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## **Secretary for Natural Resources Lester Snow Responds to Criticism of Bay Delta Conservation Plan Process**

*Letter to Senator Lois Wolk Released, Issues for Discussion Document Posted*

**Sacramento** – Secretary for Natural Resources Lester Snow today responded to criticism from Senator Lois Wolk (D-Davis) over meetings associated with the Bay Delta Conservation Plan process. In his letter, Snow took exception with Sen. Wolk’s reliance on an inaccurate news story, respectfully disagreed with her assertions and explained that the ongoing principals meetings are, “by design and intent,” “a key procedural component of the public BDCP Steering Committee process.”

Snow went on to write that the process, “...is designed to achieve the comprehensive strategy we have all sought for decades; to restore the ecological function of the delta estuary while providing a more reliable water supply within the broader context of statewide water conservation and recycling efforts.

“Denigrating these meetings as “secret” or “closed-door” gives the public a false impression of what is being discussed and who is involved and serves only to foster mistrust. The meetings are open to all signatories to the BDCP Planning Agreement. However, more importantly, I reiterate that all deliberation on the draft Plan will take place at the Steering Committee in a public meeting.”

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan is working toward a November deadline to resolve outstanding issues. BDCP’s public process is designed to achieve the co-equal goals of addressing the ecological needs of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary while ensuring an adequate and reliable water supply for California. The plan sets out a comprehensive conservation strategy for achieving these co-equal goals. The BDCP process reflects the outcome of a multi-year collaboration between public water agencies, state and federal fish and wildlife agencies, non-governmental organizations, agricultural interests, and the general public.

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For Secretary Snow’s letter, the discussion document and more information access the Natural Resources Agency Web site:

[http://www.resources.ca.gov/docs/Secretary\\_Snow\\_Responds\\_to\\_Senator\\_Wolk\\_Criticisms\\_9-23-10.pdf](http://www.resources.ca.gov/docs/Secretary_Snow_Responds_to_Senator_Wolk_Criticisms_9-23-10.pdf)

