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<http://calwater.ca.gov>

**Agenda Item:** 4  
**Meeting Date:** September 13, 2006

## **BAY-DELTA PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **PANEL DISCUSSION: INTEGRATION OF CALFED END OF STAGE 1, DELTA VISION, AND THE BAY-DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN**

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**Summary:** A presentation and facilitated panel discussion regarding the integration of CALFED End of Stage 1, Delta Vision, and the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan will be given at the meeting.

**Recommended Action:** This is an information item.

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#### **Attachment**

Attachment 1 – Letter from Northern California Water Association regarding Bay Delta Conservation Plan dated July 27, 2006

Attachment 2 – Response from California Resources Agency, dated August 29, 2006 to August 2, 2006 letter from California Urban Water Agencies (Attachment 2-A) regarding Delta Vision initiative



July 27, 2006

Karen Scarborough  
Undersecretary  
Resources Agency  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: BDCP- Geographic Scope

Dear Ms. Scarborough:

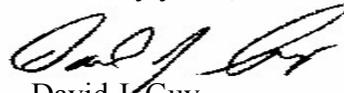
The Northern California Water Association (NCWA) and its counsel have reviewed the July 11 draft "Planning Agreement regarding the Bay Delta Conservation Plan" (BDCP) and have serious concerns with the BDCP's geographic scope. Put plainly, this appears to be a planning agreement for a broad Central Valley conservation plan--not a Bay-Delta conservation plan. For example, section 5.1 of the draft Planning Agreement contemplates that numerous Delta tributaries may be added to the BDCP, including some clearly within the Sacramento Valley.

NCWA has been very supportive of the Delta Vision process and the continuing efforts to improve the Bay-Delta ecosystem and to provide meaningful assurances for reliable export water supplies. We strongly believe, however, that the BDCP planning area should be expressly limited to the Delta. Issues in the Delta are driving interest in, and movement toward, a BDCP. Reaching beyond the Delta will create a process that is unprecedented in scope and complexity and revisit the overwhelming problems CALFED faced. We instead urge you and the other interested parties to focus on a Delta-centric habitat plan that can be successful in meeting the pressing needs of the Delta. By focusing on the Delta successfully, the agencies later can coordinate with parties upstream of the Delta to facilitate the ongoing conservation efforts in these areas.

The Sacramento Valley region is a unique mosaic of farm lands, waterfowl habitat, spawning grounds for numerous fish species, and the various cities and rural communities. To provide water supplies and improve water quality for all these diverse purposes, public agencies have developed and continue to refine an integrated regional water management program from the Sacramento Valley. (See [www.norcalwater.org](http://www.norcalwater.org).) We have also partnered on numerous occasions with diverse parties throughout the state to help improve water quality, habitat conditions and to help meet supplemental water supply needs outside the region. Our integrated regional plan contains a conservation element that highlights the significant improvements that have been made throughout the region for fish, birds and other species and the continuing efforts we will pursue to enhance and improve water supplies and the ecosystem in this region. We intend to work toward integrating this plan with the solutions that ultimately are developed for the Delta.

We expressed similar concerns to the Bay-Delta Authority (Authority) on December 19, 2005 (see attached), at which time the Authority clearly directed the agencies to initially focus on the Bay-Delta and to then subsequently consider how to approach upstream issues in the Central Valley. We urge the agencies to follow the direction of the Authority and limit the initial planning area to the Bay and legal Delta as defined in Water Code section 12220.

Sincerely yours,



David J. Guy  
Executive Director

cc: Michael Chrisman  
Lester Snow  
Ryan Broddrick  
Joe Grindstaff

**City of Sacramento  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
Northern California Water Association  
Sacramento County Water Agency  
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
San Joaquin River Group Authority**

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December 19, 2005

California Bay-Delta Authority  
650 Capitol Mall, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Members of the California Bay-Delta Authority:

The undersigned agencies have been carefully following the development of a long-term finance plan for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program through its various phases over the last two years. In the last two months, negotiations between the resource agencies and water interests have centered on a broad-scale Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Communities Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP) as the means to secure water user financial support for the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP).

