

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
Room 4139
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 319-2006
FAX (916) 319-2106

DISTRICT OFFICE
3501 Civic Center Drive
Suite 412
San Rafael, CA 94903
(415) 479-4920
FAX (415) 479-2123



Jared Huffman
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, 6TH DISTRICT

CHAIR, Environmental Safety
& Toxic Materials Committee

COMMITTEES
Appropriations
Utilities and Commerce
Water Parks and Wildlife

December 11, 2008

Honorable Mike Chrisman, Chair
Delta Vision Committee
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Strategic Vision for a Sustainable Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

Thank you for leading the cabinet committee responsible for delivering a "Strategic Vision for a Sustainable Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta" to the Governor and the Legislature. The cabinet committee's work comes at a critical time in the history of the Delta. Our most precious natural resource has changed fundamentally in recent years, with an ecosystem crisis and a federal judge taking control of state and federal water exports from the Delta. The time for bold action is now.

When the Assembly crafted SB 1574 (Kuehl) in 2006, it required your committee to present a "Strategic Vision" so the Legislature and the Governor could establish policies that would make the Delta sustainable for its many uses and resources, which are so important to California's future. While the bill allowed for a "blue-ribbon" task force, we placed the responsibility for a comprehensive vision with you and the committee that you convened. The Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force has completed a Herculean task in consulting with Delta stakeholders across the spectrum on how to create a long-term vision for the Delta. The Task Force now offers, in its vision and strategic plan, a comprehensive approach for addressing the Delta's challenges. It courageously addressed issues that have long been taboo in Delta debates. Naturally, their comprehensive plan elicits some controversy.

Now, your committee confronts the challenge of comprehensive change in the Delta. Delta agencies and stakeholders agree that our current Delta policies are unsustainable. The status quo will not work. Tinkering at the edges of Delta policy will not set a new course for how the State manages the Delta's resources. I urge the Delta Vision Committee to consider the Task Force's entire Delta Vision and strategic plan, and provide the Administration's perspective on how the State should proceed in light of the Task Force's proposals. My hopes and expectations remain high that, working together, we can craft a resolution to the Delta challenge that confronts us all.

I look forward to hearing the Delta Vision Committee's recommendations for a Strategic Vision for the Delta and how to set a new direction in Delta policy to accomplish that Strategic Vision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jared Huffman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JARED HUFFMAN

Assemblymember, 6th District

cc: Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force