



# Delta Vision



## Stakeholder Assessment Report

**Prepared for:**  
The Resources Agency  
*State of California*

**Prepared by:**  
Center for Collaborative Policy  
*California State University,  
Sacramento*

This page has been intentionally left blank.

# Table of Contents

<b>PART I. INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1. BACKGROUND .....	1
2. EXECUTIVE ORDER .....	1
3. NEED FOR A DIFFERENT APPROACH.....	2
4. ANTICIPATED KEY PRODUCTS .....	3
<b>PART II. ASSESSMENT PURPOSE AND METHODOLOY .....</b>	<b>5</b>
1. PURPOSE .....	5
2. METHODOLOGY .....	5
<b>PART III. FINDINGS FROM STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS.....</b>	<b>7</b>
1. STAKEHOLDER INTERESTS .....	7
A. <i>Interests by Stakeholder Types/Groups</i> .....	8
B. <i>Interests by Region</i> .....	10
C. <i>Shared Interests</i> .....	12
2. COMPONENTS OF A VISION FOR THE DELTA.....	14
3. KEY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN DEVELOPING A VISION(S).....	17
A. <i>Flood Protection and Levees</i> .....	17
B. <i>Water Supply, Quality and Conveyance</i> .....	18
C. <i>Peripheral Canal</i> .....	20
D. <i>Ecosystem and Native Species Health</i> .....	21
E. <i>Land Use and Urban Development</i> .....	22
F. <i>Financing</i> .....	24
G. <i>Governance and Management</i> .....	25
H. <i>Business, Jobs and Economic Vitality</i> .....	26
I. <i>Infrastructure and Security</i> .....	27
J. <i>Recreation</i> .....	28
4. STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES ON THE DELTA VISION PROCESS .....	28
A. <i>Stakeholder Skepticism</i> .....	29
B. <i>Stakeholder Commitment</i> .....	30
C. <i>Stakeholder Process Advice</i> .....	30
5. IDENTIFIED DATA AND INFORMATIONAL NEEDS.....	31
<b>PART IV. CONCLUSIONS ABOUT CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESS.....</b>	<b>35</b>
1. CREATING THE CONTEXT FOR SUCCESS.....	35
2. CREATING THE CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESS .....	36
3. FOCUSING THE CONVERSATION FOR SUCCESS .....	39
<b>PART V. DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS.....</b>	<b>43</b>
1. STAKEHOLDER MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA AND COMMITMENTS .....	44
2. SCG STRUCTURE AND APPROACH .....	45
3. DECISION MAKING.....	47
4. INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGES .....	48
5. GENERAL TIMELINES AND CRITICAL PATH.....	48
6. FORMATION OF LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS .....	51
7. KEY DELIVERABLES.....	52
8. INCORPORATE A CHECK-POINT FOR CONTINUING THE STAKEHOLDER PROCESS .....	52



**APPENDIX I-1. EXECUTIVE ORDER S-17-06.....53**  
**APPENDIX I-2. CHARGE TO THE STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION GROUP.....57**  
**APPENDIX II-1. STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT INTERVIEW QUESTIONS .....59**  
**APPENDIX II-2. STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT INTERVIEWEES .....61**  
**APPENDIX II-3. WATER RESEARCH FOUNDATION – DELTA VISION WORKSHOP**  
**ROUNDTABLE QUESTIONS.....63**  
**APPENDIX III-1. DELTA VISION – RELATED PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES.....68**



# PART I. INTRODUCTION

## 1. Background

The California Delta (Delta), composed of the San Francisco Bay-Sacramento/San Joaquin River delta system, including Suisun Marsh, is of local, state and national importance. The Delta sustains more than:

- 500,000 residents
- 300,000 acres of agriculture
- 750 plant and animal species

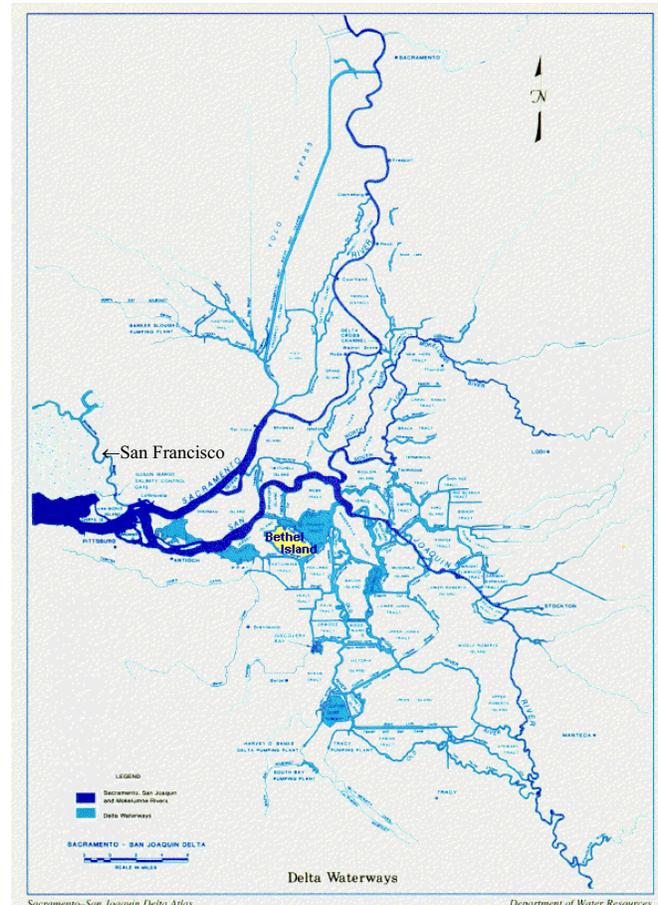
The area contains vital energy, communications and transportation infrastructure. It also provides water for more than 23 million Californians and 7 million irrigated acres agriculture. A viable Delta is essential to the economic health and well being of California.

Recent events such as Hurricane Katrina's devastation in the Mississippi Delta and New Orleans, the 2006 New Year's Day "flood fight" and the heightened awareness about the implications of levee breaks elevate concern about the Delta. These concerns are added to potential risks from earthquakes and sea level rise due to global warming. Coupled with a growing regional population, many consider the evolving situation a recipe for disaster.

Focus on the Delta is not new. Since 1994, CalFed (a joint state-federal effort) has coordinated management and regulatory responsibility in the Bay-Delta Estuary. CalFed emerged from water crises of the 1990s. It was seen as an alternative to the costly and time-consuming legal wrangling amongst Delta interests. CalFed sought to address many of the long-standing challenges facing the Delta. Even so, growing dissatisfaction with the pace and extent of CalFed progress, and continuing and evolving threats to the Delta, led to a new call to action.

## 2. Executive Order

On September 28, 2006 Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed Executive Order S-17-06 (*see Appendix I-1*). The order established a Delta Vision Committee (Committee), a Blue Ribbon Task Force (Task Force) and a Stakeholder Coordination Group (SCG) to help develop a Delta vision and strategic plan. The Legislature has passed measures targeting the Delta as well.



Assembly Bill (AB) 1200 calls for a risk analysis of Delta threats, and strategies for risk reduction. AB 1803 and Senate Bill (SB) 1574 call for the development of a long-term vision and strategic plan for the Delta.

The Task Force will involve the public and stakeholders in the process of creating a Delta Vision. Task Force recommendations on a Vision for the Delta are due by January 2008. Recommendations on the Strategic Plan are due by October 31, 2008. The Vision will consider activities, natural values and management practices considered critical for sustaining long term Delta functions and values. The Strategic Plan will consider and evaluate a range of management practices necessary to implement the Vision. Strategies could include changes in:

- Land and water resources management
- Regulations and statutes
- Approaches to governance (including creating new institutions or re-organizing existing institutions)
- Funding mechanisms
- Environmental management practices

SCG members, named by the Committee, will ensure the various interests and major stakeholders in the Delta have a voice in the process. The SCG is intended to develop potential Delta Vision options and guidance for consideration by the Task Force and the Committee. The Task Force will provide its recommendations to the Committee. The Committee will then submit findings and recommendations to the Governor and Legislature.

### 3. Need for a Different Approach

Most leading policy makers recognize creating a broadly supported vision and strategic plan will not be easy. Many question how these new initiatives could be any more effective than CalFed and numerous other well conceived efforts. Yet most acknowledge that to achieve long-term, sustainable solutions to maintaining the health and functions of the Delta new approaches are needed and tough decisions will likely need to be made.

The challenge of creating and implementing a sustainable Vision and Strategic Plan, in large part, is associated with the numerous functions of and demands on the Delta. For Delta residents, a healthy agricultural economy, emergency preparedness and flood control are paramount. The Bay Area relies on Delta freshwater flows for both water supply and water quality. Pipelines, utilities and other infrastructure in the Delta deliver needed resources. The San Joaquin Valley utilizes Northern California water, conveyed through the Delta, for a major portion of its water supply. This water fuels important agricultural production in the Central

- **Blue Ribbon Task Force** - High level, fully independent review body. *(Appointed by the Governor)*
- **Delta Vision Committee** - Executive Branch Steering Committee for the Delta Vision Initiative. *(Composed of the Secretary of the Resources Agency as chair, and the Secretaries of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, Department of Food and Agriculture, and California Environmental Protection Agency, as well as the President of the PUC)*
- **Stakeholder Coordination Group** - Advisory group composed of key interest-group representatives. *(Selected by the Delta Vision Committee)*

Valley. Southern California depends on Delta water conveyance for much of its drinking water supply, which is a key component of the regional economy. Bay-Delta ecosystem health is an issue of national importance. And, the Delta provides recreational opportunities utilized by people from throughout the state.

The approach advanced by the Executive Order to address issues of Delta sustainability (and responsive to the legislation noted previously) builds around an “independent” Task Force model. In large part this is based on a presumption that consensus among stakeholder is not highly probable. As such, the Task Force is given the task of transcending individual needs and interests by considering the Delta from a holistic policy perspective and recommending decisions necessary to create a sustainable Delta, keeping in mind the local, state and national interests represented in the Delta.

In addition, an effort is being made to help create a stronger “objective” basis for decision making. The Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS), an outgrowth of AB 1200, will provide the most detailed and complete technical, engineering and scientific analysis of risks to the Delta to date. DRMS, supported by numerous technical studies, will provide a risk reduction assessment and inform decision makers regarding next steps necessary for Delta long-term stability.

The Executive Order also creates opportunities for local governments and other stakeholders to engage actively in developing a Vision for the Delta. Most stakeholders recognize that to move past the “gridlock” of past Delta-related decision making, new approaches to finding solutions and creating effective partnerships will be needed. Stakeholders suggest this will involve stronger leadership at the top levels of state and federal government in addition to engaging in a new type of conversation.

The Delta Vision initiative will allow all levels of government, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and communities to “connect the dots” and work together. The goal is to forge effective solutions to the myriad challenges facing the Delta. Without new decision-making models, new information and a new willingness to take a holistic, balanced and non-Delta centric approach to solving Delta issues, most believe past mistakes and adversarial approaches will continue.

## **4. Anticipated Key Products**

The SCG portion of the Delta Vision initiative is designed to deliver the following key products as described in the charge from the Delta Vision Committee to the SCG (See Appendix I-2):

1. The Stakeholder Coordination Group shall develop alternative visions for the Delta addressing the substantive topics identified in the Executive Order. In particular, visions should address the following four factors:
  - A) The potential impacts of natural disasters, including floods, earthquakes and global warming on the Delta;

- B) The current and future impacts of residential, commercial and other development on the Delta;
- C) The ability of the Delta to continue to exist as a vital environmental resource for California;
- D) The ability of the Delta to continue to provide a statewide supply of water, of high quality, for residents, businesses and agriculture.

The visions should be developed to the extent that needed public policies are identifiable, but need not be developed to the point of specific assignment of responsibilities to any government, existing or needed statutory authority, administrative arrangements or financing.

These proposals shall be delivered to the Blue Ribbon Task Force by August 2007. The proposals will be considered in the deliberations of the Blue Ribbon Task Force as it develops recommendations for the draft Delta Vision Report.

2. After the Task Force releases its Final Delta Vision Report, the Stakeholder Coordination Group will develop recommendations for implementing the vision(s). By June 2008 the Group will submit its recommendations to the Task Force for consideration in developing the draft Strategic Plan.
3. The Stakeholder Coordination Group will respond to the best of its abilities to requests by the Blue Ribbon Task Force or the Delta Vision Committee for input or specific work products.

# PART II. ASSESSMENT PURPOSE AND METHODOLOGY

## 1. Purpose

The primary purposes or objectives of this Stakeholder Assessment conducted by the Center for Collaborative Policy on behalf of the Resources Agency are to:

- 1) Provide a greater understanding of perspectives, visions, interests and values held by various Delta stakeholders
- 2) Allow key stakeholders to express their views in the planning phase of the Delta Vision initiative
- 3) Identify common interests, areas of agreement and areas of disagreement
- 4) Provide independent recommendations on the range of strategies and tools that might be employed to ensure effective public deliberations
- 5) Refine understanding of the *interests* of stakeholders, rather than stated *positions*, as the basis for developing implementable strategies for a sustainable Delta
- 6) Ensure a broad range of interests are incorporated into the process for developing the Delta Vision and Delta Strategic Plan.
- 7) Assess the feasibility of and possible approaches to engaging stakeholders in the Delta Vision initiative in a meaningful and effective manner.

## 2. Methodology

The Center used three primary information sources to gather information:

1. Interviews with more than 75 key leaders and stakeholders throughout the State and Delta region
2. Roundtable discussions at the June 2006 Delta Vision conference (co-sponsored by the University of the Pacific and the Water Education Foundation)
3. Roundtable discussions at the November 2006 Water Education Foundation conference in Los Angeles.

Seven Center staff conducted interviews, with individual sessions averaging one hour. Those interviewed as part of the Assessment represented various interests, including:

- Landowners
- Government agency officials
- Elected officials
- Business
- Labor
- Agriculture
- Environmental
- Community and public interest leaders
- Water agencies
- Organizations with Delta infrastructure

For the interviews, representatives were drawn from different regions and stakeholder groups throughout the state. Questions posed as part of the stakeholder interview process were divided into five parts:

- Part 1. Experience/Values/Interests Related to the Delta
- Part 2. Interest Group Dynamics
- Part 3. Information and Uncertainty
- Part 4. Decision Making Challenges
- Part 5. Proposed Approach to Creating a Delta Vision and Strategic Plan

Responses to these questions were then used to compile and analyze stakeholder input on:

- **Issues:** the problems, disputes or conflicts
- **Positions:** the publicly promoted or held views on the issues
- **Interests :** the tangible and intangible values which are often behind public positions
- **Perspectives:** key thoughts about how the issues can or should be solved.

Trends such as common interests, areas of agreement and potential disagreement, data needs and data gaps are highlighted, as well as observations about how to proceed with the Delta Vision initiative. The interview questions and list of interviewees are contained in Appendices II-1 and 2. Results from the interviews were analyzed and are summarized in this report.

Information from the June 2006 conference was obtained from round table discussions among more than 150 people given five discussion questions. Each table included about 8 people representing a variety of interests. Each table identified a recorder who took detailed notes which were then summarized.

The November 2006 workshop, attended by about 120 people, focused primarily on the views and understanding of the Delta from individuals and organizations in Southern California. Each table had a recorder who took detailed notes.

Appendix II-3 contains the questions posed to roundtable participants at the two workshops. Summaries of the presentations and discussions from these workshops can be found on the Water Education Foundation website, [www.water-ed.org](http://www.water-ed.org).

## PART III. FINDINGS FROM STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Based on the analyses and findings from the stakeholder interviews, and given the purposes of this Assessment, outcomes were separated into four categories:

1. Stakeholder Interests (by group, region and common interests)
2. Components of a Vision for the Delta
3. Key Issues to be Addressed in Developing a Vision
4. Delta Vision and Stakeholder Process

The insights gained from the Assessment were then used to structure the conclusions and process recommendations offered in Parts IV and V.

### 1. Stakeholder Interests

Given the wide array of parties involved with the Delta, it was not surprising to find a diverse assortment of interests. In the past these interests have often been translated into strongly held public positions or preferences. Some believe these strong positions have had a “chilling effect” on deliberations to explore a broader array of “integrated” solutions, and pitted one group or region against another.

Longstanding conflict also exists, in part, because:

- 1) a lack of shared meaning or agreement exists on Delta problems, or the extent of those problems
- 2) identified issues and problems are complex, making solutions difficult to craft
- 3) solutions require major public investments
- 4) resources have often been articulated in “in zero-sum terms” (a gain by one interest is seen as a corresponding loss for another)
- 5) discussions have often focused more on singular solutions (e.g., a peripheral canal) than comprehensive, interest-based solutions.

Focusing on interests is the primary building block of collaborative problem solving. It focuses on the “why” behind positions, and is the basis for creative problem solving and finding solutions that address multiple interests. An interests-based approach is more likely to lead to breakthroughs that will provide broad support for potential Visions of the Delta, and the strategic plan that will lead to implementation.

To help organize and highlight the wide array of stakeholder interests in the Delta, this assessment summarizes key interests by stakeholder types/groups and regions. To guard against over simplification, it should be noted that issues and interests within a similar stakeholder group

(e.g., environmental, water contractors, Delta growers) or region are not necessarily the same. For example, some Delta farmers see inevitable changes in Delta agriculture, yet others think the current configuration can be maintained. Some in and around the Delta believe levees can be maintained indefinitely yet others believe this will not be possible. Some environmental organizations see potential value in an isolated water conveyance facility, yet others have major concerns. Some water conveyors and agriculture representatives can support land retirement under certain circumstances yet some do not see this as a viable solution. These kinds of variations are incorporated into the findings and conclusions of the assessment.

## **A. Interests by Stakeholder Types/Groups**

The interview process identified 12 primary Delta interest groupings:

- |                          |                                      |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Agricultural          | 6. Infrastructure Owner/<br>Operator | 10. State Government                     |
| 2. Business and Industry | 7. Labor                             | 11. Tribal                               |
| 3. Environmental         | 8. Local Government                  | 12. Water Contractor/<br>Purveyor/Agency |
| 4. Environmental Justice | 9. Recreation                        |  |
| 5. Federal Government    |                                      |  |

The interests noted below are not exhaustive. Rather, they represent the key interests expressed during the interviews:

- Agricultural interests:
  - √ Maintain a strong agricultural economy
  - √ Ensure sufficient water supply and water quality to support desired crops
  - √ Protect grower’s investments (which in the Delta includes maintaining levees)
  - √ Continue agricultural “lifestyles” where there is a long history of agricultural production
  - √ Protection of property rights
  
- Business and Industry interests:
  - √ Health of agriculture and other job and revenue generating businesses
  - √ Ensure sufficient water supply reliability and quality to support current and future business interests supported by the Delta
  - √ Ensure a sound and adequately protected infrastructure, the lack of which would cause major disruptions in transportation of goods and services
  - √ Protect the channels and levees that support shipping and other maritime-related industries
  - √ Enhance opportunities for tourism
  
- Environmental interests:
  - √ A healthy Delta ecosystem, including aquatic species, birds and other wildlife
  - √ Efficient water use (stressing the importance of conservation and recycling)
  - √ Efficient energy use which reduces greenhouse effects
  - √ Sustainable agricultural practices
  - √ Sustainable natural resource management strategies

- Environmental Justice interests:
  - √ Provide good quality drinking water for all communities, including disadvantaged communities and communities of color
  - √ Ensure any solutions to Delta issues do not disproportionately impact disadvantaged communities and communities of color
  - √ Allow early participation in the siting process of any projects that might affect disadvantaged communities or communities of color
  - √ Ensure land use and development decisions do not adversely affect disadvantaged communities and communities of color
  - √ Support businesses which provide accessible job opportunities
  
- Federal Government interests:
  - √ Meet agency mandates and responsibilities
  - √ Protect threatened and endangered species
  - √ Ensure water conveyance associated with the federal Central Valley Project
  - √ Protect levees associated with the federal Central Valley Project
  
- Infrastructure Owner and Operator interests:
  - √ Ensure ongoing viability and security of infrastructure, including pipelines, utility transmission, rail lines and roads
  - √ Protect investments
  - √ Promote cooperation of local, state and federal agencies and governments in planning infrastructure
  
- Labor interests:
  - √ Maintain jobs associated with agriculture, maritime, construction and other businesses supported by the Delta
  - √ Support decisions that lead to affordable housing and other quality of life standards
  
- Local Government interests:
  - √ Maintain local control over land use and related decisions that affect economic development and quality of life for residents
  - √ Protect communities from floods
  - √ Assure adequate emergency responses during flood events
  - √ Sufficient local revenues to support local government and associated service provision
  
- Recreation interests:
  - √ Maintain and enhance opportunities for boating, fishing and hunting
  - √ Ensure levee maintenance and other management operations do not impede or diminish recreational opportunities
  - √ Maintain good water quality and healthy ecosystem to support fishing and hunting
  
- State Government interests:
  - √ Find fiscally feasible, lasting solutions for Delta challenges

- √ Protect state interests in the Delta habitat, protected species, recreation, water quality, water supply, maintenance and operation of the State Water Project, and the Public Trust doctrine
  - √ Reduce flood and fiscal liability risks associated with local government land use and development decisions
  - √ Support all the State’s regions in achieving interest-based solutions through the Delta Vision and Strategic Plan process
  - √ Develop more effective partnerships across state agencies as well as with federal agencies
- Tribal interests:
    - √ Protect healthy fisheries throughout and upstream of the Delta
    - √ Protect other cultural values in and associated with the Delta
    - √ Have a voice in decisions that affect tribal interests in and around the Delta
  - Water Purveyor interests:
    - √ Continue reliability, quality and security of water supply
    - √ Ensure adequate protection of water supply during drought and other potentially “catastrophic” conditions
    - √ Provide for anticipated future water demands
    - √ Keep the cost of water as low as possible
    - √ Meet the needs of customers
    - √ Protect water conveyance infrastructure

Many of those interviewed believe they understand the issues of concern to different groups. They also suggested the key to a successful Delta Vision initiative will be to move groups past the familiar positional rhetoric and past animosities, and work together towards innovative, package solutions.

Many stakeholders believe past Delta decisions focused too narrowly on the interests of just water districts or environmental organizations. Some suggested critical solutions were crafted “behind closed doors,” among only a handful of agencies and organizations. Interests as diverse as agriculture, business, industry, environmental justice, and tribes reported a lack of representation, or under-representation, as a problem in previous Delta efforts. They emphasized the Delta Vision process should be more inclusive and transparent.

## **B. Interests by Region**

Many regions and sub-regions of the state have critical links to the Delta. These more geographically- based interests are categorized into the following five clusters:

1. Statewide and General
2. Delta
3. Central Valley
4. Bay Area
5. Southern California

### Statewide and General Interests

Many of those interviewed highlighted the Delta's large-scale statewide economic benefits. This included resources and services provided by the Delta and particularly the Delta as a water conveyance system. Others articulated statewide interests more broadly, noting the general public benefits of water, transportation, goods movement, environment, recreation or agriculture.

Many articulated a need for state leaders to answer the following question: "Does the state want to maintain the current economic system supported by the Delta?" If so, the view of most is that investments in water facilities – and everything required to keep those facilities secure – must follow.

Upstream Delta interests focused on fish passage and issues related to surface storage, while many suggest long-term solutions for the Delta must include improved upstream development and flood control practices.

Some emphasize a Delta Vision process is inherently political and should be structured carefully from the outset to educate the public and prepare for a statewide political solution, either in the Legislature or at the ballot box in the form of an initiative. Most stakeholders believe long-term financial investments will be needed to achieve secure water supply.

### Delta Interests

Delta residents, landowners and farmers largely focused on the agrarian character of the Delta. Residents wish to maintain the quality of life that initially attracted them to the region. Local public agencies are concerned about maintaining a balance among agricultural, environmental and recreational activities while preserving the ability to appropriately develop lands for residential and commercial purposes. Adequate, high quality water supply is also important to support Delta agricultural activities.

Emergency preparedness and management is a major concern for those who live and work in and around the Delta. Long-term levee stability, maintenance and improvements are an essential component of protecting the Delta, its residents and its economy.

The economic vitality of the Delta is also a major interest. Delta ports play an important role by linking to the Bay Area maritime industry. The Port of Oakland has become increasingly dependent on inland ports for overflow traffic. The ports also see a role for themselves in reducing truck traffic and providing a direct link to Central Valley markets.

### Central Valley Interests

Central Valley stakeholders articulate a strong relationship among water, agriculture, development and economic interests. As an example, Central Valley water agencies give high priority to assuring dependable water conveyance systems to support agricultural

water users. Agricultural water quality, especially salinity levels, is a major concern. Some water agencies are also interested in being able to transfer water to other uses, such as development inside and potentially outside of the region. The sale of water is seen by some as an opportunity to generate revenues and enhance other economic goals. Many farming communities, and those employed in the agricultural industry, rely on Delta water and as such have a major interest in water supply issues.

### Bay Area Interests

Most Bay Area stakeholders emphasize the importance of Delta ecosystem health to the San Francisco Bay and the Bay Area economy. Many think about the Delta as one cohesive estuarine system directly tied to the Bay that, as such, should not be artificially divided. They see the future health of the Bay as directly dependent on the Delta's freshwater inflows and the management of the brackish wetlands of Suisun Marsh.

Many stakeholders are concerned about potential economic impacts in the event of Delta levee failures or loss of utility and transportation corridors from catastrophic events. The Bay Area water districts further emphasized the primacy of water flows and environmental health.

Many Bay Area representatives believe they have been underrepresented in past Delta processes, especially those directly linked to the economy of the Bay-Delta region and whose economic vitality depends on activities in the Delta.

### Southern California Interests

Southern California depends on the State Water Project for a large portion of its municipal and industrial water supplies. Perhaps the primary Southern California concern is for water supplies to be secure, with a particular interest in the impacts of a catastrophic failure to the Delta water conveyance system. This is essential not only to water supply but the economic health of the region.

Many stated the need for the general public, local government officials and businesses, to realize the importance of the Delta to the future of their region and understand the implications of changes to the Delta.

## **C. Shared Interests**

While the wide divergence of interests must not be dismissed, there are also numerous shared interests and perspectives. Among the various shared interests, the following are noteworthy:

- Long-term eco-system sustainability
- Water quality and supply reliability
- Statewide/Delta economic health
- Prevention/planning for catastrophic failure
- Governance/decision making
- Financing

## **Ensuring Long-Term Sustainability of the Delta Ecosystem**

Most acknowledge that the Delta is a natural resource of state and even national importance. As such, ensuring the health of the Delta estuarine ecosystem is a widely-shared interest and considered essential to any vision for the Delta. Respondents generally suggested that while the Delta is now in many ways a highly engineered system, future health rests with supporting a more natural regime of estuarine processes. This includes minimizing detrimental impacts associated with human activities. Regardless of how various stakeholders define their interests or the public benefit, most concur that sustaining the ecosystem health of the Delta will require ongoing sources of public and/or user funding as well as modifications in the current management of water flow through the Delta.

## **Maintaining Water Quality and Supply Reliability**

Whether for agriculture, water export, native fisheries, recreation, drinking water or other uses, every group shares an interest in maintaining water quality in and through the Delta. Similarly, every constituency has an interest in seeing that the water supply is carefully and consistently managed to ensure water is available for their desired purposes. Differences exist, however, in determining how much water is withdrawn from the Delta, and for what purposes. So while reliability and quality are a shared interest, the associated relationships to the location and amount of exports remains an area of divergence.

## **Sustaining the Delta as a Vital Part of the Regional and State Economy**

The economic value of the Delta is widely acknowledged, both regionally and statewide, and is a shared interest among most interviewed. Nearly all groups have an interest in ensuring the economic vitality of the Delta as well as those uses, systems and other regions supported by the Delta. Differences exist, however, in the scale and type of economic uses envisioned for the Delta.

## **Preventing and Planning for Catastrophic Failure of the Delta System**

Another nearly universally shared interest is in preventing a massive breakdown in Delta services resulting from floods, earthquakes, major levee failure, sea level rise or other events. Associated with this is a shared interest in ensuring alternatives for water supply, transportation and other essential infrastructure, as well as the safety and well being of Delta residents should disaster strike. Most recognize, and express an interest in, the need for an emergency management and preparedness plan for the Delta.

## **Improving Governance and Decision Making**

Another commonly expressed interest is the desire for stronger leadership and a better system of decision making related to Delta issues. Stakeholders wish to see the Delta Vision process succeed in making decisions, crafting effective policies and taking actions to support the future of the Delta. Not only is this viewed as essential for the Delta, but many present this as an

interest in ensuring that stakeholder’s time is well spent in the working through the Delta Vision process.

### **Ensuring Implementation by Addressing Financing**

Although there are wide variations in an envisioned Delta future, a common interest is in ensuring implementation. And most believe that without a source of viable, ongoing funding, the Delta Vision process and recommendations have little chance of producing meaningful outcomes. The issue to be resolved is how to ensure the needed financing.

## **2. Components of a Vision for the Delta**

Stakeholders articulated a broad array of visions for the Delta, largely reflecting their values or interests in the Delta. These different views help identify the components of a vision for the Delta that will likely need be incorporated to receive broad support from a cross-section of stakeholder and interest groups. These visions also provide insight into how various stakeholders conceive of a sustainable Delta.

Within the large range of visions expressed, two fundamental yet opposing views of the Delta emerge:

- |   |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. With certain management strategies in place, the Delta can be essentially sustained indefinitely as it is today.</li><li>II. There are too many demands, too many risks, too many inevitable changes and not sufficient resources to maintain the current Delta. As such, the “status quo” and “business as usual” are unsustainable and something new must occur.</li></ol> |
|---|

Although few believe the Delta can be sustained in its current configuration with existing levels of funding, those who hold this point of view are strongly committed to it. Yet with the decline in the health of the Delta ecosystem, even most of those who believe the land mass might be sustained concur that other changes are needed (e.g., amounts of water pumped from the Delta).

