

BDCP

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) PROCESS

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) will identify a set of water supply and habitat improvement actions to contribute to the recovery of endangered and sensitive species and their habitats in the Delta. It will provide for both species/habitat protection and improved reliability of water supplies. In order to pick the best elements of the overall final conservation plan, the BDCP will consider a range of options for accomplishing these goals using the information developed as part of the environmental review process.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) will assess potential habitat restoration and water supply conveyance options as part of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the BDCP.

ABOUT THE BDCP EIR/EIS PROCESS

Over the next 18 months, state and federal agencies will prepare a draft Environmental Impact Report (state)/Environmental Impact Statement (federal) that will evaluate a range of habitat conservation and water conveyance options in the Delta.

The EIR/EIS will evaluate the potential effects on a wide range of factors, including effects on communities, cultural resources, and the physical and biological environment. Throughout the EIR/EIS process, members of the public will have the opportunity to attend public meetings, submit comments and ask questions.

The EIR/EIS will:

- ▶ Fulfill the requirements of the:
 - ✓ California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
 - ✓ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- ▶ Describe the proposed action
- ▶ For CEQA compliance: Describe the proposed project, identify its significant environmental impacts, and develop reasonable mitigation measures and alternatives to eliminate or reduce such impacts
- ▶ For NEPA compliance: Describe reasonable range of alternatives and mitigation that would avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance the environment
- ▶ Analyze the environmental effect of the proposed action and the alternatives
- ▶ Support future regulatory actions or approval
- ▶ Serve as a decision document as well as a disclosure document

DWR will serve as the lead agency, and the California Department of Fish and Game will serve as a responsible agency under CEQA. The National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation will serve as co-lead agencies under NEPA.

HOW THIS EIR/EIS PROCESS RELATES TO YOU

To support the preparation of a thorough and accurate EIR/EIS, the lead agencies will first research all of the existing information and conduct field studies throughout the Delta region. The purpose of these studies is to gather environmental and engineering data where these potential species conservation and water conveyance options (including a "no action" alternative) might occur and how they might impact the local environment. Some properties located near potential habitat restoration or potential conveyance areas may be selected for further study in order to improve the accuracy of the evaluation. In these cases, DWR representatives may seek access through the use of a Temporary Entry Permit to enter these parcels. These permits give field crews temporary access to private property so that additional studies may be conducted.

If a particular parcel is chosen for further study, DWR representatives are likely to conduct one or more of the following activities: ground and aerial surveys and geotechnical, biological, geological, archaeological, floral and faunal studies. Every effort will be made to ensure that the process goes as smoothly as possible and that minimal interruptions or other inconveniences occur to you and your property.

Permit notices are expected to be mailed to select Delta landowners by the end of August 2008. Field work is expected to begin in early 2009.

For more information about the BDCP EIR/EIS visit
<http://www.water.ca.gov/deltainit/bdcp.cfm>

For more information about the BDCP visit
<http://resources.ca.gov/bdcp>

For More Information about the TEP Process Contact:
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