Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 13, 2013

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:

It is our understanding that the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) has initiated a cost-benefit analysis of the Governor's preferred proposal for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). While we are pleased that CNRA has finally agreed to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of BDCP alternatives, we are disappointed that you continue to ignore the needs of Bay-Delta communities, and the entire state, by failing to analyze other alternative proposals.

Your Departments should consider conducting a cost-benefit analysis on a number of alternatives that have been released or discussed among California water experts, including a recent Natural Resources Defense Council proposal and an alternative that includes no tunnel conveyance system.

We believe California's taxpayers, small business owners, farmers, and families deserve the best information possible and to know exactly how much a plan will cost before it is implemented. Analyzing only the State's preferred alternative, which is estimated to cost upwards of $18 billion and affect water reliability for the entire state, is irresponsible and further illustrates yet again that the broader concerns and needs of the Bay-Delta region are being left out of the discussion.

A project of such historic significance will cost the taxpayers an astronomical sum and should not be rushed through the required public review process without thoroughly examining all options, and their potential costs and ultimate impacts. We should work together to create the best plan for the entire state, one that protects the Delta while also meeting the co-equal goals of Delta ecosystem restoration and a more reliable water supply for the entire State of California. By studying a variety of plans, we can facilitate a more collaborative and comprehensive approach to our state's needs.

We can all agree that inaction is not an option for the long-term viability of the Delta region and California's water reliability. As we have mentioned in previous letters, meetings, and correspondence, a poorly-designed plan would cause catastrophic disruptions to the state water supply. There is too much at stake in the BDCP for California to move forward with a massive project without analyzing all of the options and considering the voices of all stakeholders. We strongly encourage you to include these proposals in the cost-benefit analysis as you move forward in the process.

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Sincerely,

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Ami Bera
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

George Miller
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress