



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor
Lester A. Snow, Secretary for Natural Resources

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Support for Bay Delta Conservation Plan Announced, Summary Released

The BDCP summary follows the BDCP working draft plan and highlights the cooperation of committed agencies and individuals to restore the Delta ecosystem and create a modern water delivery system for California

Sacramento – State and federal agencies today reiterated their support for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) process to restore the Delta ecosystem and deliver California's water. California Secretary for Natural Resources Lester A. Snow announced release of a BDCP summary document during a call with reporters where he was joined by U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and White House Council on Environmental Quality Chair Nancy Sutley. Six federal agencies today released a document in support of the BDCP process by calling for Delta restoration and construction of a new water conveyance system.

"The progress we've made together is historic," Secretary Snow said welcoming the federal agency support. "No group of federal, state and local governments, diverse stakeholders and committed individuals has ever come this far with a strategy to restore the Delta and develop a more modern way to deliver our water. This is another important step. We are all in this together, but there is more to be done."

"After years of drought, growing stress on water supplies, and with the Bay-Delta in full environmental collapse, it has become clear to everyone that the status quo for California's water infrastructure is no longer an option," said Secretary Salazar. "Governor Schwarzenegger and the State of California have worked tirelessly and in partnership with us to develop responsible, forward-thinking solutions that can help us break the cycle of shortages and water conflicts. This is the moment to push forward with solutions, apply the best science available, and build a water future for California that is good for our economy, guards against the impacts of catastrophic earthquakes and other natural disasters, and helps restore California's Bay-Delta to health."

The BDCP summary document highlights the BDCP Draft Plan released last month. It outlines the BDCP planning process that has included the active and ongoing engagement of state and federal agencies, county and local governments, agricultural interests, environmental groups, water contractors and a diverse group of stakeholders. The BDCP strategy, for the first time, incorporates water flows to allow for the greatest amount of flexibility in reducing system stressors and the ability to move water when it is least harmful to the Delta ecosystem. BDCP also calls for the active engagement of Delta counties on aspects of the plan, and equally important, other active programs to improve flood protection and support the ongoing role of agriculture and recreation in the Delta region.

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BDCP Support/Summary 2.

The draft plan summary identifies between 105,000 and 115,000 acres of habitat restoration, one of the most extensive ecosystem restorations in the West. This includes 80,000 acres for aquatic habitat (fish and other species) and between 30,000 and 45,000 of plant and wildlife habitat preservation. The primary existing grasslands and habitat preservation is for Delta agriculture.

The BDCP summary also highlights a tunnel water conveyance system that would rely on daily water flow data critical to protecting species in the Delta ecosystem while moving water. It would run 150-feet underground from the Sacramento River in the north, south of Sacramento, to the Byron Tract Forebay in Byron in the south. At 33-feet in diameter and 74 feet apart the two tunnels will be capable of delivering water, with far less habitat impact than any other alternative under consideration.

The summary estimates that the average cost in 2009 dollars for a dual-tunnel water conveyance system is \$12.7 billion that will be paid primarily by water users. Estimates for habitat and ecosystem restoration costs and work to offset various environmental stressors will average \$3.6 billion.

A formal public review and comment period for the BDCP and its draft environmental impact report (DEIR) and draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) will begin in October 2011. The EIR/EIS process is expected to be completed in 2012. Construction of the project could begin in 2013 and be completed by 2022.

The BDCP process is driven by a concept known on the state level as Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) and on the federal level as Habitat Conservation Planning (HCP) both required to protect habitat and move water under state and federal environmental law.

To view the BDCP summary see the Natural Resources Agency Web site at www.resources.ca.gov or for more information on BDCP www.baydeltaconservationplan.org. For the federal agency document view www.doi.gov

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