



### **Delta Counties Coalition**

Contra Costa County · Sacramento County · San Joaquin County · Solano County · Yolo County  
*"Working together on water and Delta issues"*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Delta Counties Coalition Offers Comments on the State's Environmental Impact Report of Controversial Bay Delta Conservation Plan**

**WHAT:** Leadership of the Delta Counties Coalition, composed of the five highly-impacted Delta counties (San Joaquin, Sacramento, Contra Costa, Solano, and Yolo) is prepared to respond now that the highly anticipated Environmental Impact Report and Statement (EIR/EIS) have been issued by Governor Brown's Administration today on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP).

**WHEN: TODAY, Monday, December 9, 2013.** The Delta Counties Coalition will be available for comment today and throughout the week as the contents of these public documents are examined.

**WHY:** The BDCP is designed to drill massive twin tunnels beneath the Delta to divert water from the north to the south at an estimated cost of upwards of \$50 billion. Release of the EIR/EIS documents is the first time the public can truly provide input. Prior to the release of the EIR/EIS, taxpayers have not been allowed any formal say in the development and ultimately the outcome of this water project.

**WHO:** Leading Delta Counties Coalition spokespersons include:

**Karen Mitchoff**, Contra Costa County Supervisor; (925) 521-7100

**Mary Piepho**, Contra Costa County Supervisor; Vice Chair of the Delta Protection Commission, and Member of the Delta Conservancy. (925) 252-4500

**Don Nottoli**, Sacramento County Supervisor; Member of the Delta Protection Commission, and Member of the Delta Conservancy. (916) 874-5465

**Larry Ruhstaller**, San Joaquin County Supervisor; Member of Delta Stewardship Council, and Chair of the Delta Protection Commission. (209) 468-3113

**Ken Vogel**, Chair of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors and Chair of the Delta Conservancy. (209) 468-3113

**Skip Thompson**, Solano County Supervisor, Member of the Delta Protection Commission. (707) 784-6130

**Jim Provenza**, Yolo County Supervisor, Member of the Delta Conservancy (530) 757-5554

**Preliminary Comments:**

Supervisor Karen Mitchoff, Contra Costa County:

"Once again, and after numerous meetings between the Secretary of Natural Resources and other state officials associated with the BDCP and representatives of all the Delta Counties, we have been shut out of participating at a meaningful level should the BDCP be implemented. Over the course of the last three months, and in attempt to seek comprehensive solutions to statewide water issues, we were led to believe that our input was valued and would be recognized. Unfortunately, the governance section of the Draft EIR leaves the Delta Counties out of any significant role in the control and operation of BDCP. I am extremely disappointed that our good-faith efforts in getting a seat at the table have been for naught."

Supervisor Larry Ruhstaller, San Joaquin County:

"Taxpayers will have no say in the outcome of any tunnel project. That's because the law was written in a way that the BDCP won't be put up for a public vote. This, 30,000-plus page environmental report, is the first time the public will have any real say in the process. How many people will actually read through thousands of pages of technical jargon and nonsense in order to figure out how the project will affect their communities in order to provide thoughtful public comment? Truth be told, this public comment period is really just a charade. Based on the experience of the Delta, it is unlikely that proponents will take into consideration any input from people who don't agree with them."

Supervisor Ken Vogel, San Joaquin County:

"California tax and rate payers will be funding the narrowly focused BDCP and should be asking themselves two critical questions as they evaluate this controversial project: Can we, as a State, afford this multi-billion dollar, taxpayer-funded project that will clearly not produce a single drop of new

water? Will the project actually restore the Delta's fragile ecosystem? Ultimately, the BDCP will fail in meeting the co-equal goals of improving both the State's water supply and Delta ecosystem."

Supervisor Don Nottoli, Sacramento County:

"The BDCP is an effort to construct a massive water conveyance project under the guise of a habitat restoration and conservation program. Twin tunnels will not produce any more water, and make no mistake, this project will have lasting negative impacts on the Delta, its economy and its people. We need to continue working to find reasonable and fiscally responsible solutions to the water challenges facing California, but sacrificing the Delta to benefit other regions of the state is not, and never will be, the answer."

Supervisor Skip Thompson, Solano County:

"We are reviewing this enormous document with healthy skepticism given state's track record so far on the transparency of the process, the lack of clarity that the science justifies the level of investment proposed, the inclusion of affected stakeholders in a meaningful way, and keeping its promises. While we understand and appreciate the broader water management objectives, the Delta cannot be sacrificed to address water needs elsewhere."

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