



City of Ripon

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July 29, 2014

BDCP Comments
Ryan Wulff NMFS
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

The City of Ripon is writing in opposition to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) states it is being developed as a 50-year habitat conservation plan with the goals of restoring the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem and securing California water supplies. The BDCP would secure California's water supply by building new water delivery infrastructure and operating the system to improve the ecological health of the Delta. The BDCP also would restore or protect approximately 150,000 acres of habitat to address the Delta's environmental challenges.

After reviewing the BDCP website and materials, reports from other agencies, plus having discussion amongst our City Council, we feel the BDCP building high capacity tunnels to remove large amounts of fresh water from the Delta will have significant damaging impacts to our region, including:

- **BDCP Negatively Impacts the Economy in our Region.** The San Joaquin County Delta covers over 730,000 acres and is one of the most productive agricultural regions in the United States, with 80% of the Delta being prime farmland, compared to 20% for all of California. The Delta also has a large economic impact providing over 9,700 jobs and \$1.4 billion in economic output from the five surrounding counties. The recreation in the Delta generates over \$250 million in visitor spending yearly, with recreation and tourism supporting 3,000 jobs in the five Delta counties.
- **BDCP Diminishes Water Supplies in our Region.** The Delta water supply is not easily or cheaply replaced. The California Department of Water Resources estimate that roughly 24 percent of the California's economic activity is connected to the water supplied by the federal and state water projects in the Delta.

MAYOR
Chuck Winn

VICE MAYOR
Elden "Red" Nutt

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Jake Parks
Dean Uecker

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Ken Zuidervaart

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
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Kye Stevens

- **BDCP will Destroy the Ecosystem and Fisheries.** The building of the twin tunnels will cause further decline of native Delta fish species towards extinction, increased water pollution in the Delta, and the loss of tens-of-thousands of acres of rich Delta farmland and wildlife habitat. Moving more water out, will not help replenish what's existing or protected.

The BDCP has a vague plan for financing the project. The estimated price tag for the BDCP is nearly \$25 billion, but reports of hidden costs take that number to \$64 billion over a 50 year span. The federal government and taxpayers will be responsible for much of the BDCP's habitat restoration costs in the long run. There are less expensive and more effective ways than the twin tunnels and BDCP to address the legitimate water needs in the State of California without needlessly sacrificing the Delta and surrounding counties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CW', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Chuck Winn
Mayor

Cc: Vice Mayor Elden R. Nutt
Council Member Leo Zuber
Council Member Jake Parks
Council Member Dean Uecker