

Delta Protection Commission



Public Workshop on BDCP

Meeting Report

Meeting held April 28, 2014



Table of Contents

1.0 INTRODUCTION	3
2.0 MEETING OBJECTIVES AND PROCESS	3
Meeting Objectives	3
Meeting Process	4
3.0 MEETING OUTPUTS.....	5
Presentations (a brief synopsis):	5
Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Public Process Presentation	5
DPC Report on Interactions with BDCP to date.....	6
Public Comments:	6
What do you want to see included in DPC comment letter?.....	6
Follow-up Actions:	6
APPENDIX A. Agenda	7
APPENDIX B. Comments from the participants.....	8
APPENDIX C. Copy of Mr. B.G. Heiland’s Presentation Slides.....	10
APPENDIX D. Meeting Evaluation Summary.....	13

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Delta Protection Commission (DPC) staff held a public workshop on April 28, 2014, to hear comments from the public regarding the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and the EIR/EIS for this proposed project. The DPC staff was in the process of drafting comments on the EIR/EIS and believed that a forum to hear the thoughts and concerns of Delta residents would be helpful in focusing attention on areas that were of greatest importance.

This report is intended to document the meeting, provided a brief summary of the information presented, and summarize some of the comments heard from members of the public. As the comment letter is due to the lead agencies on June 13, 2014, staff effort is focused on that task and this intended to be a brief document. Special thanks to Osha Meserve of SoluriMeserve for sponsoring the refreshments for this meeting.

2.0 MEETING OBJECTIVES AND PROCESS



Meeting Objectives

This meeting had several specific objectives. Members of the public had spoken at the past two DPC meetings regarding the BDCP. It was clear that there was a body of informed citizenry that wanted to share their views and that they may hold information or perspectives that would be helpful to the staff in preparing the draft DPC comment letter.

The objectives of this meeting were:

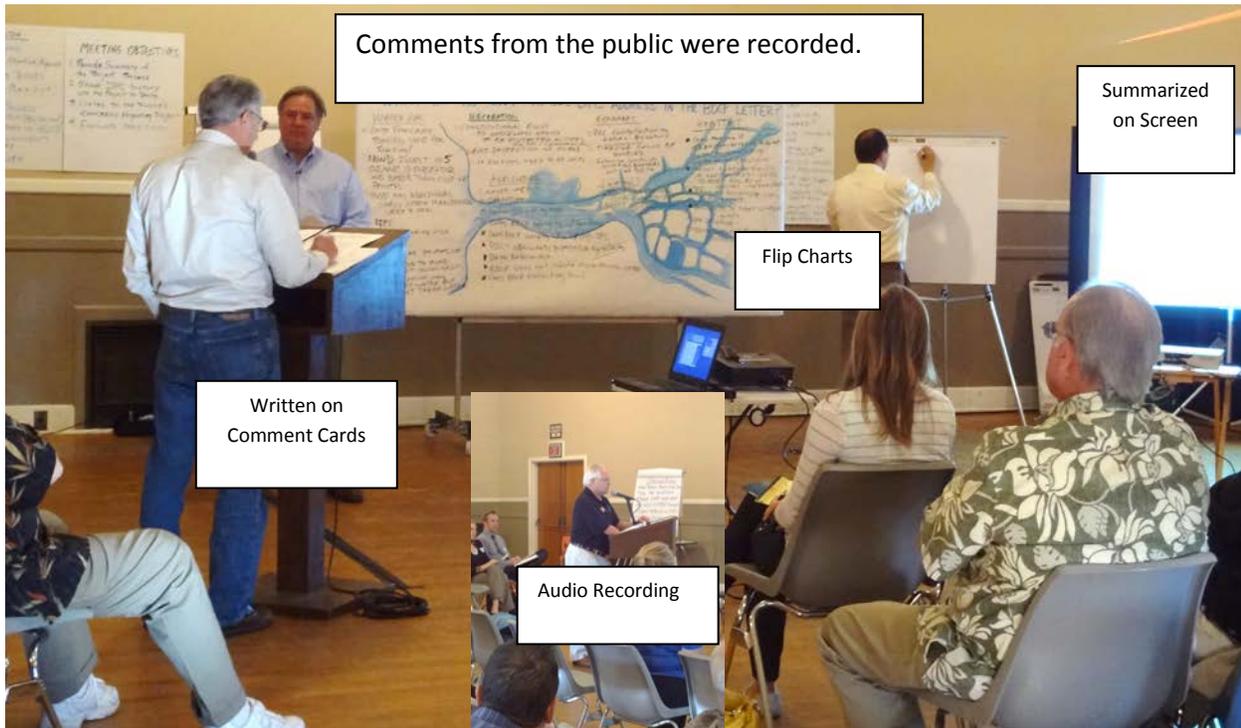
1. Pre-meeting: Attendance by public. Announcement pathways:
 - a. Public Notice
 - b. Flyers distributed in the Delta
 - c. Partner organizations
 - d. Email reminder to Commissioners and interested parties
2. Provide a context and summary of the BDCP process (information only).
3. Share DPC history with the project to date (information).
4. Listen to the public's concerns regarding the project.
5. Capture comments from the public.
6. Post meeting: Consider comments that will help the draft comment letter we will prepare for Commission consideration at the May 22 DPC meeting.
7. Evaluate the meeting.