This proposed HCP/NCCP would be unprecedented in scope and complexity, encompassing the Delta as well as the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys. We are very concerned that in proposing an enormously complex HCP/NCCP, CALFED is reinventing precisely the problem that has precipitated its current crisis. Such a strategy for the ERP takes CALFED in exactly the wrong direction, imposing an unwieldy and overambitious planning effort for the ERP. *The HCP/NCCP approach could provide significant value, however, if it is limited to the Delta.*

The Governor's May Revise budget specifically called for CALFED to "re-focus the efforts of the California Bay-Delta Authority and the other CALFED state agencies on solving conflicts associated with Delta water supply, water quality, levee stability, *and the environment*" [emphasis added]. In a partial response to this directive, CALFED has identified the most essential projects related to water quality and conveyance, in recognition of its limited resources. This is a vital step in aligning the program's goals with its financial means, and has been strongly supported by the water community.

However, the ERP also needs the same re-focusing to avoid the pitfall of pursuing too many solutions with too few resources. We urge you to develop a single, Delta-centric habitat plan that can receive the proper level of attention and support from all beneficiaries and stakeholders. Attached are several suggested edits to the draft 10-Year Action Plan, consistent with this request.

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December 19, 2005  
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We commend CALFED and the implementing agencies for their commitment to revitalizing the program. A realistic habitat plan that retains a focus on the Delta offers the best hope of building support from a broad range of water users.

Sincerely,



Gary Reents, Director  
City of Sacramento Utilities Department



Dennis M. Diemer, General Manager  
East Bay Municipal Utility District



David Guy, Executive Director  
Northern California Water Association



Keith Devore, Director  
Department of Water Resources  
Sacramento County Water Agency



Susan Leal, General Manager  
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission



Allen Short, Coordinator  
San Joaquin River Group Authority

Attachment

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**Attachment 1-A**

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cc: Mike Chrisman, Resources Agency Secretary  
Joe Grindstaff, Interim Director, California Bay-Delta Authority



A G E N C Y

August 29, 2006

Mr. Paul Piraino, Chair  
California Urban Water Agencies  
455 Capitol Mall, Suite 705  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Piraino,

Thank you for your recent letter providing comments about the scope, process, products and potential success of the Delta Vision process. Your organization has provided a number of helpful comments and critiques through the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and I look forward to an ongoing dialogue through Delta Vision as well.

The Vision process will assess existing and future risks and consequences to the Delta's many uses and resources, and recommend policy and management options to address these risks and promote sustainability.

Additionally, the Vision will be informed by several ongoing water-related efforts including the Delta Risk Management Strategy, CALFED, and the emerging Bay-Delta Conservation Plan, and also by ongoing transportation, utility and land-use planning processes. I agree that it is incumbent upon us to make sure that the linkages – and the Delta Vision process as a whole – are clearly defined as we move forward.

I look to you and the California Urban Water Agencies and other stakeholders to provide not only technical expertise, but also guidance for the eventual policy recommendations that will be made as a result of Delta Vision. In fact, the ultimate success of Delta Vision will be driven by all of us working together.

I appreciate the good work of the California Urban Water Agencies and look forward to an ongoing relationship in pursuit of a vibrant and sustainable Delta.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mike Chrisman in black ink.

MIKE CHRISMAN  
Secretary for Resources

cc: Secretary Linda Adams, California Environmental Protection Agency  
Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency  
Secretary A.G. Kawamura, Department of Food and Agriculture  
Director Joe Grindstaff, CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
Director Lester Snow, Department of Water Resources  
Director Ryan Broddrick, Department of Fish and Game

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814 Ph. 916.653.5656 Fax 916.653.8102 <http://resources.ca.gov>





CALIFORNIA URBAN WATER AGENCIES

2006 AUG 2 2:24

August 2, 2006

Secretary Linda Adams  
California Environmental Protection Agency  
1001 I Street, P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2815

Secretary A.G. Kawamura  
California Department of Food and Agriculture  
1220 N Street, Room 400  
Sacramento, CA 95814-560

Secretary Mike Chrisman  
Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak  
Business, Transportation & Housing Agency  
980 9th Street, Suite 2450  
Sacramento, CA 95814-2719

Dear Secretaries Adams, Kawamura, Chrisman and McPeak:

This letter offers comments to you as leaders of the Governor's upcoming Delta Vision initiative. We understand that the Governor's initiative will be aimed at developing a long-term vision of the Delta over the next century. As you know, a great deal of public dialogue has begun, including discussions at meetings of the CALFED Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee, the California Bay-Delta Authority, the Delta Vision Conference at the University of the Pacific on June 6 and 7, recent water conferences, in the press and elsewhere.

