

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

July 6, 2012

The Hon. John Laird
Secretary
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 9th Avenue, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95614

Dear Secretary Laird:

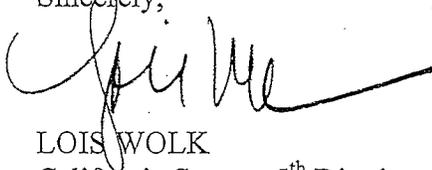
We write to support the attached request of the twelve congressional representatives and ask that you not finalize or formally announce the new Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) framework until a more detailed description is made available for review.

California and the Federal Government have a long history of missteps in the Delta. We urge you to put aside proposals that advance plumbing before policy and refocus the BDCP on the many sustainable solutions that can be supported by sound science and realistic financing.

As our congressional colleagues have pointed out, the most recent BDCP framework leaves more questions than answers, and lays significant risk with the ecosystem and communities of Northern California, and the ratepayers of Southern California.

We thank you for your attention to these concerns and look forward to your response.

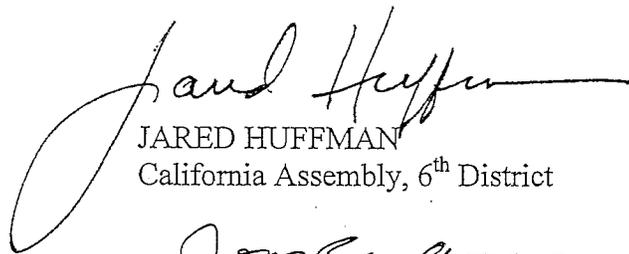
Sincerely,



LOIS WOLK
California Senate, 5th District



ALYSON HUBER
California Assembly, 10th District



JARED HUFFMAN
California Assembly, 6th District



JOAN BUCHANAN
California Assembly, 15th District



MARK DESAULNIER
California Senate, 7th District



LONI HANCOCK
California Senate, 9th District



PAUL FONG
California Assembly, 22nd District



WILLIAM MONNING
California Assembly, 27th District



MARIKO YAMADA
California Assembly, 8th District



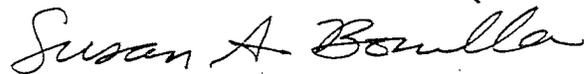
WESLEY CHESBRO
California Assembly, 1st District



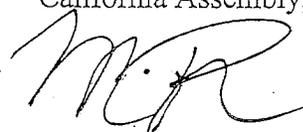
NOREEN EVANS
California Senate, 2nd District



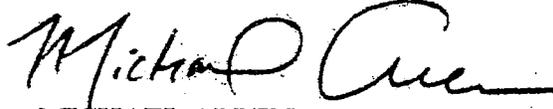
ELLEN CORBETT
California Senate, 10th District



SUSAN BONILLA
California Assembly, 11th District



DR. RICHARD PAN
California Assembly, 5th District



MICHAEL ALLEN
California Assembly, 7th District

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 22, 2012

The Hon. Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington DC

The Hon. Rebecca Blank
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington DC

Dear Secretary Salazar and Acting Secretary Blank:

As you know, we were recently briefed on a proposal to retool the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). It is our understanding that this revised proposal is designed to respond to the warnings from state and federal agencies that earlier versions of the plan would not meet statutory requirements.

However, the new proposal raises far more questions than it answers, and appears to turn the maxim of "policy before plumbing" on its head. We ask that you not finalize or formally announce this framework until a far more detailed description is made available for review.

Since the BDCP process began in 2006, we have warned that a poorly designed plan would cause significant disruptions to northern California and could increase water exports from the Bay-Delta estuary — while failing to restore the Bay-Delta ecosystem and rebuild salmon and other California fisheries as required by law. Our concerns have been echoed by northern California water agencies, flood control districts, cities, counties, the commercial and recreational fishing industries, and conservation groups.

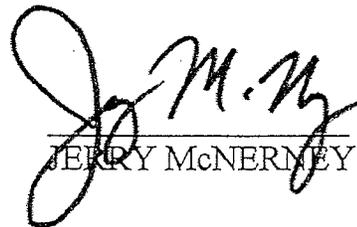
We agree that the BDCP requires a significant overhaul if it is to succeed, and we genuinely appreciate the efforts that your departments and agencies have dedicated to the recent revisions. However, we do not believe it is wise to commit to massive new water pumping stations and conveyance tunnels while sustainable solutions to the problems of water quality, fish and ecosystem restoration, local impacts, and water flows are made to wait. Nor do we believe that the proposal on which we have been briefed is permissible under state or federal law.

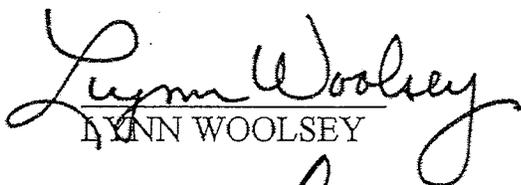
There is too much at stake in the BDCP for the federal government to announce a plan that defers important decisions while an expensive and potentially damaging water diversion project is allowed to proceed.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns. We look forward to reviewing a detailed proposal and hope to work with you to improve this process further.

Sincerely,


GEORGE MILLER


JERRY McNERNEY


LYNN WOOLSEY


FORTNEY PETE STARK


ZOE LOFGREN


BARBARA LEE


JACKIE SPEIER


DORIS MATSUI


JOHN GARAMENDI


ANNA G. ESHOO


MIKE THOMPSON


MICHAEL M. HONDA