Numerous efforts have been recently undertaken to help define a realistic Vision for a sustainable Delta. This includes scenarios developed by Mount, Twiss and Adams (“The Role of Science in the Delta Visioning Process”) and more recently by the Public Policy Institute of California. Also, the University of the Pacific has spearheaded efforts to address Delta issues, and groups such as Restore the Delta have been formed to create a forum for discussions about the future of the Delta. The Delta Vision stakeholder process will need to integrate the information from these as well as other efforts (such as the Delta Risk Management Strategy) aimed at crafting possible solutions to the challenges facing the Delta.

Stakeholders interviewed as part of the Assessment also have their views about possible visions for the Delta. From these views, various components of a vision can be identified that should be

addressed in developing a vision for a sustainable Delta. These components can be categorized into ten general themes:

1. Environmental realities and natural processes
2. Maintained agricultural Delta
3. Economic health
4. Essential infrastructure
5. Re-engineered Delta
6. Urban development
7. Recreation, eco-tourism and habitat protection.
8. Public lands
9. Isolated water conveyance facility
10. Restoration and healthy ecosystem

Some but not all of these components are mutually exclusive, so ways to accommodate the countervailing visions will need to be explored in the Delta Vision stakeholder process.

- 1) Environmental realities and natural processes: The Delta should be allowed to function as a natural estuarine system, permitting more natural fluctuations in flows and salinity, ensuring its contribution to the health of the Bay/Delta ecosystem. This focuses on the environmental realities and natural processes affecting the Delta. Solutions should identify and adapt to the natural forces of change.
- 2) Maintained agricultural Delta: Current conditions, with a predominance of agriculture in the Delta, should be sustained. This can be accomplished even at the scale of a three foot rise in sea level over the next 50 years. Sufficient funding should be made available to maintain the current levee system.
- 3) Economic health: The Delta's economic functions and infrastructure should be sustained and continue to support the state's economy. Given the statewide nature of the Delta, economic considerations should be part of Delta solutions, including compensation or other approaches to address one-sided economic losses made for a statewide benefit.
- 4) Essential infrastructure: The essential infrastructure is the top priority, including a fully sustainable water conveyance system. Critical roads and infrastructure should be protected, even if that means encroaching on agricultural or other uses.
- 5) Re-engineered Delta: Some levees and islands should be transitioned to wetlands and marsh, while others critical to the hydrodynamics of the Delta should be armored and maintained. (Some believe this means "sacrificing" the Western portion of the Delta to save the Eastern portion, whereas others believe armoring the Western edge of the Delta is critical to ensuring excessive salt water intrusion into the Delta does not occur.)
- 6) Urban development: A] Delta communities may need to turn to urban development as the basis for sustaining the Delta economy. With proper planning, urban growth as an essential feature of the regional economy can coexist with agriculture over the long-term.

Urban development: B] Increasing urban development is a major threat to existing uses in the Delta and its sustainability. Flood liability cannot be ignored, and the State must take action to protect itself from liability created by poor land use decisions.

- 7) Recreation, eco-tourism and habitat protection: The vision should feature recreation, eco-tourism and habitat protection. It is an “oasis” of undeveloped land surrounded on all sides by increasingly dense development. The Delta offers a treasure for people throughout the region to be able to experience an undeveloped, natural area in close proximity.
- 8) Public lands: The Delta should be “purchased” and sustained as public lands through either the state or national park system. Some of the Delta would revert to more natural characteristics of an estuarine system while parts of the Delta would be maintained for infrastructure, recreation, agriculture or other compatible uses. Legacy towns and other historic features of the Delta would receive protection similar to the national register of historic places.
- 9) Isolated water conveyance facility: To ensure a reliable water supply from Northern California to the Central Valley and Southern California, and to reduce impacts to the Delta ecosystem, an isolated water conveyance facility should be employed. This option provides security against emerging threats (e.g., sea level rise, global warming, and earthquakes).
- 10) Restoration and healthy ecosystem: Habitat restoration and a healthy ecosystem are the top priority. This vision would allow some Delta use for flood control and reversion to more natural qualities (e.g., wetlands). Water exports would be reduced, urban and agricultural conservation maximized, and alternative sources of water supply developed.

#### *Four Key Vision Factors*

From the analysis of stakeholder interviews, four major observations were prevalent. These may well serve as a logical starting point for developing a vision for the Delta. While there was not unanimous concurrence with these observations, most believe these are major drivers for a Delta Vision:

- ◆ The Delta ecosystem is deteriorating. A variety of changes are needed if a healthy ecosystem is to be maintained.
- ◆ Water conveyance needs to be managed differently, whether responding to threats, reliability needs or ecosystem health.
- ◆ Development pressures and changing land use in the Delta, unless tempered, will change the face of the Delta.
- ◆ The current levee/island system in the Delta cannot be maintained indefinitely given global warming, economic considerations and other likely threats and future conditions.

### 3. Key Issues to be Addressed in Developing a Vision(s)

Stakeholders were asked to outline the issues they believe must be discussed in the Delta Vision process. For most, existing and future risks represent another critical driving force behind the Delta Vision initiative.

#### Risk Factors

The Resources Agency has highlighted six major factors, based on numerous recent scientific and engineering studies, which are likely to intensify future risks in the Delta:

- 1) Subsidence
- 2) Sea level rise
- 3) Regional climate change
- 4) Seismicity
- 5) Exotic species and ecosystem change
- 6) Population growth and urbanization

When asked about risk factors, those interviewed identified a similar series of critical issues. Most stakeholders believe more risk information is needed, along with possible strategies for reducing risks. Projects already underway, such as the Delta Risk Management Strategy, will help address this stakeholder request.

In addition to risks, stakeholders were asked to outline other issues they believe must be addressed in a vision for the Delta. These issue areas, which closely parallel the major topics of concern listed in the Governor's Executive Order, are:

- 1) Flood protection and levees
- 2) Water supply, quality and conveyance
- 3) Isolated water conveyance facility (peripheral canal)
- 4) Ecosystem and native species health
- 5) Land use and urban development
- 6) Financing
- 7) Governance and management
- 8) Business, jobs and economic vitality
- 9) Recreation
- 10) Infrastructure and security

Following is a summary of stakeholder comments organized by these topics, with associated key issues, perspectives and questions.

#### **A. Flood Protection and Levees**

The levees and islands create the literal building blocks of the Delta. Stakeholders identified the following key issues for discussion.

- Risk to levees from floods, earthquakes and sea level rise
- Cost of maintaining levees
- Levees and flood liability

Stakeholder views on these topics include:

- The Delta can be sustained as is, with the levees maintained and even raised to keep up with sea level rise (assuming the order of 3 feet over a 50 year period)
- Many islands will not be able to be fortified due to underlying soils (peat) which will continue to compress
- Decisions will be needed on which levees can be “sacrificed” and which “must be” protected for overall stability and function
- There will not be enough funds in the future to either sufficiently armor all levees or repair them in case of levee breaks
- People need to be prepared to lose some islands in the future due to flooding which is why “priority levees” need to be identified
- If the cost of reclaiming an island is more than the cost to buy the land -how can the state justify the use of public funds unless it is a “must protect” island?
- The process of assessing the cost of reclaiming islands must include an assessment of the overall impact to the Delta economy

### ***Common Ground***

Most of those interviewed agree that not all levees and islands are equal. Some are more vulnerable and some are more valuable. Some levees are less conducive to long-term strengthening. Some islands play a more important role in the overall sustainability than others given their location and relationship to Delta hydrodynamics.

### ***Key Discussion Questions***

1. Which islands are most vulnerable based on their location, substrate of their levees, etc.?
2. Which islands must be protected given their importance to the hydrodynamics in the Delta, infrastructure or other considerations?

## **B. Water Supply, Quality and Conveyance**

Because of natural and man-made dependencies, water supply, quality and conveyance are critical issues. Specific interrelationships exist with levee locations and viability. Levee failures in some locations may allow saltier water to migrate upstream and adversely affect water quality. This in term would interrupt water exports for potentially lengthy periods of time. Management of other issues, particularly water intake locations and amounts, may affect natural systems such

as fisheries and habitat. Water exports and conveyance through the Delta is one of the most critical and complex issue to address in a durable vision for the Delta.

Stakeholders identified the following key issues for discussion.

- Water conveyance options, including through Delta, an “isolated facility” and dual conveyance
- Planning for and mitigating supply interruption

Stakeholder views on these topics include:

- It is possible to both sustain current Delta attributes and increase water supply reliability through use of an upstream “isolated” facility rather than “through-Delta” diversion
- Upstream water supply diversion is not acceptable when considering sustainability of current Delta levee maintenance, the current mix of agricultural uses and other water withdrawals
- Some water withdrawals from the Delta are acceptable, just not at the current rate; the “baseline” and maximum acceptable withdrawals need to be recalculated
- Solutions to the water conveyance issues should be sought “outside” the Delta, such as greatly expanded water conservation and recycling measures in other regions, enhanced agricultural water use efficiency in the Delta and Central Valley, and differentiating between water supply for drinking water and other uses
- State and federal water contracts cannot be supported by the underlying ecosystem and are incompatible with other upstream rights and demands, such as protected fish species and Native American treaty rights
- The system should be continued as is, with appropriate modifications to address ecosystem health issues
- The best solution is a dual conveyance system, which continues to provide for the water needed for the Delta and Bay area, but also utilizes an isolated facility to increase reliability for the Central Valley and Southern California water supply needs
- An isolated facility is a way to resolve some environmental concerns associated with the “through Delta” conveyance and pumping, and also create a more reliable supply of exported water

### ***Common Ground:***

There is broad agreement that, while not fully understood, pumping Delta water at current levels contributes to the decline of some aquatic species. Other water supply, water conveyance and water withdrawal options need to be part of the Delta Vision discussion.

