



September 3, 2009

Senator Darrell Steinberg
Senate President pro Tem
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Fran Pavley
Senate Natural Resources Committee Chair
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Karen Bass
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol Room 219
Sacramento, CA 94249

Assemblymember Jared Huffman
Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife
Committee Chair
State Capitol Room 3120
Sacramento, CA 94249

Re: Opposition to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan

Dear Conference Committee Leaders:

On August 18th and 25th members of the salmon fishing industry testified before the Joint Senate and Assembly Committee hearings on the water bills. At that time we expressed opposition and deep concern about the Bay Delta Conservation Plan as an adequate vehicle for state policy on the dual Delta objectives of environmental protection and water supply.

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan contains 32 proposed conservation actions. The salmon fishing industry has examined each of these with respect to the dual objectives. We find them woefully inadequate in addressing the steps which will be necessary to avoid salmon extinctions. We are attaching our analysis of each of the 32 items.

We urge that the conference committee not use this plan as a basis for a state water

policy. It needs months if not years of additional work before it could represent a comprehensive balanced approach. The BDCP has done a very good job of identifying the stressors in the Delta that are impacting the salmon runs. But, it is completely void of short term action steps that would change these conditions. For example, seven of the key conservation action steps that would be required for salmon recovery refer to Table 3.4 on page 3-56 of the Working Draft. All the items in this table are listed as TBD (to be determined). Figure 3.5 on page 3-75 of the draft lists the North Delta Bypass Rules. The only entry on the page says (figures to come).

To achieve the co-equal goals, we believe the legislature should set the framework for a much broader plan to be developed in 2010. It should also include upstream water impacts where reservoir and river operations have substantial impacts on the survival of salmon and other fish. We urge that you defer this critical action until it can be done right.

Sincerely,

Larry Collins
President
San Francisco Crab Boat Owners Assn.

Dan Wolford
Science Director
Coastside Fishing Club

Dr. C Mark Rockwell
California Director
Endangered Species Coalition

Roger Thomas
President
Golden Gate Fishermen's Assn.

Richard Pool
President
Water4Fish

Mike Hudson
President
Small Boat Commercial Salmon
Fishermen's Association

Paul Johnson
President
Monterey Fish Market

Zeke Grader
Executive Director
Pacific Coast Federation of
Fishermen's Associations