

Comments on
Chris Earle's Brief Summary of Conservation Measures
as presented in Chapter 3 of the BDCP

Submitted by
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Karla Nemeth, CA Natural Resources Agency,
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This afternoon Dr. Chris Earle of ICF International presented a brief summary of Conservation Measures as presented in Chapter 3 (Conservation Strategy) of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP).

Are the slides that he used in his presentation available? If so, please send me a set. Also please point out where I can find a listing/discussion of the Conservation Measures that Earle mentioned in Chapter 3.

One of the conservation measures Dr. Earle mentioned was devoted to the control of the low DO in the SJR Deep Water Ship Channel (DWSC). Dr. Earle stated that the low-DO problem in the SJR DWSC was being controlled by an existing aeration facility; that statement was not inaccurate. I have been involved in the review of the SJR DWSC low-DO situation since the late 1900's. As discussed in papers/reports on my website (www.gfredlee.com in the Watershed studies section San Joaquin River Watershed Program - Delta subsection) the existing aeration facility alone will not control the low-DO problem. There are other important contributing issues that remain to be evaluated, including the impact of residual oxygen demand that causes violations of the DO water quality objective. Addressing the residual oxygen demand could require agricultural interests in the Grassland area to treat its tail water discharges to control nutrients that support the growth of algae, whose decomposition contributes to the oxygen demand in the DWSC. Also there is a major issue of funding of the operation of the experimental aeration facility that was constructed by DWR. I checked with Christine Joab of the CVRWQCB, who is responsible for the SJR DWSC low-DO problem program today; she indicated that the BDCP contractor's (Earle) statement that the low-DO problem in the SJR DWSC has been solved, is not correct.

Dr. Earle also stated that, as a Conservation Measure, the water quality impacts of urban stormwater runoff on Delta water quality have been evaluated, and that those problems can be controlled by treatment of the urban stormwater runoff. I have been involved in Delta water quality issue since 1989 and have developed about 100 paper/reports on these issues. A summary of my Delta water quality work and findings is available as,

Lee, G. F., and Jones-Lee, A., "Experience in Reviewing Delta Water Quality Issues," G. Fred Lee & Associates, El Macero, CA, April 3 (2011).
<http://www.gfredlee.com/SJR-Delta/GFLAJL-Delta-EXP-REV.pdf>

I have also been involved in urban stormwater runoff water quality issues nationally since the 1960's and in the Delta since 1989; I have published extensively on the costs of treating urban stormwater runoff to meet water quality criteria/objectives. A section of my website (Surface Water Quality Stormwater Runoff Impacts at <http://gfredlee.com/pswqual2.htm#runoff>) is devoted to my work on those issues. The real, significant water quality impacts of urban stormwater runoff on the Delta and its tributaries have not yet been properly evaluated, and there has been no reliable evaluation of the necessary and effective treatment and associated costs to control those problems.

I would appreciate specific references to materials that BDCP has developed that address the solution of the low-DO problem in the SJR DWSC, as well as the evaluation and management of the water quality problems caused by urban stormwater runoff in the Delta and its tributaries.

Please pass these comments on to Dr. Meral, and indicate that if he has questions about these issues or other Delta water quality problems he should contact me.

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