From:	Bohl, Amanda@DeltaCouncil
To:	Chapin, Brandon@DeltaCouncil; Yu, Edmund@DeltaCouncil
Subject:	FW: Bay Delta Water Conservation Plan
Date:	Wednesday, June 16, 2021 2:03:03 PM
Attachments:	image003.png

From: Denise Louie <denise_louie_sf@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 10:34 AM
To: Bohl, Amanda@DeltaCouncil <Amanda.Bohl@deltacouncil.ca.gov>; Delta Council General Inquiries <hello@deltacouncil.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: Bay Delta Water Conservation Plan

Hi,
I have several questions regarding the Delta Stewardship Council's role in implementing the State's Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan. Please forward my email to members of the Council, the Delta Science Program and Delta ISB.

Thanks,
Denise

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Hi members of the Council, the Delta Science Program and Delta ISB,

The various links in Amanda's email have raised the following questions.

1. Is it true that the Bay Delta Water Quality ConHrol Plan has been absorbed by the Delta Convenyance Project? How and when did this happen?

2. The Delta Convenyance Design and Construction Authority was formed to carry out instructions from DWR. What work has been or is being done along headwaters?

3. Metrics for outflow/inflow are shown as recent as 2020. However, where are the more recent numbers of the fish we want to protect?
"Native fish species that migrate through and inhabit the Delta have experienced dramatic population declines in recent years, bringing some species to the brink of extinction. Approximately 70,000 fall-run Chinook salmon adults returned to the San Joaquin Basin in 1985. The number of returning adults dropped to approximately 40,000 in 2000 and dropped again to 8,000 returning adults in 2013. Returning fall-run adults were estimated to be approximately 10,000 in 2017. This is an 85 percent net loss in returning adult fall-run Chinook salmon from 1985 to 2017. While multiple factors are responsible for the decline, the magnitude of diversions out of the Sacramento, San Joaquin, and other rivers feeding into the Bay-Delta is a major factor in the ecosystem decline. The State Water Board has authority over both water quality and water diversion and use."

4. Knowing the trajectory for fish populations, what are the Council, the Delta Science Program and Delta ISB going to do to remove obstacles to their very existence?

5. At one point, "The Council and other parties appealed, which placed the decision to invalidate the Plan on hold pending the April 10, 2020 appellate court ruling, and in the intervening years the Council proceeded both to implement and amend the Plan." Does this mean the Council can increase unimpaired river flows including along the Tuolumne, in spite of lawsuits?

Thank you for your responses,
Denise

On Tuesday, June 8, 2021, 03:15:48 PM PDT, Bohl, Amanda@DeltaCouncil <amanda.bohl@deltacouncil.ca.gov> wrote:

Dear Denise,

Thank you for reaching out and for your interest in the Council's role in achieving the coequal goals. As you requested, we will share your letter with the Council and Delta Independent Science Board members.

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan, now known as Delta Conveyance Project, is being led by the state's Department of Water Resources; more information can be found here. The Council has an appellate review role should that project's consistency with the Delta Plan be challenged.

In your first question—and as a post-script—you mentioned published data on metrics, baselines, targets, and performance measures. Specific data is published on the Council's Performance Measures Dashboard which measures progress in achieving the coequal goals.

In response to question two, the Council released a public statement on the appellate decision when it was issued.

And, in response to question three, the Council is not directly engaged in the voluntary agreements that you referenced; leadership from the state is being provided by the California Natural Resources Agency and California Environmental Protection Agency. Additional information is available on this linked website.

Best,

Amanda Bohl

Amanda Bohl *(she/her/hers)*

Special Assistant for Planning and Science and Acting Assistant Deputy Executive Officer for Communications

Delta Stewardship Council

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Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Denise Louie <denise_louie_sf@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 5, 2021 10:06 AM
To: Delta Council General Inquiries <hello@deltacouncil.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: Bay Delta Water Conservation Plan

Amendment to Question 2:

In August 2020, the "California Supreme Court [let] stand appellate decision upholding the Council's authority for sustainable management of the Delta." How does this impact the SF Public Utilities/Modesto & Turlock Water Districts' lawsuit blocking increased unimpaired flows along the Tuolumne **and the City's lawsuit blocking improvements to the Bay-Delta**?

