

Impacts to Agriculture

1. County of Sacramento

2015 Comments on BDCP

Complete document here:

<http://restorethedelta.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Sacramento-County-WaterFix-Comments.pdf>

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Chapter 14: Agricultural Resources

As described in our July 28, 2014 comments on the DEIR/DEIS, protection of existing agricultural resources and operations and promoting long-term agricultural sustainability in the Delta are especially important issues for Sacramento County. Thus the County was deeply disappointed that none of its original comments on the DEIR/DEIS was addressed in the RDEIR/SDEIS. Because no changes were made that address the County's previous comments, the same comments apply to the RDEIR/SDEIS.....

2. County of Sacramento

2014 Comments on BDCP

Complete document here:

<http://northdeltacares.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Sacramento-County-BDCP-Comments-June-2014.compressed.pdf>

pp 76-77

Lost Agricultural Production

Temporary and short-term construction of facilities would convert approximately 1,315 acres of Important Farmland and 837 acres of land subject to Williamson Act contracts or in 38 Farmland Security Zones to other uses. Physical structures would also permanently convert approximately 4,975 acres of Important Farmland, including 4,281 acres of Prime Farmland, 158 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance, 339 acres of Unique Farmland, and 197 acres of Farmland of Local Importance and 3,080 acres of land subject to Williamson Act contracts or in Farmland Security Zones to other uses. (DEIR/EIS, pp.14-109, 14-111.) According to the DEIR/EIS, construction of the water diversion and conveyance facility (CM-1) will result in significant impacts to agriculture in the Delta for a minimum of 10 [now 14] years. However, the DEIR/EIS terms this decade-long period as "temporary." Subjecting growers, who make their living from the affected agriculture, to a decade of significant and unavoidable impacts will bring the primary economic driver in the Delta to a grinding halt. The proposed mitigation measures included in the DEIR/EIS fail to adequately address the issue of lost agricultural production on prime farmland and how/if growers will be fairly compensated for lost revenues while the land is out of production. In addition, the

DEIR/EIS fails to analyze and disclose whether agricultural operations in the Delta will remain viable once the activities contemplated by the BDCP are complete.

The BDCP will result in the permanent removal of a significant amount of prime farmland from production, construction activities will “temporarily” remove a significant additional amount of prime farmland from production, and direct and indirect impacts from construction-related activities will adversely affect even more prime farmland. Drainage patterns will likely change, water quality will likely change, and growers could be faced with buyers finding alternate sources of supply with land out of production for extended periods of time.