



September 20, 2013

Michael L. Connor
Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Commissioner Connor,

First, I want to congratulate you on being nominated as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior. We are at a pivotal time in natural resources management, and no doubt your depth of experience and insights will be extremely valuable.

Earlier this year, California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. and Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell agreed to an October 1st deadline for finalizing the technical documents for the EIR/EIS for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). I would like to thank you and the many front line staff at Interior and its departments who have helped us meet the spirit of this important deadline. Over the last four months, hundreds of important changes have been made to these documents to help address substantial issues, and will ultimately help us achieve the BDCP's coequal goals of ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability.

The nearly 25,000 pages of documents will be submitted to our federal agency partners by mid-October for formatting and review for the anticipated formal public comment period. We have set November 15, 2013 as that date, with an extended public comment period of 120 days. This extended public comment period will allow interested parties the time needed to thoughtfully comment, and will address possible time constraint issues because of the holiday season.

We are keenly aware that the BDCP is one of the largest Habitat Conservation Plans ever envisioned. We hope that by tying biological goals and objectives to our water supplies, we can achieve a greater natural balance. In addition, BDCP will serve as a multi-generational bulwark against climate change's impacts to the foundational water supply for 25 million people and three million acres of farmland.

Again, I want to pass my sincere thanks and gratitude on to you and the many staff who have worked tirelessly on BDCP for several years now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John Laird'.

John Laird
Secretary for California Natural Resources

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814 Ph. 916.653.5656 Fax 916.653.8102 <http://resources.ca.gov>

