

# BDCP

## BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

### OVERVIEW

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) is a conservation plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta), and is being developed pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act and California Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act. The BDCP is being designed to achieve California's co-equal goals of providing for the conservation and management of aquatic and terrestrial species, including the restoration and enhancement of ecological functions in the Delta, and improving current water supplies and the reliability of delivery of water supplies conveyed through the State Water Project (SWP) and the Central Valley Project (CVP). The public draft BDCP, while still under development will include a set of actions to redesign and re-operate state and federal water projects in the Delta; restore native fish, wildlife, and plant habitat; and address other ecological stressors in the Delta such as invasive plant species, barriers to fish migration, and predation of native fish. As a conservation plan, the BDCP is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Although conservation plans are intended to be helpful to the environment, they have environmental impacts that must be evaluated and mitigated, as prescribed by state and federal law. The environmental review of the BDCP will identify and thoroughly analyze the Plan's environmental impacts, describe alternatives to the BDCP, and develop mitigation measures. The alternatives described in this document are various packages of water conveyance configurations, capacities, operations and habitat restoration. These will be analyzed for their effects on biological resources and hydrology to assist the Department of Water Resources and other state and federal agencies in their decision-making. This information will also support the selection of a range of alternatives for full evaluation as required by CEQA and NEPA. In addition to the variations of conveyance configurations described in this document, alternatives in the CEQA and NEPA process will include a variety of conveyance alignments and other specifications resulting from public scoping sessions conducted in 2008 and 2009 and the California Water Reform Act of 2009. The BDCP Draft Environmental Impact Report and Draft Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled to be available in June 2012.

### GOALS OF THE BDCP

**The BDCP will help improve current water supplies and the reliability of delivery of water supplies for California water users, provide for the conservation of endangered species, and restore and enhance the Delta's ecological functions. The BDCP intends to achieve these goals while maintaining the unique cultural, recreational, natural resources, and agricultural values of the Delta.**

**The BDCP helps achieve coequal goals by:**

- **Providing a more reliable water supply for California by modifying conveyance facilities to create a more natural flow pattern and prepare for seismic and climate change scenarios**
- **Providing for an adaptive management and monitoring program to enable the plan to adapt as conditions change and new information emerges**
- **Providing a comprehensive science-based restoration program for the Delta**
- **Identifying sources of funding and science-based decision making for ecosystem improvements**
- **Providing the basis for permits under federal and state endangered species laws for activities covered by the plan**

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### POTENTIAL ARRAY OF ALTERNATIVES FOR BDCP EFFECTS ANALYSIS PROCESS

Alternative	Habitat Restoration*	Conveyance†	North Delta Diversion Capacity (cfs)	Potential Intakes	Water Operations
<b>No Project Alternative</b> (Same as No Action Alternative)	8,000 acres of restored aquatic habitat**	Through Delta	Current Operations	-	Per D-1641 as modified by Biological Opinions issued by USFWS and NMFS
<b>Alternative 1</b>	Up to 113,000 acres of restored and protected habitat***	Dual	15,000 cfs	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	Per 2/11/10 BDCP Steering Committee Handout
<b>Alternative 1A</b>	Up to 113,000 acres of restored and protected habitat***	Dual	15,000 cfs	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	Scenario 6 per Points of Agreement with Fall X2
<b>Alternative 2</b>	Up to 113,000 acres of restored and protected habitat***	Dual	6,000 cfs	■ ■	Per 2/11/10 BDCP Steering Committee Handout
<b>Alternative 2A</b>	Up to 113,000 acres of restored and protected habitat***	Dual	9,000 cfs	■ ■ ■	Scenario 6 per Points of Agreement with Fall X2
<b>Alternative 2B:</b> - One Intake at 3,000 cfs - Two Intakes at 1,500 cfs each	Up to 25,000 acres of restored and protected habitat	Dual	3,000 cfs 3,000 cfs	■ ■ ■	North of Delta per 2/11/10 BDCP SC Handout and South of Delta per existing Biological Opinions – with Fall X2, Old and Middle River Flows, and San Joaquin E/I ratios
<b>Alternative 3</b>	Up to 113,000 acres of restored and protected habitat***	Isolated	15,000 cfs	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	Similar to 2/11/10 BDCP Steering Committee Handout – modified to eliminate South Delta Intakes plus addition of Fall X2
<b>Alternative 4:</b>	Up to 113,000 acres of restored and protected habitat***, additional 20 miles of Channel Margin Habitat and 10,000 acres of Seasonally Inundated Floodplain	Dual	9,000 cfs	■ ■ ■	Modified from 2/11/10 BDCP Steering Committee Handout
<b>Alternative 4A: §</b>	Up to 113,000 acres of restored and protected habitat***	Dual	9,000 cfs	■ ■ ■	Developing operations that could include up to 1.5 MAF Increased Delta Outflow
<b>Alternative 5:</b> - Separate Corridors with Screens at Delta Cross Channel and Georgiana Slough	Up to 113,000 acres of restored and protected habitat*** with changes in South Delta	Through Delta	N/A	N/A	Similar to 2/11/10 BDCP Steering Committee Handout