Meeting Process

The meeting room was arranged to emphasize the gathering of comments from the public. Simple meeting process was established by the facilitator, outlining the purpose, objectives, and agenda for the meeting (agenda attached as Appendix A). Ground rules were presented to help maintain sharing of the public comments. Presentations were made by Mr. B.G. Heiland (DWR) and Mr. Erik Vink (DPC).



Participants were encouraged to give comments in a respectful manner. Staff recorded and listened.



Comments were collected from the public in four ways: recorded using audio recording equipment, summarized and projected on a screen, paraphrased on flipcharts and, written on comment cards.

3.0 MEETING OUTPUTS

Presentations (a brief synopsis):

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Public Process Presentation

Mr. B.G. Heiland (Department of Water Resources) outlined the Bay Delta Conservation Plan in general terms and presented the ways for members of the public to participate directly. He provided document summaries, Web site addresses and other informational pieces for the participants. Mr. Heiland stayed after the meeting to answer specific questions from participants.

Mr. Heiland’s PowerPoint Presentation slides are presented in Appendix C.



DPC Report on Interactions with BDCP to date

DPC Executive Director, Mr. Erik Vink, gave a brief summary of the DPC actions to date on the BDCP. Copies of the two letters that DPC has sent regarding the BDCP were available for the public at the information table.

Mr. Vink thanked the participants for their time and effort to participate and indicated that staff's role for this meeting was to listen for points that should be added to the comment letter being crafted by staff.



Public Comments:

What do you want to see included in DPC comment letter?

Members of the public provided comments on the issues and concerns they had with the BDCP and what they would like to see included within the Commission's comment letter. Seven speakers provided in-depth comments on the BDCP EIR/EIS and concerns with construction and implementation of the proposal. Clearly the members of the public who spoke had an understanding of the project and their concerns about project impacts.

Comments were offered in the following areas including (not in order presented):

- Recreation Impacts
- Economic Impacts
- Impacts to Agriculture
- Habitat Concerns
- Water Quality and Quantity
- Safety – Floods, trucks, levees, roads
- Analyses included (or not included) in EIR/EIS
- Implementation and monitoring during construction and operation

A more detailed description of the comments is presented in Appendix B.

Follow-up Actions:

Staff identified the following tasks:

1. Provide a brief meeting report (this document); evaluate meeting (Appendix D).
2. Complete draft DPC comment letter.
3. Present the draft letter for consideration at the next regular DPC meeting (May 22, 2014).
4. Upon approval, submit the comment letter during the official comment period.

