

MEMO

TO: Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force

FROM: John Kirlin, Executive Director

DATE: May 31, 2008

RE: Administrative update

Events outside Delta Vision are increasing attention to the challenges of sustainable management of the Delta. A federal court has issued an adverse decision regarding the federal water projects which pump from the Delta, paralleling an earlier, similar state court decision. The latest surveys of Delta smelt found reduced populations. A memo from Keith Coolidge and Chris Stevens describes the legal actions and state responses.

Three attachments provide updates in formats seen at the April meeting. I do not consider the refinements in the proposed work flow sufficient to justify making this an action item.

1. The color figure of all Delta policy initiatives. This figure has been updated to include additional actors and current schedules of work to be delivered. Two meetings of the principals of these initiatives have been held, refining the understanding of respective roles, work products and timing. This attractive display has proven very popular and finds wide use in presentations to policy makers and others.
2. Work flow spread sheet. The topics for meetings have been refined. The upcoming July meeting will be in the Delta. It is the first of a series of two day meetings at monthly intervals. The current plans for the July meeting include working sessions emphasizing Task Force interaction with scientists and other experts on (1) ecosystem function and restoration and (2) water supply, quality and conveyance. If possible, I would like also to have a similar discussion focused on the economics of Delta functions, risks, and future alternatives, but have not yet identified individuals for such as session.
3. Work products spread sheet. Changes regarding work products are shown in italics and this report is now displayed as two pages.

The Stakeholder Coordination Group met May 23-24 and will meet again June 13-14. The implications of the latest Delta smelt survey which found few fish was a major topic of discussion at the past meeting. Members of the SCG have asked for support from scientists and other experts in a letter to Chair Isenberg and Secretary Chrisman, and how to provide appropriate support is being discussed.

In April, Task Force members urged understanding roles of the federal government in Delta policies and also developing relationships with federal agencies. Where relevant, the context papers and other research efforts are incorporating information about federal agencies and policies. There is also substantial federal involvement in DRMS (US Corps of Engineers) and in BDCP (US Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish and Wildlife Service and US National Marine

Fisheries Service). Those involved in these projects know they have a relationship to Delta Vision and the efforts to articulate relationships among the various Delta policy initiatives will clarify those relationships. I expect as visions are developed and considered by the Blue Ribbon Task Force that the representatives of federal agencies will be more directly involved. Additionally, the US Bureau of Reclamation regional office is playing a large role in developing GIS support for Delta Vision.

There is also a high level of interest in Delta Vision among legislators and the public. We do not keep a full list of such activities, contacts and presentations so this report is selective and the order of listing has no significance:

1. Meeting with Senator Steinberg and staff (Chair Isenberg; Director Snow, DWR; Kirlin)
2. Meeting with staff of Senator Simitian and Assemblyman Laird (Grindstaff, CalFed; Winternitz; Kirlin)
3. Luncheon speech, Association of California Water Agencies (Chair Isenberg)
4. Panel presentations, Association of California Water Agencies (Scarborough, Grindstaff, Kirlin)
5. Water Education Foundation (Suisun meeting: several Delta Vision/CalFed staff)
6. Restore the Delta (Twiss)
7. Briefing for Southern California Association of Governments Water Policy Task Force (Coolidge, CALFED)
8. Briefing for Suisun Resource Conservation District Landowner Workshop (Coolidge, CALFED)
9. Briefing for Regional Coordination Conference of Water Officials Serving San Geronio Pass Area Communities (Coolidge, CALFED)
10. Briefing for Water Education Foundation Central Valley Tour (Coolidge, CALFED)