

B. Burman Commem



January 31, 2013

Secretary Ken Salazar  
 U.S. Department of the Interior  
 1849 C Street, N.W.  
 Washington, DC 20240

Secretary John Laird  
 California Natural Resources Agency  
 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Commissioner Michael L. Connor  
 U. S. Department of the Interior  
 1849 C Street, N.W.  
 Washington, DC 20240

Dr. Jerry Meral, Deputy Secretary  
 California Natural Resources Agency  
 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Salazar, Secretary Laird, Commissioner Connor and Deputy Secretary Meral:

The State Water Project and the Central Valley Project are the two most important conveyance systems in California. They move water supplies from the Sierra Nevada to the Silicon Valley, the millions of acres of farmland in the Central Valley, and the trillion-dollar economy of Southern California. For seven years, federal and state agencies have been working constructively within the Bay Delta Conservation Plan to identify the right investments necessary to transport these supplies across the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta while restoring this treasured ecosystem. Your agencies have correctly identified that a comprehensive approach is essential, that a new transportation system across the Delta is needed, and that any solution must meet the state's coequal goals of a reliable water supply and a restored Delta ecosystem. As the Governor stated in his State-of-the-State address about the need for new Delta conveyance, "big problems need bold solutions."

We write to express our concern about a proposal that has been inaccurately characterized by the proponents as a legitimate "alternative." The alternative drastically downsizes the future conveyance facility across the Delta, creating risk for the California economy and the health of the Delta. The alternative proposal would depart from the coequal goals by leaving California without a water supply solution for the residents and industries in several regions of the state. The proposal would provide no relief for farm workers and farmers in the Central Valley. Even more concerning is the fact that the proposal would leave California unprotected from the impacts

of a major seismic event or the failure of the system due to major climate events. The alternative would also jeopardize a critical infrastructure project that could create 100,000 jobs and would significantly boost the state's economic recovery.

Those same organizations that have long opposed current pumping operations of water projects in the south Delta are now proposing to rely on this very same system. This approach will only serve to perpetuate the current degradation of the Delta. They are seeking to downsize the new water conveyance system that would originate in the northern Delta to 20 percent of the capacity of the existing aqueduct system. They claim that California can afford to lose a third of this vital supply and replace it locally.

To intentionally constrict future water conveyance capacity in the Delta would cripple the ability to capture adequate supplies in wet years. It would lead to massive land retirement of farmland in the Central Valley, where there are no alternate supplies. It would make water less reliable and more expensive throughout the state. The Bay Area and Southern California are already embracing conservation and local supply development. These efforts are essential, but they in no way satisfy the need for adequate and reliable Delta supplies today.

We encourage you to stay the course toward crafting a final Bay Delta Conservation Plan that will advance smart, properly sized investments in our water transportation system and to restore the health of the Delta estuary.

Sincerely,



Jose Mejia  
Director  
California State Council of  
Laborers



Jeanne Cain  
Executive Vice President,  
Policy  
California Chamber of  
Commerce



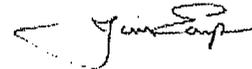
Richard Lyon  
Senior Vice President  
California Building Industry  
Association



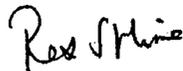
Daniel Curtin  
Director  
California Conference of  
Carpenters



Tracy Rafter, CEO  
BizFed, Los Angeles  
County Business  
Federation



Jim Earp  
Executive Director  
California Alliance for Jobs



Rex Hime  
President/CEO  
California Business  
Properties Association



Lucy Dunn  
President /CEO  
Orange County Business  
Council



Tim Cremins  
Director of Education and  
Research  
California-Nevada  
Conference of Operating  
Engineers

