

Central Valley Business Times

*September 13, 2011*

A peripheral canal or tunnel that ships large amounts of fresh water around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta would be a devastating blow to the local economy, says Rep. Jerry McNerney, D-Pleasanton.

In a strongly worded letter to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, Mr. McNerney calls for a more open process than what has been seen to date by those writing the future of the Delta through the proposed Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

“We urge you to take clear, concrete steps to ensure that the BDCP is based on sound science and that any final solutions serve the best interests of Delta communities,” he writes.

“It is unacceptable for the federal government to knowingly advance a plan that will cause so much harm to an entire region without considering better alternatives. Instead of rushing forward with a deeply flawed BDCP, state and federal officials should evaluate the recommendations that have been offered by Delta communities and the ongoing work of the Delta Stewardship Council, Delta Conservancy, and Delta Protection Commission,” says Mr. McNerney.

The congressman says officials of Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Solano counties have contacted senior policymakers to express their concern that “the recently-announced, aggressive timetable for the BDCP will benefit south-of-Delta water users at the expense of Delta communities. We concur with this assessment and believe it is essential that you carefully consider the best interests of Delta residents as you move forward.”

Mr. McNerney, whose district includes much of the Delta, says a new, so-called “conveyance system,” the term used in place of peripheral canal or tunnel, would harm the Delta and its

economy.

Representatives Doris Matsui and Mike Thompson joined Mr. McNerney in sending the letter.