

The following is a summary of the comments and questions asked, along with the answers given at the Lathrop Landowner meeting hosted by the Department of Water Resources on August 13, 2008

Q: (This was presented as a comment and not as a question to the panel.)

I'll start with flood control first. What the State of California doesn't recognize, and will never talk about, is the fact that we are prevented from maintaining the Delta and the San Joaquin River. We can't dredge. We couldn't fix our levees like we wanted to. The last levee breakage that we had, the governor had to declare an emergency because we were prevented from doing this. Congress told the Corp of Engineers in the last flood we had in the San Joaquin River that broke the levees in 11 places, to go figure out how to prevent that. So they had meetings and we told them where the chokes were in the river, where the narrows were in the river, places where the bridges were too low. And we told them all the problems we had with the San Joaquin River. Their conclusion was in order to prevent levee breaks like we had before, we have to break the levees. There was a reason for that: you cannot go between the levees of the San Joaquin River and do any dredging. Nobody recognizes that. You can't dredge in the Delta, we can't get the flow through the Delta that we need to have because we can't dredge. You have to change the law. You're not going to change the law, so you're stuck. So, if you're talking to these people about flooding it's a Catch-22, because you can't really do the things you should be doing in preventing flooding -- can't do it on the San Joaquin, can't do it in the Delta. If you go to Old River, the tulles won't even grow anymore. The tulles grow really good in the drainage ditch going into Old River. My friend who grew up there on the river ate fish his whole life, and now when he catches them they stink, literally stink, because you've got six feet of whatever we put in the river and the river is totally stagnant, and it's poisonous. It isn't a matter of if you eat too many fish you might get a little bit of mercury and that might be bad for you. You're not going to eat those fish, because they stink. And that's what's happening to the rest of the Delta.

If you're going to talk about fish and habitat, why don't you talk about predation? If you remember the Sacramento Chub, it became extinct because the Fish and Game introduced a predator that killed all the Chub. Now the Fish and Game introduced predators into the Delta, more recently a fish from Florida: the large-mouth bass. When Modesto Irrigation District tags the salmon going down the river and follows that, the predation is unbelievable. The Fish and Game say it's the pumps that are killing everything.

Then you talked about how the Delta Smelt didn't like to be put into a truck and put back into the Delta. On the San Joaquin River, a truck load of Delta Smelt were brought down. We put them in holding tanks, we put them in front of the fish screen, went through the hydrosol pump, pumped through a pipe back into the San Joaquin River. We recaptured them, put them back in the holding tanks, put them back in the truck, and used them for two more experiments. So hauling them from the fish screen

back to the Delta certainly doesn't hurt them. Everybody was happy with the hydrosol pump and the whole system. You can't get those three fishery people to agree that something is okay, but we did. We experimented with those Delta smelt. By the way, they had used them for an experiment before they brought them out to us.

So, how can we fix this thing when we don't tell the truth, we don't recognize the problem, we don't correlate what's going on out in the ocean, and we scare people with global warming? Now if you want to worry about something, go ahead and worry. But, when is this going to happen? Where are we going with this thing? We try to scare people with global warming. Yes, the climate changes, it usually does, but that's part of the Delta situation. Well if we're going to have ocean rise, don't worry about the Delta, because you've got the whole San Francisco Bay Area and the whole west coast to think about, and if you're really going to have the ocean rise, you're going to put locks on the Golden Gate and we're going to be the only one on the west coast to have a port – right? So your through Delta facility, I'm not so sure that you can really do an EIS on this thing. I wish you a lot of luck, but until we tell the truth about what's going on out there, you're not going to get anything done.

- Q:** Looking at whose preparing the BDCP and who the members are, I don't see any local water agencies, namely those in the Delta, north, south, central. Why aren't the true local water agencies that represent the interests within the Delta represented on the BDCP?
- A:** Zone 7 Water Agency is a local water district that receives water from the Delta, as opposed to the State Water Project. They're a local water district. I do think the issue of Delta representation is an issue. The North Delta Water Agency just recently applied to become a member and they may very well join. I'm not aware that the Central or South Delta Water Agencies have actually applied to be a part of the process. They were invited at the beginning of the process and chose not to apply for membership, but I think they are now reconsidering.