May 25, 2011

Gerald H. Meral, Ph.D.
Deputy Secretary for Natural Resources
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Contra Costa County request for participation in BDCP Working Groups

Dear Deputy Secretary Meral:

Contra Costa County has reviewed the Public Involvement in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) document released after the April 25, 2011 public meeting in Sacramento and requests that a representative of Contra Costa County be invited to participate in the following working groups:

First round working group (April-June):
  • Water Quality Modeling (in Delta)
  • Governance Structure

Second round working groups (June-August):
  • BDCP Relationship to San Joaquin River Restoration Program
  • Conveyance Facilities – Size and Configuration Issues
  • BDCP Implications for Levee Maintenance Mitigation Requirements

Third round working groups (August-October):
  • Regulatory Assurances

Contra Costa County has tracked BDCP steering committee meetings and other BDCP activities since the process began. Contra Costa County also participates in and provides comments to other Bay-Delta processes such as the Delta Stewardship Council, Delta Conservancy, and the Delta Protection Commission. The County is a member of the Delta Counties Coalition which consists of elected officials from the five Delta counties that overlap the Delta (Sacramento, Solano, Yolo, San Joaquin, and Contra Costa).

-continued-
Contra Costa County request for participation in BDCP Working Groups
May 25, 2011
Page 2

Contra Costa County borders onto Northern San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The residents of Contra Costa County rely on the Delta for their municipal and industrial water supply, for fishing and other forms of recreation, for work and as a place to live. The County, therefore, has a strong interest and a responsibility in helping develop a solution that restores and sustains the Delta ecosystem, addresses California’s water supply needs, while protecting Delta water quality, and preserving the values of the Delta as a place to live, work and recreate.

Thank you for your commitment in making the BDCP more open and transparent and meeting with Contra Costa County and other stakeholders that were kept on the sidelines during the earlier stages of the BDCP.

If you have any questions, please contact John Greitzer at (925) 335-1201.

Sincerely,

MARY NEJEDLY PIEPHO
County Supervisor, District III