APPENDIX A. Agenda

Public Workshop – BDCP Comments

Delta Protection Commission

April 28 2014

5:00 Welcome

Purpose
Objectives
Agenda
Introductions
Ground rules

Welcome! (Erik Vink)
BDCP Process overview (B.G. Heiland)
DPC History on BDCP. (Erik Vink)

Public comments – What issues do you want to see addressed by DPC?

Summary
Follow-up Items
Concluding comments (Erik Vink)

Evaluate meeting. Please leave evaluations and comment cards!

7:30 Adjourn

APPENDIX B. Comments from the participants

The following concerns were raised by participants (partial list - grouped by topic):

Recreation Impacts

- Waterways need to be protected at all times
- Access to navigable waters is a constitutional right for recreation and commercial purposes
- Avoid restricted access
- If waterways are blocked, alternative routes need to be implemented

Economic Impacts

- Recreation contributes to the local economy – yet construction will harm recreational boating
- Construction time could be doubled
- Extensive construction could push boaters out of the Delta

Impacts to Agriculture

- Construction impacts will harm agriculture
- Operation plans unclear but have potential to harm agriculture
- Conversion of agricultural lands is an impact
- DSC also wants to preserve agriculture in the Delta

Habitat/Species Concerns

- BDCP is consuming all mitigation allotments needed for other projects
- Who is going to monitor the ITP?
- Fish need more water but project is taking water
- Conservation Measure 4 - excessive habitat acreage
- There's already plenty of habitat acres
- Need to assess results of habitat implementation
- BDCP does not restore ecosystems

Water Quality and Quantity

- Will the second forebay be used to supply water for fracking?
- MWD invested in expensive ozone generators.
- MWD has additional goals other than provide water to SoCal

- BDCP does not create more reliable water supply
- IFFI= Impacts, Funding, Fish, Implementation

Safety – Floods, trucks, levees, roads

- Hydrologic changes need to be addressed in surface water impacts – including operation and maintenance of levees
- Truck traffic impacts degrade levees
- Impacts to levees could disqualify levees from federal programs
- Modification of levees = a change in State’s plan of flood control facilities
- Can we maintain flood control capacity and public safety?

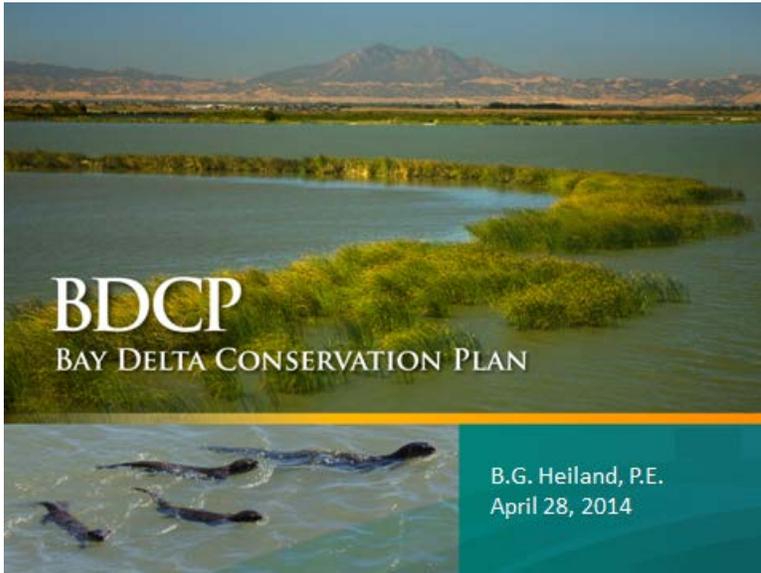
Analyses included (or not included) in EIR/EIS

- Does BDCP comply with general plans?
- Does BDCP comply with LURMP (DPC)?
- Does BDCP protect agricultural land?
- Water supply issues were not analyzed
- 7 unavoidable impacts in the water supply section ends up in public health chapter
- Need to look at cumulative impacts
- The document is too massive to be reviewed in time allowed
- Difficult to meet co-equal goals. How will this be done?
- The implementation needs a clear governing structure

Implementation and monitoring during construction and operation

- Where is the implementation plan?
- Need government structure to ensure all mitigation measures are implemented and working well
- Is there funding available for all mitigation implementation?

