburg - 2 of 2.pdf; 20140729 - Western Growers - Sacramento.pdf; 20140729 - Steve Soriano - Walnut Grove.pdf

Received before end of comment period.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Anita Deguzman - NOAA Affiliate <anita.deguzman@noaa.gov>
Date: Tue, Jul 29, 2014 at 3:06 PM
Subject: BDCP COMMENTS
To: Ryan Wulff - NOAA Federal <ryan.wulff@noaa.gov>

I have attached the following BDCP comments for your files.

Copies have been made and are in your mailbox - original letters are up front at the reception desk.

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~~~~~  
Anita deGuzman  
*Administrative Assistant*  
NOAA Fisheries \* West Coast Region  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[916-930-3600](tel:916-930-3600) - main  
[916-930-3629](tel:916-930-3629) - fax  
[Anita.deGuzman@noaa.gov](mailto:Anita.deGuzman@noaa.gov)

RECEIVED

JUL 29 2014

**Twin Tunnels**NAT'L MARINE FISHERIES SVS  
SACRAMENTO, CAFrank Merck  
608 Garner Ln  
Stockton CA 95207

During the past several years there have been a lot of ideas pertaining to water from the Delta. Remember when they were taking dirt parallel to I-5 to help build the freeway? They said the peripheral canal was going there. Some of the holes can still be seen. No canal.

Now it is twin tunnels. At \$25 billion? When did tax funded construction ever come close to the estimate? Is there some way to lock in the price?

Question: How much water is taken from the Delta every year with the present canal system?

Now when the twin tunnels are installed, how much water per year can be taken from the Sacramento River? Note: Sacramento River, not the Delta. The Delta will get more and more polluted as time goes on. Stockton and other users will need additional purification plants in order to use this polluted water. In time, the wells in Stockton will be pumping salt water. Then what?

Want a shock? Walk off 40 feet. Now come back 20 feet. Make a 90 degree turn and walk off 20 feet. Reverse and go 40 feet. Think of a circle around your marks. Pretty big isn't it. That is one tunnel. Now double it. Wow!! I doubt if many people realize how long 80 feet really is.

I understand why they want clear fresh Sacramento River water and not polluted water from the Delta sent south. Who wouldn't?

Why not add purification plants along the coast in Southern California and use the ocean water? Santa Barbara has such a plant. I think it is turned on a couple of times a year to keep it in working order. With purification plants, there would be no need for water going past Los Angeles (or Bakersfield) and the tunnels would not be needed.

How long will it be before another canal will be needed?

Remember, Southern California will never get enough water. Eventually, purification plants will have to be built.

Also, remember there is a limit to how much useable water is available from the Delta. What will happen when it is gone? Of course, put purification plants along the ocean.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Franklin D. Merck, Sr.", written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

FRANKLIN D. MERCK, SR.

608 East Garner Lane

Stockton, CA 95207

(209) 478-7784

**From:** Ryan Wulff - NOAA Federal <ryan.wulff@noaa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 30, 2014 9:18 AM  
**To:** bdcg comments - NOAA Service Account  
**Subject:** Fwd: BDCP COMMENTS  
**Attachments:** 20140729 - Yuba County Water Agency.pdf; 20140729 - Jesse Castellanos - Granite Bay.pdf; 20140729 - Franklin D. Merck, Sr. - Stockton.pdf; 20140729 - Dan & Judy Serpa - Clarksburg - 1 of 2.pdf; 20140729 - Dan & Judy Serpa - Clarksburg - 2 of 2.pdf; 20140729 - Western Growers - Sacramento.pdf; 20140729 - Steve Soriano - Walnut Grove.pdf

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Sacramento, CA 95814
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Anita.deGuzman@noaa.gov