

AN UPDATE
TO THE
ENVIRONMENTAL
REVIEW
PROCESS FOR
THE BAY DELTA
CONSERVATION
PLAN

DWR HAS BEEN WORKING TO ADDRESS LANDOWNER CONCERNS...

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) wants to ensure that its involvement in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) process is open and transparent. DWR is the state lead in compiling the environmental documentation in support of BDCP. As part of that environmental review, field surveys must be conducted. Several informational landowner meetings to inform the public about the survey process were held in August 2008 and DWR heard from a number of participants on a variety of issues. To address the questions and comments received, DWR is:

- ▶ Coordinating with other public agencies and organizations to ensure landowners' questions regarding confidentiality are fully explored as requested. Under the Information Practices Act (IPA), public agencies are prohibited from disclosing personal records, such as names and addresses. However, there are a number of specific reporting requirements for various species. For more information, please e-mail delta@water.ca.gov.
- ▶ Tracking all comments and questions raised regarding the landowner meetings and BDCP. The comments and questions made regarding the project will be incorporated into the final environmental review documents. The comments made during the May 2008 scoping meetings are posted online at <http://www.water.ca.gov/deltainit/scoping.cfm>.
- ▶ Developing a plan for greater stakeholder involvement in the planning process. Part of this process includes communicating regularly with elected officials, which Resources Secretary Chrisman has begun to do with the five Delta counties and Council of Governments (COGs). In addition, DWR has scheduled regular conference calls to keep elected officials updated on the project. One-on-one meetings with individual stakeholders have begun and will continue throughout the coming months.
- ▶ Maintaining a Web page specific to the BDCP environmental review process at <http://www.water.ca.gov/deltainit/bdcp.cfm>. Meeting summaries from the first six landowner meetings are posted on this page and future meeting summaries will also be posted here.
- ▶ Translating fact sheets and Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) handouts into Spanish and Mandarin.

Cont.

- ▶ Expanding the FAQ handout to include additional answers to common questions regarding the landowner meetings and BDCP environmental review process. The updated handouts will be posted on the BDCP environmental review Web page at <http://www.water.ca.gov/deltainit/bdcp.cfm>.
- ▶ Finalizing a timeline for public involvement opportunities in the BDCP environmental review process. The timeline will be communicated at future public meetings and on the Web site.
- ▶ Continuing to use existing information (e.g. aerial photography, public land, existing surveys, etc.) to help minimize the number of landowners and parcels impacted by our surveys to support the environmental review.

Additionally, BDCP (which includes state and federal agencies, participating water districts, environmental organizations and other stakeholder organizations) has committed to conducting the process in a more open and transparent manner:

- ▶ Hosting BDCP steering committee meetings at the California Farm Bureau Federation to help provide easier public access. The new meeting location was chosen to help bolster public participation. Steering committee meetings are held at 9 a.m. every other Friday (depending upon holiday and schedules) at:

California Farm Bureau Federation
Conference Room
2300 River Plaza Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 561-5500
- ▶ Involving the North Delta Water Agency as a member of the BDCP Steering Committee and having ongoing discussions with the Central Delta Water Agency, North Delta Cares and the Delta Wetlands Project.
- ▶ Posting meeting agendas, notes and meeting materials on the Resources Agency Web site at: <http://www.resources.ca.gov/bdcp/>.

DWR appreciates your input.
Please continue providing feedback and suggestions by
e-mailing us at delta.water.ca.gov.