



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Fourth District

KIM K. YAMAGUCHI
Fifth District

August 14, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar, Secretary
United State Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Butte County's Opposition to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

Dear Secretary Salazar:

We understand the critical importance of achieving the co-equal goals – improving water supply reliability and restoring the Delta ecosystem – for the entire State of California. Butte County and the northern Sacramento valley region have an interest in the overall health and stewardship of the Delta and the outcome of the BDCP process. The northern Sacramento valley region is the Area of Origin for much of the water that flows through the Delta and therefore, our region is a major source for California's overall water supply picture. Our surface water resources include the crown jewel of the State Water Project (SWP) located at Lake Oroville, as well as a network of creeks and rivers that are tributary to the great Sacramento River which feeds into the Delta. Our region's water resources are more than the water supply for the Delta and the state. They provide the life blood for our agricultural-based communities, economy and environment. Much of our local water supply comes from the various groundwater basins throughout the region that are recharged through these creeks and rivers. A successful Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) will be a key component to achieving the co-equal goals.

Unfortunately, the proposed BDCP will not fulfill its intended goals and would result in unintended impacts to Butte County and much of the northern Sacramento valley region. For these reasons, the Butte County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution on August 14, 2012 in opposition to the BDCP. We remain hopeful that a successful BDCP can move forward. As we have done previously, we are offering reasonable and constructive steps that will remediate our concerns in a manner consistent with the stated goals of the BDCP.

We greatly appreciate the commitment that, "implementation of the BDCP will not result in adverse effects on water rights of those in the watershed of the Delta, nor will it impose any obligations on water users upstream of the Delta to supplement flows in and through the Delta." Those principles honor the

importance of water rights and area of origin water rights to the northern Sacramento Valley region. Future circumstances and other considerations could undermine the commitment made to the region. We recommend that the BDCP lead agencies develop an enforceable means to assure that these principles will be honored by BDCP lead agencies. Additionally, BDCP lead agencies should aggressively promote these operational principles to other agencies that have authority over water rights including the State Water Resources Control Board and the Delta Stewardship Council.

We are concerned about the economic and social impacts from changes to storage in Lake Oroville. Implementation of the BDCP will cause Lake Oroville to remain in a "dead pool" condition in most years. This situation would render Lake Oroville inoperable as a recreation venue, damage the ecosystem and become a visual blight on the region. Unfortunately a specific assessment of recreational, ecologic and economic impacts has not been conducted. Lake Oroville is more than a part of the SWP system. Lake Oroville is integral to our recreation, economy and ecosystem for those in its Area of Origin. Butte County has been in dispute with the State of California over its failure to meet its obligation regarding the Lake Oroville facility. Actions through this BDCP that further erode Lake Oroville's economic, recreation and ecosystem benefit cannot be dismissed or ignored. We hope that the State of California will reverse its historic pattern of broken promises and imposition of socioeconomic impacts on how it operates Lake Oroville.

A successful conclusion to the BDCP process will occur in large part with open and effective communication and consultation. The current BDCP leadership under Gerald Meral, Assistant Secretary for the California Natural Resources Agency, has vastly improved public participation. As the process moves forward, increased consultation will be required. Two years ago, Butte County requested that the Natural Resources Agency establish a local issues group for the northern Sacramento Valley region. Such a group could include public agencies, municipalities, civic and environmental organizations. Improving public participation will serve to advance a successful BDCP product that will honor and protect the Delta watershed, water right priorities and Area of Origin water rights. It is our hope that the BDCP leadership will establish a meaningful dialogue effort for the northern Sacramento valley region.

We hope that you understand the reasons for our opposition to the BDCP. There are meaningful steps that can be taken to resolve our concerns. The BDCP process offers a great opportunity to remedy many of the challenges facing the Delta ecosystem and uncertainty over the state's water supply system.

Sincerely,



Steve Lambert, Chair
Butte County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members of the Board of Supervisors
Kristi More, The Ferguson Group



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August 14, 2012

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of the State of California
State Capital
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Butte County's Opposition to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

Dear Governor Brown:

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recommend that the BDCP lead agencies develop an enforceable means to assure that these principles will be honored by BDCP lead agencies. Additionally, BDCP lead agencies should aggressively promote these operational principles to other agencies that have authority over water rights including the State Water Resources Control Board and the Delta Stewardship Council.

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Sincerely,



Steve Lambert, Chair
Butte County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members, Board of Supervisors
Paul Yoder, Shaw/Yoder/Antwih



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August 14, 2012

The Honorable John Laird, Secretary
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Butte County's Opposition to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

Dear Secretary Laird:

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