\* The BDCP planning process is currently working with various stakeholders to define more specifically habitat restoration contemplated by the Plan. These individual restoration projects will be the subject of separate, site specific environmental review processes as the plan is approved and implemented.  
 \*\* Per several federal and state requirements and Biological Opinions issued by USFWS and NMFS.  
 † Conveyance options may include a combination of isolated and/or pipeline/tunnel features that are lined, unlined, and located east, west, through, or under the Delta.  
 § This alternative will seek to increase outflow up to 1.5 MAF. This option will not result in: • Drawing on Sacramento Valley groundwater • Drawing on Non SWP/CVP storage • Failure to deliver SJR water (exchange water rights) • Failure to deliver refuge water • Drawing down SWP/CVP storage to make it impossible or highly unlikely to meet temperature requirements

#### \*\*\* 113,000 Acres of Restored and Protected Habitat

- New Floodplain – Up to 10,000 acres
- Tidal Habitat – Up to 65,000 acres
- Channel Margin – 20 Levee miles
- Riparian – Up to 5,000 acres
- Grassland – Up to 8,000 acres (protected)/ Up to 2,000 acres (restored)
- Vernal Pool Complex – Up to 300 Acres (protected)/ Up to 200 acres (restored)
- Nontidal Marsh – Up to 400 acres
- Agriculture – Up to 16,620 to 32,640 acres
- Alkali Seasonal Wetland Complex – Up to 400 acres



## WHAT'S NEXT?

**Lead Agencies:** The environmental review process for the BDCP is being conducted by four state and federal agencies. The California Department of Water Resources is the state lead agency under CEQA, while the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service are serving as the federal co-leads under NEPA.

The EIR/EIS is also being developed in close coordination with the California Department of Fish and Game, the California State Water Resources Control Board, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These agencies will analyze BDCP proposed actions and alternatives to those actions, including alternative water conveyance options, in fulfillment of multiple state and federal permitting processes.

The lead agencies will continue to finalize the alternatives for full analysis of their effects on:

- ▶ Water Resources
- ▶ Water Quality
- ▶ Air Quality
- ▶ Climate Change
- ▶ Socioeconomic Conditions
- ▶ Land Use
- ▶ Agricultural Resources
- ▶ Cultural Resources
- ▶ Historical Resources
- ▶ Archaeological Resources
- ▶ Biological Resources
- ▶ Geology, Seismology, Minerals, and Soils
- ▶ Transportation and Navigation
- ▶ Recreation
- ▶ Noise
- ▶ Visual Resources
- ▶ Hazardous materials
- ▶ Utilities and Public Services
- ▶ Environmental Justice

**Process:** Once identified, alternatives for environmental review will pass through a three-level screening process:

	CEQA	NEPA
First Screening Level	Could the potential alternative concept feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project?	Could the potential alternative concept meet the projects purpose and need?
Second Screening Level	Would the potential alternative concept avoid or substantially lessen any of the expected significant environmental effects of the proposed project?	Would the potential alternative address one or more significant issues related to the proposed action?
Third Screening Level	Could the potential alternative concept be "potentially feasible"? Is it capable of being accomplished in a reasonable time period, taking into account economic, legal, social and technological factors?	Could the potential alternative concept be "reasonable"? Is it practical or feasible from a technical or economic standpoint?

### ABOUT THE BDCP

The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta) is a vital ecosystem, and home to hundreds of aquatic and terrestrial species, many of which are unique to the area. It is also a critical part of California's water system, providing a portion of water supplies to 25 million Californians. The BDCP is a comprehensive effort to help achieve the State mandated co-equal goals of ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability. Under development since 2006, the BDCP is guided by stakeholder input and managed by the California Natural Resources Agency and Department of Water Resources.

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