Gary Toebben  
President/CEO  
Los Angeles Area  
Chamber of Commerce

Ryan Jacobsen  
CEO/Executive Director  
Fresno County Farm Bureau

Thomas Birmingham  
General Manager  
Westlands Water District

William D. Phillimore  
Executive Vice President  
Paramount Farming  
Company

John V. Rossi  
General Manager  
Western Municipal Water  
District

Scott Hamilton  
Director  
Coalition for a Sustainable  
Delta

Tom Nassif  
President/CEO  
Western Growers  
Association

Paul D. Jones II, P.E.  
General Manager  
Eastern Municipal Water  
District

Kirby Brill  
General Manager  
Mojave Water Agency

Richard Atwater  
Executive Director  
Southern California Water  
Committee

Paul Cook  
General Manager  
Irvine Ranch Water District

James M. Beck  
General Manager  
Kern County Water  
Agency

Al Smith  
President/CEO  
Greater Fresno Area  
Chamber of Commerce

Barbara Robinson  
President  
Monday Morning Group of  
Western Riverside County

Stuart Waldman  
President  
Valley Industry &  
Commerce Association

Shane Chapman  
General Manager  
Upper San Gabriel Valley  
Municipal Water District

CC: The Honorable Edmund "Jerry" G. Brown, Jr., Governor, State of California  
The Honorable Members of the California Legislature  
Cliff Rechtschaffen, Senior Advisor, Office of Governor Jerry Brown  
Martha Guzman-Aceves, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Jerry Brown  
Nancy McFadden, Executive Secretary, Office of Governor Jerry Brown  
Mark Cowin, Director, California Department of Water Resources  
Chuck Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Matt Rodriguez, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency

**Castaic Lake Water Agency  
Central Coast Water Authority  
Coachella Valley Water District  
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District  
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
Zone 7 Water Agency of Eastern Alameda County**

January 31, 2013

Secretary Ken Salazar  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N. W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Secretary John Laird  
California Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Commissioner Michael L. Connor  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N. W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dr. Jerry Meral, Deputy Secretary  
California Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Salazar, Secretary Laird, Commissioner Connor and Deputy Secretary Meral:

Solving California's water challenges requires bold action. And, over the past seven years, the federal and state administrations have undertaken one of the most important and water supply reliability and habitat conservation planning processes in the nation. The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) is months away from releasing a draft EIR/EIS that will identify a preferred alternative for protecting the Delta estuary and restoring reliable water supplies for 25 million Californians, business and millions of acres of farmland.

Under your leadership, the federal and state governments have ensured what is arguably one of the most transparent and public discussions that focus on the merits of the various ecosystem restoration and conveyance alternatives as opposed to endless debates on the process itself.

In addition, public water agencies throughout California that rely on the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project supported the landmark package of state legislation from 2009 which established a clear path for advancing bold and comprehensive change in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The legislation included a mandate to review a wide array of possible conveyance improvements in the Delta. This is both sound public policy and fiscally prudent.

Letter re BDCP Framework  
Page 2  
January 31, 2013

While public water agencies stand ready to make significant reinvestments in Delta conveyance improvements, the overall project must work both fiscally for the agencies and for the health of a recovering estuary. The "BDCP Framework" announced in July of 2012 holds great promise for meeting the many needs of a comprehensive Delta solution. Construction of two new water supply tunnels from the northern Delta to the existing aqueduct facilities, for example, would provide for the necessary reliability and avoid the unacceptable risks of a single-tunnel approach. The improved conveyance is large enough to capture sufficient wet-year supplies and it addresses the need for urban communities to stay on the path of conserving and recycling more water. In summary, it is sized to serve California capably for the next 100 years, as climate and ecosystem conditions are expected to change.

Recently, a conceptual alternative to the BDCP was proposed which included a smaller sized tunnel (3,000 cubic feet per second vs. 9,000 cubic feet per second). Our preliminary analysis includes a variety of inherent physical limitations, drawbacks, and negative cost benefit impacts related to downsizing the conveyance system. We understand a full range of conveyance alternatives, including a 3,000 cfs facility, will be thoroughly evaluated as part of the BDCP's Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement review process scheduled to get underway this spring, a sound process we continue to support.

