



Statement on the Bay-Delta July 25, 2012

We appreciate Governor Brown, Secretary of Interior Salazar and NOAA Assistant Administrator Schwaab gathering today to acknowledge that California has many important challenges in advancing a sound water policy that stabilizes water supplies for the future of California's economy and environment.

It is no secret that California has too many disparate efforts underway that will further destabilize California's water system and stifle progress toward an environmentally and economically sustainable Bay-Delta solution. The new level of assertive leadership shown today and the active coordination of these various state and federal processes is critical to ensure that the state's co-equal goals are not only met, but that sound decisions are made in a judicious manner to begin providing stability to California's water system. We are both hopeful and encouraged that today marks the beginning of more concerted and coordinated leadership towards a Bay-Delta solution.

Since the inception of the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) process, water suppliers that divert water upstream of the Delta have been actively following the BDCP process. Importantly, these entities will not be covered by the approvals and permits issued for the BDCP and will not rely upon the BDCP or related processes focused on the Delta to receive their water supplies. Thus, we have not directly participated in the BDCP process; however, upstream water suppliers have supported the state's co-equal goals and have encouraged success in the formulation of the BDCP and related actions to help resolve the challenges in the Delta with an eye to stability in California's water system.

Our ability to help the BDCP process and related Delta-processes succeed is predicated upon the fact that water rights, supplies and regional self-sufficiency in areas upstream of the Delta will be fully honored. We laud the leadership and commitment today to "make sure implementation of BDCP will not result in adverse effects on the water rights of those in the watershed of the Delta, nor will it impose any obligations on water users upstream of the Delta to supplement flows in and through the Delta." For the various Bay-Delta processes to be successful, the direct beneficiaries of these actions in the Bay-Delta must step forward and be fully responsible for any impacts or obligations (including appropriate mitigation) related to any flows and funding in these processes, and they must not injure any legal user of water or fish and wildlife upstream of the Delta.

For the area upstream of the Delta we represent, we remain committed to continue collaborative efforts to further develop innovative solutions that will benefit both the economy and the environment. We have a strong track record in this arena. The Sacramento Valley joins together a world-renowned mosaic of natural abundance: productive farmlands, wildlife refuges and managed wetlands, cities and rural communities, and meandering rivers that support and feed fisheries and natural habitats. Through efficient management of the region's water resources, the Sacramento Valley will continue to provide what's essential to California's future success and prosperity: nourishment and sustenance from the fields, habitats for fish and wildlife, recreation and a special quality of life—the Sacramento Valley is home to all of this, and more. Our path forward is rooted in our continuing ability to rely upon our own water supplies to provide water for all these beneficial purposes—both now and into the future.

Additionally, if the state and federal agencies are serious about achieving the co-equal goals of “providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem,” then new surface storage, such as Sites Reservoir in the Sacramento Valley, must be integrated with conveyance to maximize the operational flexibility of the existing water system. This linkage between smart storage and conveyance is critical for the future of California. This, in turn, will provide more stability to California's water system.

We look forward to working with state and federal leaders as well as our various partners, in developing a solution to the Bay-Delta. If you have any questions, please call David Guy at 916-442-8333 or John Woodling at 916-967-7692.

For more information, please visit the North State Water Alliance website at www.northstatewater.org.

A description of “*What's at Stake? The importance of protecting water resources in the Sacramento Valley*” can be viewed at http://www.norcalwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/17781_NCWA_WhatsAtStakeBrochure_v1_a10_FINAL_single_LR.pdf.