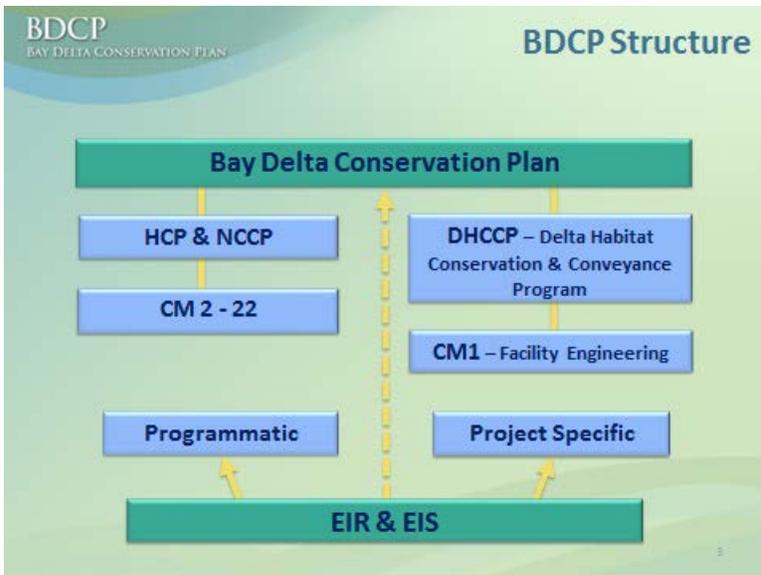
APPENDIX C. Copy of Mr. B.G. Heiland's Presentation Slides



BDCP
BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

Outline

- Background
- Where to Start
- How to Comment & Stay Involved



BDCP
BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

15 Draft EIR/EIS Action Alternatives

Alternative	Maximum Water Diversions	Intakes	Action Alternative Examples
PIPELINE/TUNNEL	1A: 15,000 cfs	1-5	Alternative 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEQA (or state) Preferred Project • Recently improved to reduce the footprint by nearly one-half of its original size
	2A: 15,000 cfs	1-5, 6, 7, or 1-5	
	3: 6,000 cfs	1 and 2	
	4: 9,000 cfs	2, 3, and 5	
	5: 2,000 cfs	1	
	6A: 15,000 cfs	1-5 Isolated	
	7: 9,000 cfs	2, 3, and 5	
	8: 9,000 cfs	2, 3, and 5	
EAST CANAL	1B: 15,000 cfs	1-5	Alternative 1B: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Delta lined or unlined open canal • Five intakes between Clarksburg and Walnut Grove
	2B: 15,000 cfs	1-5, 6, 7, or 1-5	
	6B: 15,000 cfs	1-5 Isolated	
WEST CANAL	1C: 15,000 cfs	West (W)1	Alternative 9: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screened intakes at Delta Cross Channel and Georgiana Slough • Four basic corridors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Delta corridor • South Delta corridor • San Joaquin separate fish movement corridor • Mokelumne separate fish movement corridor
	2C: 15,000 cfs	W1-W5	
	6C: 15,000 cfs	W1-W5 Isolated	
THROUGH DEBR	9: 15,000 cfs	Delta Cross Channel and Georgiana Slough channel modifications	
NO ACTION/NO PROJECT	9: Current Operations	N/A	

NOTE: A full description of the 15 Action Alternatives, and the No Action Alternative, can be found in Chapter 3 (Alternatives) of the Draft EIR/EIS

BDCP
BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

15 Draft EIR/EIS Action Alternatives

The Draft EIR/EIS alternatives represent a combination of water conveyance configurations, capacities and operational criteria, habitat restoration and conservation targets, stressor reduction measures, and various avoidance and minimization measures.

