

Delta Vision Strategic Plan

The Role and Focus of Potential Work Groups

Work groups will be formed to support the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force on specific issues related to the four areas of work undertaken to support development of a strategic plan. Those four areas are:

1. Ecosystem function: The Delta as integral part of healthy estuary
2. Reliable water supply for California
3. Delta as a unique and valued place, warranting recognition and special legal status
4. Governance and strategic finance

At this time, work groups are anticipated for the first three of these work areas; additional work groups may be created in the future.

Each work group will receive a “charge” from the Blue Ribbon Task Force. These “charges” should build directly on the 12 recommendations that are the foundation of the Task Force Vision, and borrow from the language of the Vision, which serves to help integrate the activities of the work groups.

As envisioned, work groups would be comprised of government agency staff, consultants, members of the Stakeholder Coordination Group with noted expertise on the topics under consideration, and others with similar expertise. Each work group would use a similar template for developing content on their assigned topics to make the process of integrating the elements more efficient.

The following provides an example of a work group charge, key questions to be considered by the work group and potential participants, in this case associated with the California Delta (as a unique place warranting recognition and special legal status).

The California Delta Work Group

Major topics to be addressed:

- A. Land Use
 - Legacy towns
 - Primary/Secondary zone issues
 - Agriculture
- B. Levees and Floodplains (as Part of the Statewide Water Management System)
 - Strengthen selected levees
 - Improve floodplain management
 - Improve water circulation and quality
- C. Emergency Management
- D. Recreation and Tourism
- E. Transportation
- F. Utilities
- G. Others?

Charge:

1. Identify characteristics of the Delta that warrant “recognition and special legal status”
2. Identify land use and other practices that potentially threaten the unique nature of the Delta, and strategies to reduce these threats and protect/enhance the Delta
3. Identify how best to address recreation, tourism, transportation and utilities issues, particularly in the context of the drivers of change
4. Coordinate with efforts underway to develop emergency management strategies for water supply and public safety
5. Develop a list of priority levees and the level of protection needed (in light of potential future scenarios) to help “establish priorities for strategic investment”
6. Identify opportunities and develop strategies to protect, enhance and restore floodplains, while coordinating with other initiatives addressing these issues
7. Others?

Key “Organizing Questions” to Support the Charge:

- Which characteristics that make the Delta a unique and valued area are most prone to impact from the effects of seismic activity, global warming and sea level rise? How might these characteristics be protected?
- To what extent are current authorities sufficient, or need to be augmented, to protect the unique characteristics of the Delta?
- What is the current system for making public investment decisions (new land acquisitions or capital projects, major improvements or major renovations) in the Delta and are these sufficient to provide for future changes?

- Anticipating the conditions resulting from sea level rise, a seismic event or flooding from surface water flows, how should investments be prioritized?
- How should “inappropriate development” be defined, and what options exist or are needed to discouragement this type of development?
- What options exist to offset, mitigate, plan for and address the transition from current conditions to those resulting from the identified drivers of change?
- What floodplain management practices are needed to protect investments in the Delta?

Potential Work Group Members:

- Marci Coglianese
- Tom Zuckerman
- John Cain
- Gilbert Cosio
- Curt Schmutte
- Steve LaMar
- DWR (Dave Mraz)
- Corps of Engineers
- DPC
- SACOG/ABAG
- Department of Agriculture (Ken Trott)
- Others?