

## TIVE

water tunnels. (Bay Area News Group)

omic study estimates that Gov. Jerry Brown's two massive tunnels to move water from Northern California will provide a net benefit for Californians of roughly \$5 billion.

The legitimacy of the cost-benefit analysis of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, the draft released Monday concludes that the plan's benefits include \$3.5 billion in new economic activity in the state and 145,000 Delta habitat restoration-related jobs over the project's

life cycle.

The study also assessed the impact to urban and agricultural water providers, and Delta project issues, namely, related to water quality and salinity.

"It is in the best interest today and for the future. This is for the future," state Natural Resources Secretary John Laird said.

"The study's findings support the state's goals because, as the report makes clear, it makes sense."

The tunnels, which would carry fresh water from the state's Central Valley to the Delta to the Tracy pumps, will cost \$24.7 billion, according to the Department of Water Resources.

The \$2 billion figure of \$17.2 billion, which represents a net benefit to water contractors and state water bonds, said David Sunding of the Bay Area News Group, which conducted the study. The net benefit of the project was also estimated in 2012 dollars, said Sunding, a professor

omics at UC Berkeley.

would preserve 1 million jobs that depend on Delta  
al and agricultural sector over the next 50 years. Having  
elps the long-term economic vitality of the state,  
technology in Silicon Valley or agriculture, said Allan  
ornia Chamber of Commerce.

the new jobs, the project would create a net loss in the  
n in local water salinity, transportation and air quality,  
oss of nearly 37,000 farm jobs.

he nearly 180,000 temporary new jobs, which will be

d Monday's analysis.

da they've come out with yet," said Barbara Barrigan-  
ckton-based Restore the Delta.

emeal" approach to coming up with costs for the  
ts," she said.

e created would come at the expense of Delta farmland,  
recreational activities, such as boating and fishing,

ns director of Food & Water Watch, added: "They're  
ooks or refusing to do a real cost analysis. It's a  
ources."

ointed out that Monday's study is not required; rather it  
eing undertaken in designing the plan, informing the  
makers.

annels plan to fruition would total \$19.9 billion, \$4.8  
eration and maintenance.

a plan would be covered by water users through higher  
uld come from taxpayers by way of two future water

de farm and business leaders, along with labor unions  
ter districts. Opponents include environmentalists,  
ern California members of Congress.

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