



August 5, 2010

Delta Stewardship Council
650 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Isenberg and Members of the Council:

Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) and the City of Antioch (the City) would like to clarify a potential misunderstanding that arose during the public comments period of the last Delta Stewardship Council meeting July 23rd 2010. CCWD and the City of Antioch are united in their commitment to improving water quality in the Delta. We both fully support provision 85020 (f) of SBx7-1 to "improve water quality to protect human health and the environment consistent with achieving water quality objectives in the Delta."

The City of Antioch has been diverting fresh water from its intake since the 1860s. The City has an adjudicated pre-1914 appropriative right. Salinity at the City's intake has increased substantially over the years and is projected to increase even further with the proposed BDCP project. When salinity at the City's intake is so high that it precludes use of water at the intake, the City purchases water from CCWD; the City is only partially reimbursed for these purchases according to the terms of an agreement between the City and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) which could be potentially rendered nearly ineffective by the salinity levels predicted from the BDCP Project.

The concerns voiced by the City of Antioch at the last Council meeting regarding the degradation of western Delta water quality under BDCP modeling scenarios must be addressed. The issue is not CCWD's price for water that Antioch would have to purchase in order to compensate for the decreased use of their intake under the modeling scenario; it is that the impacts of BDCP-proposed conveyance must be mitigated. CCWD has spent over \$800M in the last 20 years to adapt to an ever saltier Delta and sustain the quality of water delivered to its customers. Mitigation for further impacts from a voluntary BDCP being developed for the benefit of others is a serious issue that must be addressed.

Antioch and CCWD are not alone in their concern about degrading water quality. Increasing salinity throughout the Delta has been detrimental to the ecosystem, as well as municipal, industrial, and agricultural water supplies. The invasion of the Asian clam *Corbula* into Suisun Bay began in the mid 1980s during a period of low river flow and high salinity intrusion. *Corbula* populations increase with increasing salinity, and substantially decrease during periods

of low salinity. The continued overall increase of salinity and the decreased variation in seasonal salinity in Suisun Bay allows this invasive species to remain dominant. Restoring the Suisun Bay salinity to historical conditions, fresher during fall through spring, would improve the possibility of restoring the ecosystem.

CCWD joins the City of Antioch in its concern over the impacts of the BDCP on water quality in the Delta, including the predicted increased salinity in the western and south Delta and increased concentrations of toxics in the south Delta. These are serious impacts, which will require avoidance or mitigation; neither avoidance nor mitigation measures have been proposed as part of the BDCP.

The City of Antioch and CCWD have an excellent working relationship, and we will continue to work together with the Council to ensure that water quality in the Delta is protected and improved.

Sincerely,



Phil Harrington
Director of Capital Improvements/Water Rights
City of Antioch



Greg Gartrell
Assistant General Manger
Contra Costa Water District