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Agenda Item: 3E
Meeting Date: December 14, 2006

CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN UPDATE

Summary: Progress on the development of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) is underway. The Planning Agreement that guides the development of the BDCP is now routing for final signature. The next meetings of the BDCP Steering Committee are scheduled for December 15, 2006 and January 17, 2007.

Recommended Action: This is an information item only.

The Planning Agreement (Agreement) that will guide the development of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) was circulated for public comment, finalized, and is now being circulated for signature. To guide the development of the BDCP, the Agreement establishes a Steering Committee with representatives from water contractors, environmental groups, and State and Federal agencies. Membership of the Steering Committee and a copy of the Agreement can be found on www.resources.ca.gov. The Agreement also provides for interested observers. To be added as an interested observer, parties can contact Beth Gerbutavicius at the Resources Agency at (916) 653-2784.

Geographic scope, covered species, and covered activities were of interest to the California Bay-Delta Authority when it was last briefed on the process. These issues have been refined in the Agreement. The geographic scope for BDCP is now planned to be the Delta as defined by statute. The Agreement commits to working cooperatively if there are conservation activities being pursued outside of the Delta. The covered activities are planned to include conveyance elements, operations, maintenance, and facility improvements of the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project, some water transfers through the Delta, ongoing operations and future projects of other water users signatory to the Agreement, as well as projects to improve salinity and conservation measures included in the BDCP. The BDCP continues to be focused on aquatic species including Central Valley steelhead, Central Valley Chinook salmon (spring run and fall/late-fall runs), Sacramento River Chinook salmon (winter run), Delta smelt, green sturgeon, white sturgeon, splittail, and long-fin smelt. The Agreement also focuses BDCP on aquatic ecosystems and natural

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communities such as tidal sloughs, freshwater emergent wetlands, and riverine natural communities.

Progress on the development of the BDCP is continuing. A consultant team is under contract to refine the work plan to develop the BDCP. The next meetings of the Steering Committee are scheduled for December 15, 2006 and January 19, 2007. Agendas are posted on the website previously referenced.

List of Attachments

None

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