### ***Key Discussion Questions:***

1. What are the viable solutions to improving water supply reliability to the Central Valley and Southern California?
2. How much can conservation, reuse and other water demand reduction strategies be counted on to address water export concerns?

## **C. Peripheral Canal**

Given the water conveyance issues, those interviewed frequently mentioned the “peripheral canal” issue. There was substantial reference to previous political attempts to build a canal and the charged nature of the topic.

Stakeholders identified the following key issues for discussion.

- Whether, or the extent to which, the issue should be addressed in the Delta Vision process
- How an isolated facility could be designed and implemented to address the potential benefits and concerns identified

Stakeholder views on these topics include:

- The entire Delta Vision initiative is motivated by those who want to re-open the possibility of a peripheral canal (it is a ploy for the state and other proponents of a peripheral canal)
- An isolated facility is not acceptable since funding for it would divert funding from the Delta to maintain levees, critical to Delta sustainability
- An isolated facility, as currently envisioned by many, would not be the same as that originally proposed, in either location or the volume of water transported
- If an isolated facility were to be developed, it should be used for drinking water purposes only
- Even if an isolated facility is developed sufficient fresh water flows through the Delta are still needed for Delta and Bay area needs
- New approaches are needed to look outside the Delta for the water supply needs of other regions
- The topic is too contentious to even discuss
- An isolated facility should at least be evaluated or the process has not done its job
- Assurances would be necessary as the basis for any agreement on an isolated facility

### ***Common Ground:***

Interviewees generally agreed this topic is a “hot button.” At the same time, most agreed some discussion would have to occur for the Delta Vision process to be legitimate.

### ***Key Discussion Questions:***

1. Would a decision to build an isolated facility lead to curtailing funds for other Delta improvements or projects?
2. If an isolated facility were considered, what would be the size and location of such a facility?
3. Would an isolated facility be operated in conjunction with some level of continued through Delta conveyance?
4. Can the perceived threats from an isolated facility be remedied?
5. What assurances would be needed to ensure agreed levels of flow in an isolated facility will not be exceeded in the future?

## **D. Ecosystem and Native Species Health**

Delta ecosystem decline is well documented. Less understood is what causes the degradation. Stakeholders identified the following key issues for discussion.

- The causes of ecosystem decline
- Strategies to reduce the decline and re-establish ecosystem health

Stakeholder views on these topics include:

- Delta fisheries and habitats cannot be sustained with continued levels of water withdrawals from the through-Delta conveyance system
- Uncertainty exists about how much impact the pumps have on the decline of aquatic species
- Agreement on the impacts of the current level of water supply pumping is needed
- Ecosystem restoration plans should be developed in light of the many other demands and legitimate Delta uses (e.g., recreation)
- Water management in the Delta needs to be altered to recreate a more natural (historical) fluctuation of fresh and salt water
- Strategies for reducing the impacts of invasive species need to be developed and implemented
- The decline in pelagic organisms needs to be reversed
- The ideal location for the “mixing zone” in the Delta needs to be determined and water management strategies put in place to support it
- The Delta is a highly altered system and cannot be returned to its “natural” state unless there is a willingness to abandon large portions of the current system

- The Delta should be treated more like an organism than a machine
- The tidal system is so complex, and there are so many management decisions affecting fresh-salt water mixing in the

Delta, that additional attention is needed to determine impacts on the health of specific species

### ***Common Ground:***

The need for a healthy Delta ecosystem was one of the few issues for which nearly universal support was reported. Every stakeholder group recognizes the value of a healthy ecosystem. Ecosystem health affects water quality, recreation, habitat, and species composition and populations. A working definition of what constitutes ecosystem health is needed.

### ***Key Discussion Questions:***

1. What is the cause of fishery decline?
  - a. Is altered water circulation and exports through pumps a primary factor negatively affecting some fish populations (especially Delta smelt)?
  - b. Is upstream agricultural and urban run-off the primary cause of fishery decline?
  - c. How can high levels of certain nutrients, pesticides and other toxics be better managed?
2. How can invasive species be managed?
3. How much water can be pumped from the Delta without creating ecosystem problems?
4. In the absence of being able to quantify this pumping level threshold, what can be done to reconcile the uncertainty and make the critical decisions necessary to protect the ecosystem?

## **E. Land Use and Urban Development**

Many stakeholders believe land use issues (especially urban development), along with water conveyance, represent the most pressing issues in the Delta. Stakeholders identified the following key issues for discussion.

- Delta land use
- Urban development patterns

Stakeholder views on these topics include:

- Maintaining a Delta dominated by agricultural land use represents not only a business but quality of life issue
- Greater urbanization potentially creates traffic issues as well as increased flood risk issues
- Development in the “secondary zone” already negatively impacts the “primary zone” (as defined by the Delta Protection Commission legislation)

- Further development in the Delta should be carefully evaluated in light of flood risk and issues of liability, overloading of infrastructure (especially road capacity), impacts on agricultural production and the overall quality of life experience in the Delta
- The Delta cannot expect to sustain its current quality of life experience if continued development occurs
- Some kind of “overarching” governance system is needed to ensure development is compatible with flood risks, infrastructure and emergency response capabilities
- The potential negative impacts on flood potential and water quality of all land uses in the Delta and upstream from the Delta need to be fully evaluated
- The state should not have to assume the liability for flood damage caused by unwise local land use policies and decisions
- Development pressure on the Delta is pervasive as local governments look to new development to increase revenues; this will undoubtedly change the Delta
- Development pressures are likely to significantly change the Delta character if well-conceived, coordinated, long-term land use policies are not enacted
- The “fiscalization” of land use is a key driver that must be addressed
- A moratorium should be placed on all development in the Delta until the Delta Vision process is completed
- Usually only the agriculture benefits are recognized; but when talking about the “historical Delta” the damage caused by agriculture needs to be acknowledged
- The “land use issue” is challenging because it is a political lightning rod
- Delta Vision will not be doing its job if it does not address land use issues
- The tension between local control of development practices and state liability for flood risks associated with those practices needs to be resolved
- Some governmental authority, perhaps even the state if no other alternatives are available, is needed to coordinate land use practices in the Delta if it is to be sustained
- The Delta’s future rests with the region’s ability to be economically self-sufficient, which means greater urbanization to increase the tax base

***Common Ground:***

There is almost universal acknowledgement that extensive development pressure is already occurring in and around the Delta. Most believe local control of land use – “home rule” – is a longstanding, sacrosanct concept. Even so, with so many independent jurisdictions in and around the Delta, many are concerned about inconsistent land use activities and policies that result in ripple affects.

***Key Discussion Questions:***

1. How can local governments and state agencies work together to address land use and development concerns?

2. What is the appropriate way to manage risk created for state government by local land use decisions?
3. What are jurisdictional options for managing decisions that affect many people, not just those where the decision is made?

## **F. Financing**

Identified financing is seen as key to ensuring a vision can and will be implemented. Stakeholders identified the following issues for discussion.

- Funding sources, including public and/or potential “user fees”
- Public willingness to fund projects outside of bond initiatives

Stakeholder views on these topics include:

- The issue of who should pay, and how much it will cost, will largely determine the extent to which the Delta can be sustained
- Some significant incorporation of the “beneficiary pays” approach to financing is the only way sufficient funds will be raised to sustain the Delta and reduce the overall demands placed on the Delta
- Opportunities for funding from federal agencies or from Congress need to be explored and nurtured as part of the financing solution
- Inherent distrust in government being able to apply funds allocated for a particular purpose effectively and as intended
- Assurances must be built-in to financing mechanisms to ensure funds raised will be used as promised
- Sufficient resources do not exist to sustain the Delta “as is”
- “Statewide” approaches to financing are necessary for sufficient funding to support the vision

### ***Common Ground:***

Stakeholders expressed wide concern regarding the public’s understanding of the Delta’s statewide significance. They believed a lack of understanding contributed to a lack of funding support. Those interviewed expressed a need for effective public education if public funds or “user pays” approaches are part of a potential solution.

### ***Key Discussion Questions:***

1. How will funding for the Delta be obtained, especially when the Delta’s value to the state is not fully appreciated?
2. What messages need to be developed to educate the public?

## **G. Governance and Management**

Stakeholders also suggest that new approaches to governance, decision making, and management structures will be required to implement a Delta Vision. Most respondents pointed to inadequacies in existing structures and lessons learned from CalFed.

Stakeholders identified the following issues for discussion.

- Governance structures
- Management structures
- Lessons learned from other bodies (especially CalFed) working on Delta issues

Stakeholder views on these topics include:

- New governance structures are needed in the Delta to address issues such as sound land use practices across jurisdictions, conservation, etc.
- Will local, regional, federal and state agencies be able to develop effective partnerships to achieve the vision for the Delta?
- One reason little progress is made in the Delta is that there is no single agency with responsibility for the Delta
- Effective regional partnerships are needed to create cohesive, comprehensive plans and policies for the Delta
- If no other solutions are identified, the state may need to develop new agencies to provide governance and management leadership
- Break through thinking is needed on management approaches; for example, the state should draw on Dutch commitment and experiences, including the use of tide gates, polders and other practices
- Better management would create better resiliency; the Delta can withstand numerous levee breaks if the political will exists, resources are allocated and a sound emergency management program is in place
- Will turf issues stand in the way of progress and the willingness to work together and resolve problems? Are agencies willing to break down the “silos” that often restrict progress?

### ***Common Ground:***

Nearly every respondent pointed to critical needs for strong emergency management coordination, planning and delivery. A vast majority believe disaster management should be addressed by Delta Vision. Most stakeholders believe new governance structures and regional approaches Delta management are needed. A large number pointed to the lack of a central agency or organization with responsibility for planning, coordinating and overseeing activities as a major problem and a major need. Citing lessons learned from CalFed, stakeholders point to a need for greater cooperation at all levels of government.

### ***Key Discussion Questions:***

1. While management practices, and appropriate governance structures to support those practices, are more often associated more with strategic planning or action planning, how can these structures be addressed in the vision phase?
2. How can “visions” be given a reality check?
3. How feasible will the vision be to implement?

