

bdcpcomments

From: cavelanding@yahoo.com [cavelanding@yahoo.com]
To: bdcpcomments; Lori Rinek
Cc:
Subject: BDCP EIR/EIS Scoping Comments: Impacts to Agriculture
Attachments:

Sent: Thu 5/14/2009 6:54 PM

May 14, 2009

Ms. Dolores Brown, Chief,
Office of Environmental Compliance
Department of Water Resources
P. O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Ms. Lori Rinek
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way, W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Ms. Brown and Ms. Rinek:

Please examine for the EIR/EIS the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on national, state, and local economies and food security of the conversion of Delta agricultural land, much of it prime farmland producing 45% more than the state average, to habitat and conveyance by the BDCP. Include in your assessment also the loss of the expertise of the Delta farmer, for to the extent that farmers here are negatively impacted by the loss of their lands and/or by the effects of new regulation or oversight enacted with only the co-equal goals in mind, to that extent they may be forced financially to leave the Delta, taking with them knowledge about its environment that perhaps cannot be replaced. For more information about the importance and uniqueness of Delta farm lands and the impacts upon them of implementing the co-equal goals, please consult a letter submitted by California Secretary of Agriculture A.G. Kawamura (dated June 20, 2008) to the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force. It may be found at www.deltavision.ca.gov/StrategicPlanningProcess/IllustrativeComment/2008-AR-7_RESPONSE_FRM_CDFR.pdf. I would also refer you to an article written by Yolo County Agricultural Commissioner Rick Landon in the Yolo County Farm Bureau Agri-News (September 2008 - available at www.yolofarmbureau.org/PDF/newsletter/2008_09.pdf) regarding the impacts to our state and nation of the conversion of agricultural lands to habitat, with local examples. Delta farmland is valuable partly because of its richness, the suitability of its climate to the growing of many different crops, and because this is where the water is. Its value goes far beyond that of commodity prices; please attempt to carefully examine these factors in your analyses.

Thank you for your consideration.

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