



**CONTRA COSTA  
WATER DISTRICT**

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November 21, 2007

The Honorable Phil Isenberg, Chair  
and Members of the Blue Ribbon Task Force  
Delta Vision Task Force  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Comments on the October 25, 2007 Presentations to the Task Force**

Dear Chair Isenberg and Members of the Task Force:

On behalf of Contra Costa Water District, I would like to commend the Blue Ribbon Task Force for the constructive progress that has been made on a Delta Vision. CCWD finds that some of the information provided to the Task Force at the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting was not correct or could be misleading and we are providing information here intended to ensure the Task Force has correct information that will help in your deliberations.

Comments on Information presented at the October 25 meeting. In a number of instances, incomplete information was provided that could lead to assumptions or conclusions at odds with the facts. The following information is provided to assure that correct information is available to the Task Force.

*Through-Delta conveyance capacity is not limited as reported at the meeting:* As I stated at the October 25 meeting, some preliminary studies have indicated a limitation on "through-Delta" and "dual conveyance" alternatives that include use of the Middle River corridor with a siphon at the lower end of Victoria Canal. Those studies apparently did not attempt to correct the limitation. CCWD has in fact analyzed that scenario and found that the limiting factor is not the siphon but shallow areas in Victoria Canal and Middle River. We have learned that others have also studied this and have come to the same conclusion. Consequently, the through-Delta configuration does not appear to have the limitations expressed in the presentation.

*Capacity of dual system with 2,500 cubic foot per second pipeline exceeds Isolated facility-only conveyance:* CCWD has carried out some preliminary studies that examined the use of a 2500 cubic foot per second (cfs) capacity pipeline from the Sacramento River to the export facilities and found that a dual conveyance system

that relies on a pipeline of this capacity and the through-Delta conveyance appears capable of delivering supplies that exceed that found for fully isolated conveyance in the evaluation done for the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan. In fact, the water supply provided is about the same as that found for dual conveyance with a large isolated canal. As I mentioned at the October 25 meeting, the large Peripheral Canal is limited by flow requirements on the lower Sacramento River and its inability to take advantage of flows on the San Joaquin River and east-side streams that enter the Delta.

*High-quality water urban pipeline provides security and high-quality supply:* A 2500 cfs pipeline has the advantages of being able to provide 1.8 million acre-feet per year of a high-quality supply to urban areas currently provided water from the Delta in the most secure fashion: a pipeline. A canal, and particularly an unlined canal, carry unnecessary risks from seismic events not dissimilar to those carried by existing levees, as the unlined canal consists of two parallel levees over 40 miles long with a 500 foot wide water body between them, built on soils already subject to liquefaction and in areas subject to flooding. CCWD has experience with a four-mile long unlined canal: problems include seepage, wave action, potential embankment failure and flooding, algal and vegetation growth, and unlawful activities in and near the canal by trespassers. Because of the serious problems associated with unlined canals, CCWD has started replacing its unlined canal with a pipeline that eliminates these problems.

*Improved Delta water quality is the key to increased species populations:* As was shown to the Task Force in a presentation by the Science Advisors, the populations of eight key species, including Delta smelt, longfin smelt, striped bass and splittail, all increase as outflows increase and salinity decreases (Slide 10). Delta smelt has followed this relationship since the mid-1980's (its trend changed around the invasion of the *Corbula* clam), while the other species shown have followed the trend for forty years. More recently, CCWD has shown a correlation between salinity levels in the fall and Delta smelt population in the summer: the saltier the Delta in the fall, the lower the population the following summer. We believe the cause to be twofold: saltier conditions favor *Corbula*, which competes for food needed by Delta smelt, and the increased salinity in the fall reduces Delta smelt habitat area in the west, which in turn makes Delta smelt that migrate to the east more vulnerable to the export pumps the following winter. The bottom line remains unchanged: improved Delta water quality is the key to increased species population.