## **H. Business, Jobs and Economic Vitality**

Understanding “Delta economics” will be critical in developing broadly supported approaches. This will be particularly true for statewide solutions to issues associated with long term health and viability of the Delta. Stakeholders identified the following issues for discussion.

- Affect of proposed “visions” and strategies on Delta economics
- Affect of proposed “visions” and strategies on statewide economics
- Objective comparison of alternatives from an economic standpoint

Stakeholder views on these topics include:

- The Delta’s economic value to the state needs to be calculated
- The economics of Delta water exports needs to be determined in terms of both costs and benefits, including a comparison to other forms of water supply
- If alternatives such as retiring non-Delta agricultural land are considered as one means of reducing water exports, the full economic impacts need to be considered, such as the multiplier affects to related businesses and communities
- Delta “economics” issues also need to be evaluated in a holistic manner that includes impacts on energy, greenhouse emissions, etc.
- An assessment of impacts to the economic vitality of Delta communities and the region around the Delta needs to be included as part of evaluating scenarios
- Thinking about how to create economic value from new approaches to supporting Delta sustainability needs to be incorporated into the Vision initiative and evaluated on a statewide basis
- The economic value of infrastructure located in the Delta and potential costs of disruption of the services provided by this infrastructure needs to be addressed in creating a sustainable vision

### ***Common Ground:***

There is broad concurrence that economic impacts need to be addressed from a holistic, statewide perspective, while also noting regional impacts of various possible visions.

### ***Key Discussion Questions:***

1. What will be the economic impacts of proposed solutions?
2. How can economic value be created from new options, rather than assuming that change from the status quo will create economic damage?
3. If there is loss, how will it be compensated for?
4. How could statewide approaches be used to create new options and/or mitigate economic impacts?

## **I. Infrastructure and Security**

The Delta supports important infrastructure. Major gas and water supply pipelines, transmission lines which connect to Northwest electric transmission grids and bring electricity to much of the State, roads and rail lines all traverse the Delta. Delta shipping channels connect the Ports of Stockton and Sacramento to the Pacific shipping industry.

Stakeholders identified the following issues for discussion.

- The economic value of Delta infrastructure
- Infrastructure protection

Stakeholder views on these topics include:

- Protection of Delta infrastructure must be incorporated into any vision for the Delta
- The economic value of Delta infrastructure needs to be calculated
- The public needs to be educated on the value of Delta infrastructure
- Security of Delta infrastructure is a major concern
- The extent to which food security depends on water conveyance through the Delta needs to be determined
- Contingency plans for the disruption of Delta infrastructure need to be developed

### ***Common Ground:***

Stakeholders believe the protection of infrastructure and contingency plans in case of service disruption are critical considerations in the development of a vision for the Delta.

### ***Key Discussion Questions:***

1. What needs to be done to ensure the long-term viability of Delta infrastructure?
2. What strategies and plans are required to ensure continuation of services in case of flood, earthquake or other catastrophic event?

## **J. Recreation**

Some stakeholders believe recreational values are often overlooked in conversations about the Delta. Stakeholders identified the following issues for discussion.

- The value of recreational opportunities in the Delta
- Integration of recreational opportunities with other components of a vision

Stakeholder views on these topics include:

- Recreation should not be ignored when considering strategies for addressing ecosystem health
- Recreation should be part of an overall approach to achieve Delta economic, environmental and social goals
- Recreation is an asset of statewide importance
- Given the location of the Delta, surrounded by developing urban areas, the recreational value of the Delta represents a unique natural resource
- The economic value of recreation and ecotourism should be determined and included in the process of developing a vision for the Delta

### ***Common Ground:***

Stakeholders generally concur that recreation represents an important asset and function of the Delta and should be given attention in the development of a vision for the Delta.

### ***Key Discussion Questions:***

1. How will Delta recreational opportunities be sustained in light of other priorities?
2. What lessons can be learned from efforts by Ducks Unlimited and the Nature Conservancy to achieve both ecosystem and recreational benefits?

## **4. Stakeholder Perspectives on the Delta Vision Process**

Another important aspect of the Delta Vision initiative is the process envisioned for creating the vision(s). As such, stakeholders were asked to provide advice on the Delta Vision process based on their understanding of the Executive Order. They were also asked about their potential commitment to the process. Most respondents indicated they have participated in “collaborative” processes that require working with other stakeholders to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. Most have either been involved with or aware of Delta issues for many years and previous efforts to address these issues.

Given the long history of efforts to address Delta issues, however, many expressed frustration and skepticism. As such, perspectives on the Delta Vision initiative are divided into three categories:

1. Stakeholder skepticism
2. Stakeholder commitment
3. Stakeholder process advice

The responses of stakeholders about the envisioned Delta Vision stakeholder process were instrumental in developing recommendations about the most effective approach to engaging stakeholders and adding value to the Delta Vision initiative.

### **A. Stakeholder Skepticism**

Many are hopeful that the Delta Vision process represents the “dawning of a new day” in resolving Delta issues. In general, however, stakeholders expressed many doubts about the potential effectiveness of the process. These doubts emanate from numerous sources:

- Concerns about the commitment of the Governor and other state leaders to make the difficult decisions necessary to resolving Delta issues
- Skepticism about the likely success of any type of collaborative process given the rigidity of certain interest groups and history of conflict
- The belief that some groups benefit more from the status quo or from continuing conflict than from a new resolution and direction
- The potential for regulatory or other actions associated with the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, or other initiatives, to foreclose options considered by Delta Vision
- General “burnout” and “process fatigue” by those previously involved with Delta public processes
- Questions about whether the Task Force has room to maneuver; state and federal water delivery obligations, water quality standards and actions as well as protected species requirements may cause policy makers to be “caught in between regulatory worlds” without any authority to effect changes
- A timeframe of two years seems unrealistic and suggests the process is likely to be superficial; the timeframe may preclude examining all options sufficiently
- The process “will be a disaster without a disaster,” that is, the state and the stakeholders won’t budge without a sense that disaster is imminent or has already struck
- The lack of success in previous efforts to resolve Delta issues, especially CalFed, raises questions about the justification of investing time and resources
- Some will likely be resistant to considering change or sharing power regardless of the vision(s) developed
- Delta Vision outcomes are largely predetermined and/or interests with the greatest political clout will be favored over the less powerful

## **B. Stakeholder Commitment**

Despite these doubts and reservations, most key stakeholders indicated they would participate if invited. Demonstrated commitment by the state as well as the stakeholders was considered the single most important factor in success.

Even with a commitment to participate, many expressed a strong need for assurances they would be taken seriously and likely make a difference. Still others believed they must be involved if for no other reason than to protect their interests. And finally, since the Governor and legislature have initiated the process, some expressed optimism this attempt might have a chance to succeed where other efforts have failed.

While most believe consensus is unlikely given the dynamics described above, most of those interviewed believe it is worth the effort for stakeholders to engage in dialogue and try to find areas of agreement where possible. This will increase the likelihood of finding implementable solutions, and for those concerned about the potential role of the Task Force, provides an alternative mechanism for ensuring their interests are surfaced.

## **C. Stakeholder Process Advice**

Given the skepticism noted, yet the willingness of most interviewees to participate in Delta Vision, interviewees provided the following general insights on what it will take to enhance the likelihood of success:

1. Delta Vision must be set apart from other processes, ultimately, by making decisions that result in action.
2. Delta Vision must be differentiated from CalFed by tackling and making decisions on previously avoided or unresolved tough issues.
3. Provide evidence that the political will exists to make tough decisions.
4. The Governor must demonstrate tangible leadership in reconciling various demands. He must be willing to use “political capital” in developing and implementing the vision and overcoming the current political gridlock.
5. The Task Force must be able to supersede stakeholder input, especially if agreement is lacking or the views of the minority dominate discussions.
6. The Task Force should not be vested too much power since those living in the Delta and other regions of the state should have a major say about how the outstanding issues are resolved.
7. Greater clarity is needed about the relationship between the Task Force and the SCG, and how the contribution of the SCG will be meaningful.

8. The process must fundamentally change stakeholder relations. It must put an end to casting Delta issues as a win-lose proposition, pitting one region and against another and developing solutions that only benefit one region. All these factors lead to decision making deadlocks.
9. The process must reconcile local, regional and statewide interests as a whole, from the perspective that the primary needs of each region should be addressed to the extent possible.

When asked to identifying the keys to success, most stakeholders emphasized a critical need for leadership at the highest levels of government. In summary, Delta Vision must find ways to:

- Engage people in new ways
- Signal stakeholder input – if agreements can be reached – will be seriously considered
- Take new approaches to having the tough conversations necessary to progress
- Demonstrate the state is prepared to make hard choices

## 5. Identified Data and Informational Needs

The predominant sense of those interviewed is that sufficient information and data exist to move forward with the Delta Vision initiative. With that said, several pieces of information were identified that if available would be useful to the process.

An overarching issue related to data is the connectivity between data collected and the data needed to make decisions. Several interviewees expressed the view that any new data collection initiatives should build on first being clear about what questions need to be answered, and then ensuring that data collection efforts answer those questions. For some, this is one of the major lessons learned from CalFed. Related to this is determining the extent to which uncertainty can and needs to be addressed in the process of creating a Delta Vision and Strategic Plan.

Some of the specific data and information needs considered of greatest importance are:

- 1) Achieve closure, to the extent possible, on the major cause(s) of the decline in pelagic organisms, including the impacts of water supply pumping
- 2) Conduct a realistic assessment of risks to the Delta and the probability of those risks being realized
- 3) Provide more information on the economics of the values/uses associated with the Delta and the potential risks to those values, including the importance of the Delta to the state economy
- 4) Identify the specific feasible measures for strengthening levees, on an island by island basis, including increasing height in order to respond to rises in sea level

- 5) Clarify how upstream land use policies and practices affect the Delta
- 6) Identify where the mixing zone between fresh and salt water should ideally be located to maximize habitat and species benefits in the Delta and the Bay area
- 7) Clarify which islands are essential to maintain for the overall stability of the Delta island system
- 8) Identify where and how agricultural practices in the Delta and Central Valley could reasonably be altered to save water (e.g., crop types, irrigation practices)
- 9) Using the State Water Plan and other sources of information identify the extent to which Southern California water supply needs might be met by water resources strategies other than or in addition to Delta water conveyance
- 10) Evaluate the impacts to water conveyance, transportation and other practices associated with the Delta from recent legislation and policy initiatives on greenhouse emissions, including the opportunities that might be afforded
- 11) Clarify to what extent invasive species in the Delta can be remedied by altering the current fresh-salt water interface
- 12) Clarify the water flow regime needed to sustain healthy ecosystems in the Delta under different conditions, including different points of diversion, differing quantities of water diverted, impacts of climate change, etc.
- 13) Identify how reservoir operating regimes might be adjusted to better address some of the challenges facing the Delta
- 14) Evaluate the cost-efficacy of an isolated facility, with a full economic analysis of direct and indirect costs and benefits.