We are confident that the BDCP process will lead to a better understanding of alternative courses of action and create the necessary support for the final preferred alternative.

Thank you for your continued leadership and for placing California on the brink of historic action in the Delta.

Sincerely,



Jill Duerig, General Manager  
Zone 7 Water Agency of Eastern  
Alameda County



Dan Mashada, General Manager  
Castaic Lake Water Agency

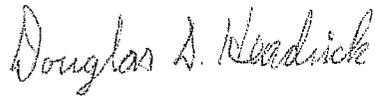
Letter re BDCP Framework  
Page 3  
January 31, 2013



William J. Brennan, Executive Director  
Central Coast Water Authority



Jim Barrett, Interim General Manager  
Coachella Valley Water District



Douglas D. Headrick, General Manager  
San Bernardino Valley Municipal  
Water District



Jeff Kightlinger, General Manager  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern  
California



# Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 14, 2013

**CONTACT**

Ann Newton

(818) 760-2121

[anewton@fionahuttonassoc.com](mailto:anewton@fionahuttonassoc.com)

## **SINGLE TUNNEL PROPOSAL FOR SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA FLAWED** *Smaller Capacity Tunnel Would Result in 33 Percent Less Water and Less Reliability for California Water Agencies*

**Sacramento, CA** – A smaller, single tunnel underneath the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) would result in dramatically less water for California cities and farms while causing greater harm to endangered species, a new review by the State Water Contractors explains.

The single tunnel proposal was circulated by the Natural Resources Defense Council and other organizations at the end of January as an alternative to the twin-tunnels that have been proposed under state-federal Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). The twin-tunnels of BDCP would have a capacity of 9,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), while the single tunnel proposal calls for one tunnel with a capacity of only 3,000 cfs. The State Water Contractors believe that that this alternative proposal would reduce environmental benefits and reduce water supplies for 25 million Californians and farmers on millions of acres of land.

More than 30 public water agencies, organizations and business groups throughout the state have signed coalition letters opposing the alternative proposal because it would perpetuate the current degradation of the Delta while making water less reliable and more expensive throughout the state.

“There is no business case for the alternative proposal—it would mean spending billions of ratepayer dollars on a project that is riddled with reliability issues and would result in 33 percent less water,” said Terry Erlewine, general manager of the State Water Contractors. “Re-plumbing our state water system and protecting endangered species is imperative. It’s going to be a big investment, and we need to do it right the first time.”

The 9,000 cfs twin-tunnel system being analyzed under the BDCP offers several key elements that are critical for the state’s water managers:

- BDCP seeks to restore water supplies while the alternative plan is asking water agencies to pay for a proposal that would result in a 33 percent reduction in supplies from traditional levels.
- The larger capacity, twin-tunnel system allows more water to be taken during high storm flows, so that diversions can be reduced during dry periods. The smaller, single tunnel forfeits the opportunity to capture more water in wet years.

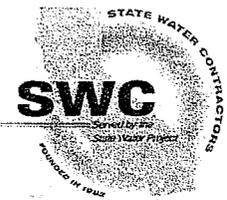
- The two tunnels proposed by BDCP incorporate a back-up plan. If one tunnel is down for routine maintenance, the other can keep running. There is no back-up for the single tunnel.
- The smaller tunnel size of 3,000 cfs will force more water to be pumped at the existing water facilities in the ecologically sensitive South Delta. A small tunnel that forces more pumping in the South Delta will not achieve the goal of increased protection for Delta fish.

“The most glaring hole in the alternative plan is that it neglects to consider how these water supply reductions will impact California agriculture,” added Erlewine. “Farms in the San Joaquin Valley do not have the local water supply opportunities afforded to our urban agencies—and the alternative plan overlooks that fact.”

The State Water Contractors comparison of the tunnel options is available [here](#). For more information on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, please visit [www.baydeltaconservationplan.com](http://www.baydeltaconservationplan.com).

