

Vision for California's Delta Draft 2

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Delta Vision
Blue Ribbon Task Force
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The structure of the current draft vision

- The vision – identifies key recommendations
- Actions required to achieve this vision
 - Governance
 - Policies for resilient estuarine ecosystem
 - Policies for resilient water system
- Protect the Delta, as a valued place
- Delta levees
- Important policies outside the Delta
- Summary

Three types of recommendations in the draft vision

- 1) Set priorities by important values
- 2) Establish sound foundations
- 3) Policy framing

All are expected in EO S-17-06:

- Identify priority functions
- Provide a durable vision
- Manage a sustainable Delta serving the environment and the state economy

Set priorities

- Ecosystem function and water for human use are co equal values (environment and economy)
- California water supply is limited and must be managed well to be adequate for the future
- The Delta is a valued place which should be protected
- The Delta is an estuary and should function as a productive estuarine ecosystem
- Beneficiaries should pay
- Resilience is an important goal for ecosystems, water systems and governance

Establish sound foundations

- The reasonable use and public trust principles provide the constitutional foundation for policy making
- Effective governance is critical and requires adequate, ongoing revenues
- Incentives for action by governments, individuals, firms and non profits need to be aligned to support the vision (this includes distributions of costs and liabilities)
- Work with natural processes to achieve goals wherever possible
- Ensure robust scientific support for policy making

Frame effective policies

- California needs effective water policy within which to make decisions about water supplied from the Delta watershed and the Delta
- Comprehensive action requires joining action on major issues: conservation and construction; storage and conveyance
- Reduce reliance on levees and link levee protection levels to allowed land uses
- Design for resilient ecosystems
- Design for resilient water systems

Should vision recommendations be sorted into phases, such as 0-2 years, 3-10 years, 10 years or more? If so, how sort?

- By time of decision?
- By time of implementation?
- By contingency rule (if x, then y)?
- By requirements for joint actions in tandem or in sequence (can have tight or loose time frames)?
- By setting policy direction and rules for subsequent decisions by another body?
- ?????
- ?????

A possible revised structure of the draft vision

- The vision – key recommendations regrouped
- Setting priorities by clarifying values
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- Ensuring a durable vision by building strong foundations
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- Achieving a sustainable Delta with better policies
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- Recommendations by time phase
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