There are also several ongoing data collection activities, studies, planning and decision making processes relating to the Delta that could impact the development of a Delta Vision and Strategic Plan. It is the view of many interviewees that everyone involved with the process should understand what these projects are accomplishing and how they are being coordinated with the Delta Vision initiative. Particular concern was expressed about the how the Bay Delta Conservation Plan will interface with Delta Vision initiatives. Other projects alluded to include the Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS), ongoing CalFed activities (such as DRERIP), fisheries studies, habitat planning, regional blueprint studies and updates to local general plans in the Delta. Appendix III-1 describes the various ongoing initiatives related to the Delta.

Some stakeholders also cited other processes regarding federal and state decisions, which they believe have a direct bearing on the options to be considered by the Delta Vision. These include the South Delta Improvements Project, the SWP-CVP Intertie, the renewal of federal water supply contracts, the salinity control plans and actions of the State Water Boards and changes in

flow regimes at upstream reservoirs.

The BDCP focuses on aquatic species in the five Delta counties, and its covered actions include many elements of importance to Delta Vision, such as improvements relating to the water conveyance facilities for the CVP and SWP, flood control projects, actions to improve salinity conditions, ongoing operations of other Delta activities, habitat restoration and enhancement, etc. The Conservation Plan could have major impacts on the water flow regime through the Delta.

Many interviewees suggest that the Delta Vision initiative should be the primary venue for coordinating the interface among these studies and processes to ensure they are complementary and not competing and to ensure that they advise each other and are not conducted in isolation. A discussion about how these projects do or should interrelate should be an early action item for the Delta Vision process. Stakeholder suggestions for coordination include such elements as:

- ▶ greater acknowledgement of the federal role in Delta decisions and federal inclusion in DV at a very high level (Department of Interior)
- ▶ scheduling coordination of the different activities, including the possibility of putting a hold on decisions of other groups until the DV has developed its plan
- ▶ integration of the information generated by the other processes in a timely way to be sure that DV can take advantage of the most current data and scientific understanding.

This page has been intentionally left blank.

## PART IV: CONCLUSIONS ABOUT CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESS

Part III of this assessment summarized Delta stakeholder perspectives, visions, interests and values, as well as known areas of agreement and disagreement. This section draws conclusions from Part III and outlines the *context, conditions and focus* that will be needed for a successful SCG process.

### 1. Creating the Context for Success

Most of those interviewed noted that action outside of the stakeholder process could significantly affect what was occurring in the process. Three major themes are drawn from stakeholder comments related to the context for undertaking Delta Vision and the incentives needed to create an environment that supports fresh approaches to problem solving. These are:

- ◆ The Need to Address Impending Threats Now
- ◆ The Need for State Leaders to Exercise Leadership and Political Will
- ◆ The Need to Address the Risk of Irrelevance

Most stakeholders elaborated on one or all of the following recommendations:

#### *Address Impending Threats Now*

With a few expectations, stakeholders believe delay and deferral are not acceptable alternatives and that action has to be taken now. They believe a sense of urgency should be the fundamental driver for a Delta Vision process. New conversations and approaches to dealing with the future of the Delta are needed.

Adding to the widespread sense of urgency is a belief there are no comprehensive emergency plans to deal with the impacts of a Katrina-like disaster. This type of disaster could result in years of critical water supply disruption, agricultural losses, transportation and shipping disruptions, and economic impacts of statewide, even national importance.

Given the enormous risks from potential levee failure, many stakeholders reported an urgent need for state action to maintain critical parts of the existing system for at least an interim period. Most believed this action must happen in parallel to deliberative and political processes and any efforts to implement new solutions.

***“Benign neglect of the Delta is no longer benign”***

*- State Senator*

### Exercise Leadership and Political Will

Stakeholders are looking beyond the Delta Vision planning process to results that will make the effort truly meaningful. They generally believe action must be driven by strong leadership of the Governor and top legislative leaders. While the Delta Vision process, including the SCG, can deliver recommendations, it will be up to the Governor to apply his leadership and political influence to affect the agreements necessary to implement the Vision and Strategic Plan.

Stakeholders note political will must also be demonstrated by the Legislature to identify and allocate enormous public resources. The Task Force and the other elements of the Delta Vision decision-making structure are no substitute for political leadership. Stakeholders feel strongly that this will be an exercise in futility if the political will and needed resource do not exist to make the plans a reality.

### Address the Risk of Irrelevance

Numerous governmental planning and decision making processes are underway that relate to critical Delta issues or specific regulatory authorities in the Delta. On the emergency response side, some regional groups have taken a lead in outreach to other regions to define emergency plans and proposals for new Delta configurations. Likewise, some stakeholders, disillusioned by Cal Fed approaches, are not waiting for another government process like Delta Vision to unfold. They are proceeding on their own to build coalitions in support of specific outcomes.

Without close coordination with these other processes, many are concerned that Delta Vision could become a meaningless exercise. Decisions could be made and options foreclosed before the Delta Vision process is complete. To ensure its relevance, close coordination with these other initiatives is required, as well as a commitment from state leaders to slow other efforts, if needed, so Delta Vision can effectively address the key issues and create a holistic vision for the Delta.

Each of these will require attention by the Committee to maximize the probability of successful outcomes from Delta Vision. Lack of attention to any one of these three “drivers” could undermine the potential for success.

## **2. Creating the Conditions for Success**

In addition to these dynamics, which serve a backdrop to the Delta Vision initiative, several other factors can affect the potential for a successful stakeholder involvement process and therefore need to be addressed to the extent possible in the design and implementation of the process. These include:

- 1) Participation of Key Stakeholders
- 2) External Pressures for Stakeholders to Work Together and Create Agreements

- 3) The Value of Improved Relationships
- 4) Meaningful Interaction between the Task Force and SCG
- 5) Federal Agencies Engaged in New Ways
- 6) Public Understanding of Delta Values and Issues
- 7) Adequate Resources from the Sponsoring Agency(s)

### 1. Participation of Key Stakeholders:

For a stakeholder process to have legitimacy it must include representatives of the key interest groups. In addition to the major stakeholders the process should also include groups who may only be indirectly involved but who can either contribute to or stand in the way of implementing outcomes. The process should also include groups that might traditionally be overlooked because they have less visibility, resources or “power” but whose input will add value to the outcomes. SCG membership should incorporate this range of participants to enhance its effectiveness. (Related to the Delta, this includes representation from the various interest groups identified in Part III.) Likewise, the representatives of various groups in the process should be perceived as effective and respected spokespersons for the constituencies they represent.

### 2. External Pressures for Creating Agreements

External pressures exist that create incentives for stakeholders to participate and seek agreement where possible. At the same time, many believe the SCG will be unable to reach agreements. The Governor’s Executive Order, therefore, drew on two approaches to decision making. One is a top down approach by “impartial” leaders (Task Force) and the second is a stakeholder-driven approach (SCG) that offers the potential for building political support for resulting solutions. This structure actually creates another incentive for some stakeholders. For those concerned about the likely outcomes if left only to the Task Force, SCG efforts to craft a vision or visions that meet many of the needs of various stakeholders is seen as one way to provide direction or a counter balance to the Task Force. If broad agreements addressing the critical Delta issues are achieved among SCG members, those agreements are likely be embraced by state leaders.

### 3. The Value of Improved Relationships

Many parties likely to be involved in Delta Vision have longstanding, if not difficult, relationships yet can fully expect ongoing, future dealings with one another. The lack of perceived cooperative approaches in the past is considered a challenge for this process. Even so, most stakeholders suggested the old way of doing business in the Delta will simply not work. Many would like Delta Vision to be a venue for exploring new approaches to resolving Delta issues, and a building block for improved relationships among those who will continue to interact on Delta-related issues. Most suggest they would welcome new approaches and improved relationships in contrast to the adversarialism of the past. The design of the SCG process should attempt to achieve this objective.

#### 4. Meaningful Interaction between the Task Force and SCG

To provide opportunities for meaningful, efficient and effective interaction, staffing and work schedules for these two groups should be closely aligned and coordinated. While one group should not interfere with the business of the other, it would likely be counterproductive for each to proceed independently with little or no interaction. While the Task Force has ultimate responsibility to provide recommendations to the Committee, it would not be a wise use of resources and effort if the two groups did not make organized efforts to exchange and learn from each other's ideas.

#### 5. Federal Agencies Engaged in New Ways

Many stakeholders pointed out there was not a defined federal role in Delta Vision based on early documents describing the effort. Yet federal agencies are deeply involved with many Delta issues, and have specific mandates and responsibilities. While attempts to build state-federal partnerships have not always been successful in the past, most acknowledge the effective participation of the federal agencies in Delta Vision is essential. Ways to engage federal agencies and build their support for potential outcomes must be built into the process. It is also valuable to be clear about what can and cannot be done without significant federal involvement and how Delta Vision decisions will connect to federal decision making and regulations.

#### 6. Public Understanding of Delta Values and Issues

The Delta is a widely acknowledged as a statewide issue. Yet many suggest it is not seen in that light by the general public outside the Delta region. Most of those interviewed consider it essential for Californians throughout the state to know how they rely on the Delta and its resources. And given the economic stakes of a disaster in the Delta the public needs to be awakened to the scale and impacts of the threat. Furthermore, if the broader public may ultimately be asked to make investment decisions at the ballot box or support actions proposed by the legislature, they need to be fully informed. As such, a separate, statewide public education initiative is recommended as part of the Delta Vision initiative.

