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**State, Federal Support for BDCP Announced**

Submitted by Lisa Lien-Mager on Wed, 12/15/2010 - 2:14pm in [Delta Regulatory Affairs](#) [Water News](#)

Calling the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan the best opportunity for a sustainable Delta, state and federal officials today voiced strong support for the plan to restore ecosystem health and improve water supply reliability.



California Natural Resources Secretary Lester Snow joined Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and others in a joint call urging continued collaboration on the plan, which integrates ecosystem restoration, conveyance improvements and other actions to reverse serious declines in native species and water supply certainty.

Noting that Bay-Delta issues have gone unresolved for nearly four decades, Snow said tremendous progress has been made – particularly in the past 60 days – to identify a path forward.

“There is much to be done, but we have reached a significant milestone,” Snow said. “What’s at stake is a healthy ecosystem and a vibrant economy. We are for first time within striking distance of a balanced approach to achieve both.”

Snow announced release of a summary document outlining progress to date on the BDCP and providing new details on key elements of the plan. The summary calls for between 105,000 and 115,000 acres of habitat restoration and a new dual-tunnel water conveyance system in the Delta that would rely on daily water flow and environmental data to protect species.

Current modeling suggests the system – which would have a capacity of 12,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 15,000 cfs – would deliver somewhere between 5.4 million acre-feet (MAF) and 5.9 MAF per year. The system would cost an estimated \$12.7 billion and would be financed by water users.

Salazar announced the release of a report by six federal agencies that calls for restoration of tens of thousands of acres of marshes, wetlands and habitat and the construction of a new water conveyance system to move water from north of the Delta to water users in the Central Valley and Southern California.

Assistant Interior Secretary David Hayes said federal agencies will soon begin reviewing the conveyance proposal, which he called a major step forward in meeting the co-equal goals.

“A new north-south water conveyance facility could be operated in a manner that would generate average annual water exports over the long term that are more reliable, and greater, than the average annual exports that would be achieved under current constraints,” Hayes said.

Both Snow and Hayes said the BDCP is allowing for a much more comprehensive look at the ecosystem and what can be done to improve it.

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“Habitat restoration combined with a change of conveyance and addressing other stressors can achieve the conservation of species that we all desire,” Snow said. “We are starting to get to the point of understanding what large-scale restoration and moving the diversion point can do for water supply and ecosystem benefits.”

Hayes said recent federal court decisions underscore the importance of the BDCP. “Court cases have a narrow focus on the biological opinions, which focus on one species and not the whole system,” he said. “The benefit of the BDCP is widening the lens to see how to improve the overall ecosystem and water delivery in a way that courts cannot shape.”

Snow agreed that the plan will be needed no matter what happens in the courts.

“We will continue to proceed down the path. We are getting to the point of having a better understanding of what may be permissible under the BDCP. People will be able to make business decisions” about the reliability of water they will get for their financial investment, he said.

The state’s BDCP highlights document can be found [here](#).

The federal document can be found [here](#).

ACWA’s statement on the reports is attached below.

Attachment	Size
<a href="#">10_28_statement_on_BDCP.pdf</a>	23.23 KB

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