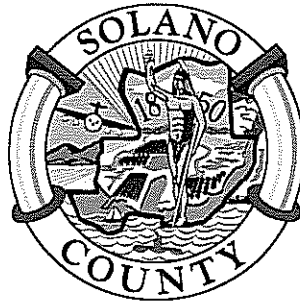


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March 27, 2013

The Hon. Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Hon. Rebecca Blank
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

The Hon. John Laird
California Secretary for Natural Resources
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Salazar, Acting Secretary Blank, and Secretary Laird:

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) has the potential for serious and negative consequences on Solano County's agricultural community and economy. The project's effects would be derived from changes to water flows and quality along with conversion of thousands, if not tens of thousands, of viable farm lands in Solano County to restored habitat. The County's understanding is the current draft of the BDCP planned for release and public review fully analyzes only one alternative; featuring the 9000 cfs intake facilities; twin tunnels down the center of the Delta, and the most aggressive habitat restoration scenario. Responding to the level of impact the alternative may have on Solano County, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to adopt the attached resolution requesting that the BDCP be broadened to include a more comprehensive review of other alternatives that may cause less harm to Solano County and the Delta region.

Among possible alternatives, the Board's resolution specifically cites the "Portfolio Alternative" recently developed by a coalition of water districts and environmental groups, as worthy of a higher level of consideration and evaluation in the BDCP. The Portfolio Alternative, featuring a smaller 3000cfs intake, a single tunnel, and less conversion of prime Delta farmlands, appears to have fewer impacts on Solano County and contains a comprehensive management approach to California's precious water resources. At this point in the process, the Board has not taken a position in support or opposition to one alternative over another. The Board does feel more than one alternative should be thoroughly

analyzed, preferably at an equal weight CEQA level. In that respect, the Portfolio Alternative represents a reasonable contrast to the current BDCP primary proposal. It would provide a valuable comparative for making informed, prudent and perhaps visionary public policy choices on the future use of California's precious water resources.

Solano County recognizes the challenges of the BDCP. There is general recognition that status quo in the Delta is not a reasonable solution to addressing the Delta's health or the State's water supply needs. Solano County wants to be part of the solution. Addressing challenges of this magnitude often involves introspection and reevaluation of assumptions. The BDCP, even with all the studies done to date, appears to contain some major assumptions that if ultimately proven incorrect, could dramatically change the nature of the BDCP and the health of the Delta in negative ways. If the plan is to be ultimately successful and accepted, if not embraced by the myriad of interests and affected parties there should be a willingness and commitment to see how it stands up to reasonable alternatives.

It is understandable that those involved in the BDCP formulation might wish to discount other alternatives as already been considered and deemed unsuitable by project proponents. The extent of work that has already gone into the BDCP naturally contributes to such a response. The danger in that dynamic is an artificial and potentially unhealthy inertia that can fail to consider changing circumstances, new information and ideas, and escalating costs. Without a fair and comprehensive comparative of realistic and thoughtful alternatives, the BDCP will be vulnerable as a plan that can stand up to the inevitable challenges to its legitimacy to fairly represent the needs and interests of all Californians, including residents of Solano County.

Solano County urges your agencies to step back, invest the time, conduct the proper and complete analysis of alternatives, and allow all interested parties to understand their ramifications before a final decision is made.

Sincerely,



Linda Seifert
Chair, Solano County Board of Supervisors

cc:

Representative John Garamendi
Representative Mike Thompson
Senator Lois Wolk
Senator Noreen Evans
Assemblywoman Mariko Yamada
Assemblyman Jim Frazier