*Reverse flows are an effect of exports, not a cause of fish losses at the pumps:* Slide 9 purports to show a relationship between "combined Old and Middle River flows" (actually shown are mathematically averaged flows in those rivers) and fish losses (salvage) at the export pumps (the graph shows a mediocre correlation coefficient equal to 0.24). It should be obvious that average flows in Old and Middle River are caused by and dominated by tides and export pumping (at times, the latter dominants

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even the tides). It should also be obvious that export pumping is the cause of fish losses (salvage) at the export pumps.

We now know that that the causal factor, export pumping (adjusted for flow from the San Joaquin River) has the better correlation to fish losses at the export pumps (which should be an unsurprising result). We also now know winter losses (salvage) of adult Delta smelt at the State Water Project facilities is highly correlated with subsequent fall midwater trawl population indices: the higher the winter salvage at the SWP pumps, the lower the subsequent Delta smelt population (regression coefficients are in the range of 0.75 to 0.9). The correct strategy therefore must be to reduce export pumping losses of fish, which can be accomplished by use of positive barrier fish screens to prevent losses in the first place, reducing export pumping at key times (with increased storage), and creation of separate areas where fish can be protected from entrainment at the export pumps.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on this important topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gregory Gartrell".

Gregory Gartrell, PhD, PE  
Assistant General Manager

GG/mlc

cc: John Kirlin

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Distribution List:

Monica Florian  
Richard Frank  
Thomas McKernan  
Sunne Wright McPeak  
William Reilly  
Raymond Seed, Ph.D.

## WELCOME TO DELTA VISION

### Delta Vision Blue Ribbon

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**Phil Isenberg, Chair**

Since 2005, Isenberg has served as president of Isenberg/O'Haren Government Relations. He served in the California State Assembly, where he was a member of the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee. Isenberg served as chair of the California Marine Life Protection Act Blue Ribbon Task Force and on the board of directors of the 21st Century Insurance Group from 2004 to 2006, and is a current member of the American Civil Liberties Union, Sierra Club and the Sacramento Valley Conservancy.

**Monica Florian**

Florian most recently served as senior vice president for the Irvine Company from 1978 to 2004. Prior to that, she was assistant planning director for the City of Huntington Beach and associate planner for the County of Riverside. Florian is a former member of the Nature Reserve of Orange County, the Upper Newport Bay Watershed Executive Committee and the California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance.

**Richard Frank**

Frank is executive director of the California Center for Environmental Law and Policy at Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to that, he worked for nearly a decade at the state Department of Justice office, ultimately reaching the rank of chief deputy Attorney General for Legal Affairs. He previously held the positions of chief assistant attorney general, senior assistant attorney general, supervising deputy attorney general and deputy attorney general. He is a member of the Environmental Law Section of the California State Bar and the Planning and Conservation League.

**Thomas McKernan**

McKernan is chief executive officer of the Automobile Club of Southern California, where he has worked since 1966. He is on the boards and past chair of the California Business Roundtable and the California State Chamber of Commerce. He is currently chair and serves on the boards of Blue Shield of California and Forest Lawn Memorial Parks Association.

**Sunne Wright McPeak**

McPeak is president and chief executive officer of the California Emerging Technology Fund. From 2003 to 2006, she served as secretary of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, and prior to that was president and chief executive officer of the Bay Area Council, where she established and led major regional initiatives. She has also served as president and chief executive officer of the Bay Area Economic Forum.

**William Reilly**

Reilly is a founding partner of Aqua International Partners, under the Texas Pacific Group, an investment company, where he has also served as a senior advisor. From 1989 to 1993, Mr. Reilly served as the seventh administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and earlier in his career, was president of both the World Wildlife Fund and Conservation Foundation.

**Raymond Seed, Ph.D.**

Dr. Seed has been a professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of California, Berkeley for 20 years. Previously, he was an assistant professor of civil engineering for Stanford University. Dr. Seed is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineers.

**John Kirlin, executive director**

John Kirlin brings more than 30 years of experience in policy analysis, administration and financing related to complex public policy issues, primarily in California. He has served as an environmental policy advisor to the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and held faculty positions at the University of Southern California for nearly 30 years and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis for five years. Kirlin holds a bachelor of arts degree in government from the University of Notre Dame. He also holds a master's degree in public administration and a Ph.D. in political science, both from the University of California, Los Angeles.

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