California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA) has previously provided comments to the Bay-Delta Authority on this matter including:

- March 27 letter, forwarding a white paper identifying cost allocation issues
- March 31 letter, suggesting a focused scope and process, including four principal tasks
- May 24 letter, recommending more specifics on near-term process and products

This letter supplements our earlier letters and lays out recommendations for a successful Delta Vision. Much of this is based on what we heard in recent public discussions, combined with strategic discussions among our member agencies. We do not address legal authorities, organizational structure or specific decision-making details. We offer CUWA's definition of what a successful outcome will be.

### **Developing a Delta Vision: Scope, Defining Success, Process, Products**

Scope: It was clear from presentations and discussions at the Delta Vision Conference that many people and organizations are aware of the interrelationships among Delta levees and

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City of Sacramento  
Alameda County Water District  
San Diego County Water Authority  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
City of San Diego Water Department  
Santa Clara Valley Water District

Zone 7 Water Agency  
Contra Costa Water District  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
Los Angeles Department of Water & Power

urban development, transportation, utility corridors, farming, recreation, fisheries, water quality and water supply. The scope of this effort must acknowledge the full range of Delta uses, and be aimed at providing a long-term vision and general investment guidance where the interests of each use category overlap. The scope must also provide additional detail and guidance on investments in measures that directly address long-term sustainability of water supply reliability, water quality, Delta fisheries and the Delta's levees. These elements should be implemented in a balanced manner with appropriate linkages among the elements, costs and benefits. In doing so it is important to recognize that Delta levee investments are not the only issue, and therefore not the only investments that will be needed. While the scope should consider the full range of land uses in its development, it should not develop a detailed land use plan for the Delta which is the purview of local agencies (in cooperation with the Delta Protection Commission in the case of the Primary Zone, for which it has specific land use and resource management planning roles).

An essential point we made in earlier letters (and reinforced below) is agreeing to measures of success at the start of the process. This will help focus the effort on specific products, set the time line, and promote realistic expectations.

CUWA Definition of Success. A successful outcome is a vision that will embrace a full complement of actions that address the long-term needs of water supply reliability, Delta fisheries, water quality and the Delta's levees (for the full range of uses they protect), and guide the investments of federal, state and other funds. Delta levee investments alone will not be sufficient to meet all needs. Strategic actions should be developed to help sustain water supply reliability, Delta fisheries, water quality and Delta levees. These actions should be developed based in part on outcomes of ongoing scientific fishery investigations. Too much is at stake for the future of Californians and our environment to do otherwise.

Process. CUWA suggests defining the full process up front. Participants need to know where this is heading and how it will proceed. The process needs to have direct links to other related processes, including: (1) the Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS), (2) the AB 1200 review and reports, (3) the end of Stage 1 of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, and (4) the emergence of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP).

In addition, California's political process makes it imperative that key members of the Legislature have input, particularly those who represent a portion of the Delta.

Strong leadership is essential in keeping this effort on track. An initial scoping (or purpose and needs) document should be released within the next two months to get discussion underway and make the scope as clear as possible. Given the timelines for development of State budgets and other considerations, we recommend that the final report and recommendations be adopted by October 2007.

Products. We suggest products in the following order:

1. Uses Paper. Comprehensive list of uses in the Delta dependent on Delta infrastructure

August 2, 2006

Delta Vision

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2. Scenarios Report. This would identify logical long-term potential future scenarios for the Delta, ranging from “no action” to a recommended long-term Vision. This should form the basis for public discussion towards the end of the process.
3. Final Delta Vision Plan. This will be the conceptual guide to state and federal investments, identifying the geographic, institutional and environmental “vision” foundational to addressing long-term, sustainable water supply reliability, Delta fisheries, water quality and Delta levees. It should recognize that state and federal investments will guide and inform, but not mandate, investments by others.

In addition, the Delta Vision should take advantage of the benefit/cost work being developed as part of the Delta Risk Management Strategy.

CUWA expects to be an active participant in the Delta Vision efforts. If you or your staffs have any questions regarding our comments, please contact CUWA Executive Director Steve Macaulay at (916) 552-2929.

Sincerely,



Paul Piraino, Chair  
CUWA Board of Representatives

cc: Joe Grindstaff, Executive Director  
California Bay-Delta Authority

Lester Snow, Director  
Department of Water Resources

Ryan Brodrick, Director  
Department of Fish and Game