###

*The State Water Contractors is a statewide, non-profit association of 27 public agencies from Northern, Central and Southern California that purchase water under contract from the California State Water Project. Collectively the State Water Contractors deliver water to more than 25 million residents throughout the state and more than 750,000 acres of agricultural lands. For more information on the State Water Contractors, please visit [www.swc.org](http://www.swc.org).*



## STATE WATER CONTRACTORS

# Delta Water Tunnels: Build It Once, Build it Right

State and federal agencies are crafting a plan to restore the environmental health of the troubled Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and modernize its two primary water supply systems that help to sustain 25 million Californians, 3 million acres of agriculture and California's statewide economy. The effort is known as the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and is being developed to meet the state's toughest environmental standards and in compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act. A consensus is emerging that in order to restore the Delta environment and secure reliable water supplies, new diversions must be constructed in the northern Delta and the supply transported via new water tunnels to the existing aqueducts in the southern Delta. The tunnels would protect water supplies from the destruction and saltwater invasion that an earthquake could cause, and they would separate the delicate ecosystem from the state's water operations.

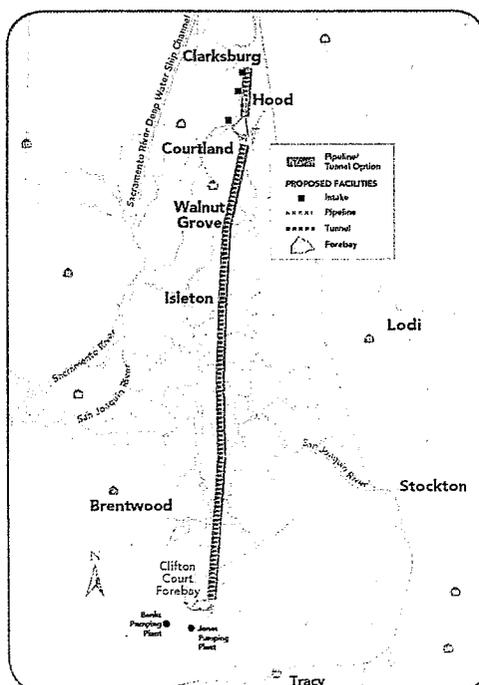
There are questions about key details: One tunnel or two? How big? State and federal agencies have been studying various sizes and locations for the tunnels to determine the best approach. Recently, some organizations have come forward with an alternative plan that would significantly limit the flexibility and benefits of having a new tunnel system. The State Water Contractors, who provide water to 25 million Californians and 750,000 acres of farmland, believe that proposals to constrict the future statewide water system are not solutions.

## BDCP: Meeting Long-Term Needs of Environment, Economy

BDCP is a long-term solution. The habitat conservation efforts will span 50 years and the tunnels will improve California's water supply reliability for at least that long. Conditions are expected to change based on sea level rise, seismic events and climate predictions of more rain and less snow. California needs infrastructure that can provide water supply reliability throughout these events. Building the tunnels too small would have costly consequences. The State Water Contractors are seeking a cost-effective tunnel design that ensures reliability and protects the state's water supply. It is fiscally responsible to build it once and build it right.

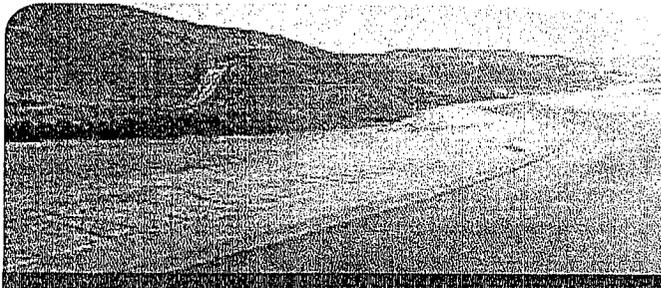
## Bay Delta Conservation Plan Preliminary Proposal

- ✓ Two twin tunnels
- ✓ 4,500 cubic feet per second capacity per tunnel
- ✓ 40 feet in diameter\*
- ✓ Delivers between 4.8 to 5.8 million acre-feet in an average year\*\*
- ✓ 113,000 acres of habitat restoration
- ✓ Estimated \$14 billion\*
- \* Preliminary BDCP estimate
- \*\* Future scientific studies will identify project yield.



