

Bay Delta Conservation Plan



The San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as seen from space

What is BDCP?

- A conservation plan that, when complete and approved, allows covered activities to comply with State and Federal Endangered Species Acts with appropriate assurances

Scope of Plan

- Geographic scope: Delta
- Covered species: aquatic species
- Covered activities: SWP, CVP, Mirant's power plants

BDCP Steering Committee

- Steering Committee chaired by Undersecretary for Resources
- Includes DFG, NMFS, USFWS, DWR, USBR, water contractors, Mirant Energy, environmental groups, Farm Bureau, Contra Costa Water District

Planning Goals Summary

- Conserve and manage covered fish species in the Delta
- Preserve, restore, enhance covered fish species' habitat in the Delta
- Allow water supply and drinking water quality projects to proceed
- Comply with the state and federal endangered species acts

Conservation Goals Summary

Enhance production, abundance and distribution of covered fish species in the Delta by:

- ***Reducing non-natural mortality***
- ***Providing better water quality and flow conditions***
- ***Increasing habitat quality, quantity, accessibility, and diversity***
- ***Increasing food quality, quantity, and accessibility***
- ***Controlling introduced species***
- ***Improving ecosystem processes to support aquatic habitats***

17 Evaluation Criteria

Biological goals

- Fish and habitat conservation goals

Non-Biological goals

- Water supply and drinking water quality goals
- Feasibility, relative cost, and practicability
- Flexibility, durability, sustainability in face of change
- Other resource impacts

Options Evaluation I

- Feb to May 2007
- Started with stressors on covered fish species identified in Planning Agreement
- Identified conservation elements to alleviate stressors
- Assembled into four options

Options Evaluation II

- May to Oct 2007
- Coarse evaluation of four options
- Options based on differences in how water conveyed through or around Delta
 - *Existing conveyance*
 - *Improved through Delta conveyance*
 - *Dual conveyance*
 - *Isolated conveyance*

Framework

- Description of approach to develop conservation strategy over next year
- What it is
- What it is not
- Information needs and areas of uncertainty that need to be addressed as the BDCP is developed
- Next steps including CEQA and NEPA

Next steps

- Complete BDCP over next year, including
 - Refine biological goals and objectives,
 - Identify conservation measures,
 - Develop adaptive management approach
- Also need to determine funding and implementation details
- Prepare CEQA/NEPA document beginning in 2009

Independent Science Process

- Called for by CA Natural Communities Conservation Plan Act
- Advice rather than review
- Considers:
 - Species and communities addressed by the plan (whether “covered” or not)
 - Adequacy of existing data and methods for filling data gaps
 - Conservation guidelines and reserve design principles
 - Conservation analytical methods
 - Management and monitoring guidelines