

April 24, 1996

**Memo re BDAC's Selection of Alternatives by Alex Hildebrand**

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I believe we need a far more comprehensive and even handed evaluation of each alternative before we can choose among them. I suggest that we first sort them out as to basic approach, e.g., a pure through Delta, a through Delta with an isolated connection from the Sacramento River to the central Delta, an isolated connection sized to combine with a partial through Delta, and a full isolated connection from the Sacramento to the export pumps. Each of these basic approaches would have subalternatives.

The next step would be to examine each potential component to determine whether it should be common to all alternatives or to none, or whether there are reasons why they are appropriate to some alternatives and not to others.

The third step would be to examine each component and each alternative after assessing the following considerations:

- 1) Environmental benefits and impacts and balance among benefits, including aquatic and terrestrial, and suitability of terrain for proposed habitat.
- 2) Water supply benefits and impacts including water for export and for water users within areas of origin.
- 3) Water quality impacts and benefits within the Delta, and for exports, and within river systems.
- 4) Costs
- 5) Assurances; of preservation of the Delta configuration, assurance that any facility will be operated as proposed, assurance that the benefits anticipated will be achieved, etc.
- 6) Adequacy of the technical analyses of proposals.
- 7) Relative assurance of "shelf life" as population grows, exotic species multiply, river inflow degrades, etc.
- 8) Relative balance among all needs.