

**MONDAY MORNING GROUP
OF
WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

**ANNUAL ADVOCACY TRIP – WASHINGTON, DC
MARCH 5 – 8, 2012**

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

ISSUE: The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) is necessary to ensure both state water supply reliability and Delta ecosystem restoration.

ACTION: The Monday Morning Group strongly urges Congress and the Administration to support the completion of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, and a Delta Plan that creates a clear path for its success

BACKGROUND: The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a vital link in California's water system. The Delta is in jeopardy of collapse as a result of population growth, changing climate, weakened levees, invasive species, pollution and environmental pressures. Immediate and continued action is necessary to contribute to the sustainability of the Delta and to achieve the co-equal goals of water supply reliability and Delta ecosystem restoration, as stated in the Delta Reform Act of 2009.

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) is a planning and environmental permitting process that will restore habitat for Delta fisheries in a way that reliably delivers water supplies to 25 million Californians. Federal and state agencies, environmental organizations, fishery agencies, water agencies, and other organizations are working together to develop the BDCP.

The BDCP will identify a set of water flow and habitat restoration actions to contribute to the recovery of endangered and sensitive species and their habitats in the Delta. The goal of the BDCP is to devise a 50-year plan of water system and ecosystem improvements, and environmental law compliance through adaptive management. BDCP is looking at creating new water diversion facilities in the northern Delta so that these water deliveries can be physically separated from the natural fluctuations of the tidal estuary.

In late 2010, considerable technical efforts focused on the potential construction of two tunnels, as an alternative to a surface canal, as a method to transport the water. Tunnels and intake facilities are currently estimated to cost approximately \$12.7 billion, and are the preferred option because of the reduced facility footprint.

The Monday Morning Group also supports a Delta Plan that creates a clear path for BDCP implementation, focuses on the complete array of Delta stressors, coordinates Delta agencies and their efforts and advances the co-equal goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration. The Delta Plan was not intended to narrowly focus on flow criteria, nor was it intended to position the Delta Stewardship Council to review the water management strategies of local agencies or become another regulatory body.