Amendment to Question 3:

What can or will the Council do to encourage Governor Newsom, SF Mayor Breed, the SFPUC and the related Water Districts to drop their support for the **lawsuits** and Voluntary Agreements?

On Saturday, June 5, 2021, 09:44:48 AM PDT, Denise Louie <denise_louie_sf@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi,

I have several questions regarding the Delta Stewardship Council's role in implementing the State's Bay Delta Water Conservation Plan. Please forward my email to members of the Council, the Delta Science Program and Delta ISB.

Thanks,

Denise

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Hi Members of the Delta Stewardship Council, the Delta Science Program and Delta ISB,

As a native San Franciscan, I am deeply concerned about the downward spiral of indicator species like Delta Smelt and keystone species of salmon in the Tuolumne River. I ask for your enlightenment.

1. I have read the Council's 2020 Annual Report.* Is there any published data on the progress or metrics shown below from the report?

"Progress toward achieving the State and federal 'doubling goal' for wild Central Valley salmon relative to the period of 1967-1991 levels. Trends will be derived from long-term salmon monitoring surveys conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and others. (Strategy 4.2)

"Metrics:

§ Number of naturally spawned wild adult salmon by run type, annually censused for the general population in the Central Valley and selected rivers:

- Sacramento River:
- American River
- Feather River
- Sacramento River mainstem
- San Joaquin River:

- Tuolumne River
- Merced River
- Stanislaus River
- Mokelumne River

"Baseline:

§ Salmon population numbers relative to average levels during the period of 1967-1991.

"Target: § As defined by the Central Valley Project Improvement Act 'doubling goal' that '…natural production of anadromous fish in Central Valley Rivers and streams will be sustainable, on a long term basis, at levels not less than twice the average levels attained during the period of 1967-1991.'

"Progress toward the documented occurrence in and use of protected and restored habitats and migratory corridors by native resident and migratory Delta fish and bird species. Trends in the number of native species in protected and restored habitats and corridors will be derived from monitoring surveys that are conducted as part of adaptive management strategies for the protection and restoration of these areas. (Strategy 4.2)

Metrics:

§ Assess native fish:

- Relative abundance of native fish in and near restoration project sites.

§ Assess native birds:

- Counts of native birds, including waterfowl in the Delta.

Baseline:

§ Fish relative abundance as of Delta Plan adoption, May 2013.

§ Breeding waterfowl for 2010-2014:

- Delta counts (5-year average): 7,414

• Suisun Marsh counts (5-year average): 23,122

Target: § Upward trend as measured by the metrics above"

2. In August 2020, the "California Supreme Court [let] stand appellate decision upholding the Council's authority for sustainable management of the Delta." How does this impact the SF Public Utilities/Modesto & Turlock Water Districts' lawsuit blocking increased unimpaired flows along the Tuolumne?

3. What can or will the Council do to encourage Governor Newsom, SF Mayor Breed, the SFPUC and the related Water Districts to drop their support for the lawsuit and Voluntary Agreements?

I understand co-equal goals** to include both human needs and wildlife needs. The current situation is not co-equal. My understanding is that there are virtually no Delta Smelt where they were once in great abundance, and where there were once 100,000 salmon in the Tuolumne, there are barely 1,000. I look forward to your responses.

Thank you and be well,

Denise Louie

San Francisco

Member, Center for Biological Diversity

* https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/pdf/delta-plan/2018-04-26-amended-appendix-e-performance-measures.pdf

** **"The Delta Stewardship Council was created in legislation to achieve the state-mandated co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and to protect, restore and enhance the Delta ecosystem**. Those two goals are to be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place. The council recently adopted its Delta Plan and will establish a high-level interagency coordinating body to commence implementation of a suite of actions

designed to achieve the co-equal goals. The Implementation Committee can play a strong role in moving forward on the actions included in this plan, which include and build on many of the priorities included in the council's Delta Plan.

"The administration directs all of its relevant agencies to fully participate in the Implementation Committee established by the Delta Stewardship Council and to work with the Delta Science Program, the Interagency Ecological Program, and others to implement the Delta Science Plan to enhance water and natural resource policy and management decisions."

[https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/watershed/Documents/Final_California_Water_Action_Plan.pdf]