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Highlight Documents

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BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

Home About The Delta About BDCP Planning Process Public Review News Library

The BDCP is a comprehensive conservation strategy aimed at protecting dozens of species of fish and wildlife, while permitting the reliable operation of California's two biggest water delivery projects. [Learn more...](#)

Why BDCP?

- Securing California Water Supplies
- Restoring the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecosystem
- Addressing Climate Change
- Planning for the Future

How Do I... [please select]

Draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and associated Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) Now Available for Public Review. Public Comment period will extend from December 13, 2013 to June 13, 2014. [Learn more.](#)

Current Info & Events

- [Informational Episodes Now Available.](#)
- [New YQAs on Air Quality and Mitigation](#)
- [Draft BDCP and Associated Draft EIR/EIS Comment Period Extended by 60 Days](#)

BDCP Blog

Correcting Stubborn Myths Part II

Karla Nemeth
CA Natural Resources Agency

In light of the importance of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) to most Californians, we thought it time to address some of the stubborn "urban myths" that are being perpetuated about the BDCP...

BDCP Informational Episode #1: Overview

BDCP Episode #1: Overview
by BDCP Outreach
Start Press

BDCP
BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

Learn More

Informational Resources Available Online:

- "Your Questions Answered"
- BDCP and EIR/EIS Highlights Documents
- BDCP Factsheets and topic-specific brochures
- BDCP Informational Episodes *New*
 - 8 episodes on BDCP
 - 9 episodes on EIR/EIS
- Open House Meeting Display Materials

BDCP
BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

Get/Stay Involved

Home About The Delta About BDCP Planning Process Public Review News

[Contact Us](#) > Contact Us

Contact Us

Make a comment or contact us by email at BDCP.comments@noaa.gov. Or, contact our multi-lingual informational hotline at 1-866-924-9955 for information in English, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, or Chinese (Mandarin).

Join the Mailing List

To request information, sign up for email updates and periodic mailings, or to ask a question about about the BDCP, click [here](#).

Media

Please direct media inquiries to Nancy Vogel, Director of Public Affairs for the Department of Water Resources, by email at nancy.vogel@water.ca.gov.

Social Media

Follow us on Twitter: [@BDCP_CA](#)

LIKE us on Facebook: [Facebook.com/BayDeltaConservationPlan](https://www.facebook.com/BayDeltaConservationPlan)

Landowners

If you are a landowner in the Delta area and have questions regarding impacts to your property, please contact Lauren Binnett, DWR Delta Landowner Liaison, by email at lauren.binnett@water.ca.gov.

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How to Comment

The comment period is from **December 13, 2013 through June 13, 2014.**

Comments must be received electronically or postmarked on or before **June 13, 2014.**

HOW TO COMMENT on the BDCP and associated EIR/EIS

Mail to

BDCP Comments
Ryan Wulff, National Marine Fisheries Service
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Email to

BDCP.comments@noaa.gov

At a public open house meeting near you.

See dates and locations for all public open house meetings on the following page.

BDCP
BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

Where can I review the documents?