## Proposed Alternative Plan

- ✓ Single tunnel
- ✓ 3,000 cubic feet per second capacity
- ✓ 32 feet in diameter\*
- ✓ Requires a 30 percent reduction in traditional water supply levels: 4 million acre-feet of water in an average year
- ✓ 40,000 acres of habitat restoration
- ✓ Estimated \$8.9 billion\*
- \* Preliminary BDCP estimate



## STATE WATER CONTRACTORS

### Proposed BDCP: Dual Tunnel System

#### Does the water tunnel capture enough supplies in wet years?

**YES.** The twin tunnels can capture almost 4 billion gallons more than the alternate proposal every day that the Sacramento River is carrying high flows during wet periods, so that diversions can be reduced in dry periods, and providing more natural flow patterns for fish. This approach to water management is known as the "Big Gulp, Little Sip."

#### Does it solve the reliability problem?

**YES.** In addition to separating water supplies from the current, unreliable system, building two tunnels creates another layer of reliability and protects against outages. If one tunnel experiences an outage or is closed for routine maintenance, the system can keep running.

#### Does it provide for adequate, reliable Delta supplies?

**YES.** The BDCP seeks to restore water supplies to traditional levels (levels prior to federal regulatory water cutbacks). The \$14 billion tunnel investment would assist in restoring the Delta environment, while allowing public water agencies to continue getting the water they need.

#### Does it preserve San Joaquin Valley agriculture?

**YES.** BDCP can maintain the farming communities that grow half of the nation's fruits and vegetables. The solution works for the environment, urban communities and agriculture.

#### Does it have realistic expectations for local water supply expansion?

**YES.** Local water supply expansion is already under way and will continue. The BDCP recognizes, however, that these efforts cannot substitute for reliable and sufficient imported water, especially for San Joaquin Valley farms which have limited local options.

#### Is the Habitat Restoration Plan based on sound science?

**YES.** The BDCP environmental process and documents include a comprehensive and systematic review. The plan calls for restoration of tidal wetlands, seasonal floodplains and channel margin habitat to help recover the Delta ecosystem.

### Proposed Alternative Plan Single Tunnel

**NO.** The smaller, single tunnel captures as little as 3 percent of flood flows on the Sacramento River. Water agencies will lose the opportunity to capture supplies in wet years, increasing pressure on the Delta in dry years, and allowing for less improvement to flow patterns for fish. This approach to water management is akin to a "Little Gulp, Littler Sip."

**NO.** Building only one tunnel eliminates an important aspect of the project – a back-up plan. Repairs could take months, causing lost supplies and continued conflict over pumping operations at the existing facilities in the southern Delta. Routine maintenance would shut down this system.

**NO.** The proposal is asking public water agencies to fund an approximate \$8.9 billion project that would ultimately reduce water supplies by about a third from traditional levels, to 4 million acre-feet in an average year. There is no business case for spending billions of ratepayer dollars for reduced water reliability.

**NO.** Farming communities throughout the San Joaquin Valley could face a reduction of supplies by as much as 75 percent in an average year due to additional restrictions in Delta supplies, putting more than 700,000 acres of farmland at risk.

**NO.** While urban areas are substantially expanding local water supplies, the farms in the San Joaquin Valley cannot do the same. Ultimately, neither urban nor agricultural areas have enough cost-effective local water supply options to make up for the imported supply reductions called for by this alternative.

**NO.** The alternative claims to provide for greater habitat benefit with a fraction of the restoration acreage, but provides no scientific basis for this claim.