

## The Board of Supervisors

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## Contra Costa County



David Twa  
Clerk of the Board  
and  
County Administrator  
(925) 335-1900

June 3, 2013

The Honorable Senator Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressional Signatories to the BDCP Letter

### Re: Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Process

Dear Senator Feinstein and Members of Congress:

As members of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, representing districts that are directly on and affected by the Bay-Delta, we are writing to express our thoughts regarding certain elements of your May 22, 2013 letter to Secretary Jewell and Governor Brown.

While your strong support for the BDCP process is understandable given your interest in "our ability to increase our water supply," we would respectfully suggest that this support be for a more comprehensive solution to the issues of the Bay-Delta and the State: a solution that meets both co-equal goals and does not benefit the water supply of a junior water rights holder (Southern California) at the expense of the Delta's water quality, fish species, senior water rights holders in Northern California, and the Delta itself—the Delta as an evolving place.

We commend the actions that some agencies across Southern California have taken to increase local water supplies by investing in water recycling and storage capacity. These actions are essential elements of a portfolio approach to solving the Delta ecosystem and water supply issues, and we encourage their further implementation.

We agree that the BDCP's objective to achieve the co-equal goals of providing water supply reliability for cities, farms, and businesses throughout California and restoring the critically important Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is crucial to all of our efforts. So, there must be a serious effort, involving input from all stakeholders, to develop a Delta solution that will meet both co-equal goals, including increasing flows necessary to support fish and wildlife and improving Delta water quality and other Delta values. The current BDCP proposal to divert additional water for export during drier periods, thereby reducing Delta flows when the fish need them most, does not meet this necessary objective.

We couldn't agree more that "California's economic and social future is directly tied to a safe supply of reliable, high quality water and we cannot go in with half measures when it comes to water reliability or environmental sustainability." But we simply – and respectfully - don't agree on the public evaluation process of the BDCP. Releasing 20,000 pages of preliminary draft chapters to the public, not allowing meaningful input, and not acting upon input from key impacted stakeholders, does not represent true and meaningful public evaluation.

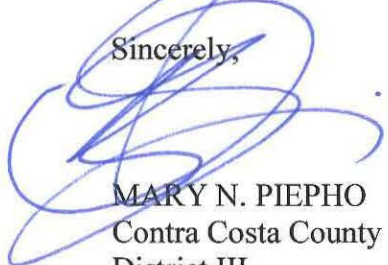
Furthermore, limiting BDCP alternatives primarily to alternatives involving oversized tunnels that take more water during drier periods does not lend itself to the resultant construction of the most appropriate water conveyance or the development and implementation of comprehensive ecosystem conservation plans.

We understand the difficulties of securing state and federal funds to carry out detailed Delta planning and environmental studies. However, the present model of allowing the state and federal export contractors to fund and skew the outcome of the BDCP effort has not led to a viable science-based proposal.

The mission statement of the California Natural Resources Agency is "(t)o restore, protect and manage the state's natural, historical and cultural resources for current and future generations using creative approaches and solutions based on science, collaboration and respect for all the communities and interests involved." Dusting off the seriously flawed isolated facility proposal rejected by the voters in 1982 is not creative and does not respect our Delta community.

Senator, you have done so much for water and for our natural resources throughout the State of California. And we know we can continue to count on your leadership and assistance in the future. We believe that well-intentioned parties can and must do better than this current effort, and stand willing to assist in an improved process. It is not too late to approve an optimal program that implements a truly balanced approach to addressing the co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem in a manner that enjoys wide-spread support of parties around the State.

Sincerely,



MARY N. PIEPHO  
Contra Costa County Supervisorial  
District III



KAREN MITCHOFF  
Contra Costa County Supervisorial  
District IV

cc: Members, Board of Supervisors  
Contra Costa County Legislative Delegation  
David Twa, County Administrator  
C. Christian, Nielsen Merksamer  
Delta Counties Coalition

*Thank you  
for your valuable  
consideration of our  
concerns.*