- Download PDF's from BDCP website
- DVD copies available – full list of locations:
 - <http://baydeltaconservationplan.com/PublicReview/DocumentRepositories.aspx>
- Hard copies available (for review) at:
 - Department of Water Resources - 3500 Industrial Blvd., Room 117, West Sacramento, CA 95691
 - National Marine Fisheries Service - 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100, Sacramento, CA 95814

BDCP
BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

Public Review Period

Public Review Period (December 13, 2013 to June 13, 2014 (180-days))

- Draft BDCP and associated Draft EIR/EIS are available online, or on DVD
- Comments can be submitted online or by mail

You Are Here

Public Draft EIR/EIS process will include:

- Public meetings
- Documents available at local libraries, state and federal offices, and online
- Online information available at BayDeltaConservationPlan.com
- Public comment accepted via e-mail and standard mail
- Landowner liaison to answer questions
- 120-day public review and comment period

Public Outreach and Involvement

- Most recently, held 12 Public Open House Informational Meetings (Jan-Feb) 2014 throughout the State
 - Delta meetings: Stockton, Fairfield, Walnut Grove, Sacramento, Clarksburg
 - Over 850 attendees around the state participated
 - Received several hundred comments (to court reporters) and comment letters
 - Open house display materials available online

QUESTIONS???

BRIAN.HEILAND@WATER.CA.GOV

(916) 657-4389

Public Outreach and Involvement

- Since 2006
 - BDCP has held over 600 public meetings, working group meetings, and stakeholder briefings
- Since 2010
 - Documents, studies, administrative drafts, and meeting materials (over 3,000) have been posted online
- New online tools
 - “Your Questions Answered”
 - “Informational Episodes” response to questions about the Public Review Draft documents

APPENDIX D. Meeting Evaluation Summary



Delta Protection Commission

BDCP Comment Workshop

April 28, 2014

Attendance estimate = 35

Evaluations received = 13

1. Do you feel that this meeting was helpful?

Yes= 8 (62%) No= 0 Hope so= 4 (31%) Not sure=1 (8%) Blank = 1

2. I felt the overall meeting was:

Great= 3 (23%) Very good= 4 (31%) Good= 6 (46%) Fair= 0 Poor= 0

3. In my opinion, the best part of the meeting was:

- Speakers were given ample time to make their points.
- Information presented by impacted organizations.
- The comments from the audience.
- Most comments were detailed and thoughtful. This will assist project proponents with developing a response.
- Hearing comments from Delta residents knowledgeable about the BDCP.
- Providing the opportunity for public thoughts and input.
- Public comments.
- Public comments.
- Public comment.
- Melinda and Topper.
- All the different speakers which touched which touched on all issues.

4. Areas that could have been improved include:

- There were some typographical errors that changed information on the screens. It's okay to ask speakers to slow down.
- The time could be changed to accommodate commuters and held in urban centers (Antioch/ Stockton) that would be impacted by the BDCP.
- I'd like to feel more confident that there is a strong understanding of the EIR/EIS plan by the DPC.
- No suggestions.
- Instead of speakers provide workgroups that represent ag, recreation, business, environmental so a group can discuss comments and brainstorm outreach to the public. –post office note – contact professional groups (i.e., Walnut Grove Rotary)
- None.
- Better notification of meeting.
- No other languages other than English – No outreach/fliers in any other languages.
- Hopefully we will be able to get a letter of recommendation.

5. Should this (or similar) type of meeting be repeated? Yes= 13 (100%) No= 0

What would you like to see included in future meetings?

- Information about impacts highlighted.
- More engagement, less telling and sharing.
- Not sure that subsequent meeting is necessary before the DPC submits a comment letter, but this type of meeting in general is helpful to the end goal of addressing concerns.
- Report from first meeting – outcome document.
- Specific presentations on the impacts and emphasis on what is not analyzed.
- Translation/outreach to other than English.
- More about impact of fracking.

6. Other comments:

- Should be topic specific [unintelligible word] such as agriculture, recreation, or economic.
- Some commenters are a wealth of information ~ North Delta C.A.R.E.S. is going to be working with the community members to help them form comments.
- Moderator was very respectful. Well done.
- Did anyone here really need to hear from anyone from DWR explaining BDCP?
- Distribute outcome documents to attendees ASAP to participants.
- Of course we reserve judgment until we see the results.
- Thank you for this opportunity.
- Would like a copy of Katherine's (Catherine's) notes.