#### 7. Adequate Resources from the Sponsoring Agency(s)

The Resources Agency has allocated significant resources to addressing Delta issues. The Delta Risk Management Strategy, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, ongoing CalFed activities and now the Delta Vision initiative reflect the magnitude of the investment on behalf of the state. At this point, it appears the needed resources are in place to conduct the project. The main "resource" of scarcity in the view of many is the amount of time allocated by legislation and the Executive Order to complete projects in a thorough manner.

### 8. Build Momentum by Seeking Agreements on Short-Term Issues

Although there is skepticism about stakeholder ability to agree on a Delta Vision, two areas of potential agreement on near-term actions emerged from the interviews that could assist in creating the conditions for success. There is widespread support for taking actions to prevent levees from deteriorating any further. There is also support for developing emergency response alternatives should a catastrophic failure of the system occur.

This indicates Delta Vision could deal with different time-scales:

1. How to stabilize the situation in the near-term
2. Long-term vision for a potentially very different future situation in the Delta

Agreement on a near-term plan may foster a more productive approach to the complex problems associated with long-term strategies.

## **3. Focusing the Conversation for Success**

Another building block for an effective stakeholder process is how deliberations will be conducted and focused. Methods to accomplish this are offered based on research, the Center's experience and insights from those interviewed. They include:

1. Establish Priorities
2. Address the Tough Issues
3. Create a New Conversation
4. Use a Systems Approach to Balancing Statewide and Regional Interests
5. Reframe Issues to Create New Solutions

### 1. Establish Priorities

The state must decide which resources, values and uses of the Delta are priorities, identify revenue streams and build broad public support for the necessary actions. Most stakeholders believe the state needs to establish public investment priorities. For example, most suggest it will not be possible to protect all Delta islands and accomplish everything that might be included in a vision. Most also believe in-Delta stakeholders should not bear the brunt of policy changes designed to mitigate or re-allocate risks associated with the Delta. Priorities must incorporate constraints suggested by natural or legal limitations while balancing statewide public interests with stakeholder interests.

One approach is to establish priorities by first ranking risks. This process can provide a basis to focus attention on the areas and issues of greatest importance. This suggests a process that moves towards a prioritized set of public interests, mitigating stakeholder interests to the degree possible. As none of the likely visions for a sustainable Delta are financially self-sustaining, all will require public support. .

## 2. Address the Tough Issues

Stakeholders, as well as the Executive Order, have identified numerous issues which must be addressed in a vision for a sustainable Delta. As general topics, they all seem reasonable as major components of a vision. When considered in greater detail, however, some issues cause significant tension as a potential topic of discussion and are considered to complex to tackle. These issues include water conveyance through or around the Delta and export levels (including the issue of whether/how to proceed with an isolated facility), land use issues which bring local government, existing residents and State government into conflict, and issues such as financing and governance. Most stakeholders, however, believe the tough issues should not be avoided. They point to past efforts which have dodged the tougher issues, resulting in a continuation of the status quo, which has tended to perpetuate longstanding conflicts.

To make progress, new approaches to presenting, exploring and discussing these issues will be required to avoid falling into past patterns of adversarialism and gridlock. And a realistic question is whether time exists under the Delta Vision initiative to adequately address these complex questions. The extent to which these issues are addressed by the SCG as part of the Delta Vision should be determined in the early phases of SCG deliberations.

## 3. Create a New Conversation

Many stakeholders noted that previous deliberations focused on “We All Get Better Together” were not realistic. Instead, it is suggested that Delta vision focus more on “How to Reduce and Allocate Risks” or be doomed to repeat of past efforts. With this approach, a vision and implementation plan will not only allocate benefits but also risks and responsibilities. To succeed, stakeholders must be willing to set aside entrenched positions, explore ways to address risks while meet underlying interests, and attempt to bridge difference so agreements on a vision can be realized.

This also includes taking a more holistic approach to the problems. As an example, water supply issues should be evaluated from a multiple-solution rather than a Delta-centric perspective. In this conversation multiple options such as expanded water conservation and recycling, agricultural conversion, etc. are fully considered. To incorporate myriad interests into a vision, or to take on the tough issues, stakeholders will need to address the problems and solutions holistically and comprehensively.

## 4. Use a Systems Approach to Balancing Statewide and Regional Interests

Many have recommended Delta decision-making systems need to change. Most believe the current system defaults to deferral of controversy and dealing with isolated sets of issues rather than the whole. For numerous reasons, this approach is no longer viewed as workable. Delta Vision must distinguish itself from processes that separated issues into “silos” and approached them as isolated engineering problems.

Rather, a “systems” approach to the issues and their resolution is needed. A systems approach would have stated goals to simultaneously consider inherent Delta values, reduce North-South water conflicts, provide well-managed water supplies to all regions, and ensure a healthy San Francisco Bay-Delta ecosystem. This may require certain stakeholders, concerned they may wind up “losers,” be provided with assurances that risks won’t be disproportionately allocated to them, or that forms of mitigation or compensation will be applied.

#### 5. Reframe Issues to Create New Solutions

One way to promote new thinking is major reframing of the more complex Delta issues. For example, rather than asking whether or not to pursue a peripheral canal, the issue could be framed as, “What are the water supply needs and uses of those relying on water conveyed through the Delta, and what options exist to meet those needs and uses? Or, “How can water reliability be improved for those in the Central Valley and Southern California?”

Debates about flood risk liability, linkages to new development within and upstream from the Delta, and “home rule” might be recast as “How can local land use decisions concerning new development be made to ensure consistency with state flood risk/liability guidelines and financial resources?”

These are simple examples of how reframing can be used to explore issues from new angles, potentially opening the doors to new thinking about multi-interest solutions. This will be a necessary component of the stakeholder process to reinforce the need to move away from “positions” and talk more about interests and how to meet those interests.

#### ***Conclusion:***

Overall, CCP believes the potential exists for the SCG and proposed stakeholder involvement process to add value to Delta Vision. With that said, the success of the effort will depend on how effectively the various obstacles and potential pitfalls can be addressed. Success will hinge on whether the state, namely the Delta Vision Committee, can help create the conditions for success, whether State leaders can demonstrate their commitment to making the tough decisions that will result in long-term statewide solutions to Delta issues, and whether key stakeholders are willing and able to help create and engage in new approaches to problem solving. These are not givens. But if they occur, the prospects for effectively addressing the longstanding issues associated with the Delta will be significantly enhanced.

This page has been intentionally left blank.

## PART V – DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

Building on the observations and conclusions in Parts III and IV, this section highlights the Center’s recommendations about how to proceed with obtaining stakeholder input related to Delta Vision.

Many assessments conducted by the Center propose the design for a collaborative process in advance of Agency action. Such reports help identify the most efficient and effective approaches to decision making and stakeholder involvement in the context of agency mandates and desired outcomes. This assessment is different in that the stakeholder and decision making processes have largely been established in the Governor’s Executive Order.

As such, this report addresses two key questions:

1. What conditions should be in place to create a meaningful role for stakeholders in the Delta Vision initiative?
2. How can the stakeholder process be structured to maximize input on decisions that could affect the future of the Delta?

The goal of the design recommendations that follow is to address these two questions and outline a stakeholder process that has integrity in the context of the decision making process outlined in the Governor’s Executive Order.

Most collaborative processes designed by the Center include five “phases” considered essential to the success of stakeholder involvement. These are:

- Phase 1 - Assessment/Planning
- Phase 2 – Organizational
- Phase 3 – Joint Fact Finding
- Phase 4 – Negotiation/Resolution
- Phase 5 - Implementation

These phases, however, are not intended to be rigid or prescriptive. Rather, they provide a framework for the key steps and general staging of work necessary to maximize the likelihood of success. Options and variations are possible within each phase depending on specific needs. In this application to Delta Vision, the **Assessment Phase** has been conducted (which includes stakeholder interviews and identification the various Delta-related studies and initiatives) and concludes with this report.

The **Organizational Phase** of the SCG has been largely pre-determined by the Executive Order and charges to the Task Force and SCG. Typically an assessment leads to a charter or charge to participants in a stakeholder process. In this instance, a charge to the SCG has been established

The goal of the SCG should be to identify as many areas of agreement as possible on a vision(s) and policies to support the vision(s).

as part of the process of developing the Executive Order. A charter outlining SCG operating principles and protocols, however, is still recommended.

The **Joint Fact Finding Phase** should be a central focus of the SCG's early meetings. The intent is to help all SCG members have a common foundation for understanding the key characteristics and issues associated with the Delta. This will be essential to the SCG's work. The knowledge level of SCG members is likely to vary widely, however, so this phase should be designed to be as efficient as possible and account for the variability in knowledge and experience with Delta issues.

A critical characteristic of the Delta Vision stakeholder process is that consensus is *not* the goal or the anticipated outcome. As such, the **Negotiation Phase** will need to be conceived in different terms. Most believe that consensus on strategies and policies guiding future management decisions and allocation of resources in the Delta is not possible. With that said, most interviewees believe that to play an important role in the Delta Vision initiative they must work together to try to find solutions to the long-term issues critical to the sustainability of the Delta and its resources. Therefore, while consensus is not the goal of the SCG, the stakeholder process should be designed to identify as many areas of agreement as possible for input to the Task Force.

The **Implementation Phase** will largely be addressed in the Strategic Planning portion of Delta Vision during 2008. Nonetheless, as a "reality check" for any vision(s) developed by the SCG, some attention to implementability is recommended during the visioning process. Some "boundaries" are needed to ensure that the visions articulated have a direct linkage to both the objectives (a vision for a sustainable Delta) and a realistic probability of being implemented.

To enhance the likelihood that the SCG will add value to the Delta Vision process, and achieve the goals outlined above, the stakeholder process design should incorporate the following:

## 1. Stakeholder Membership Criteria and Commitments

Prospective members of the SCG should understand that a "new conversation" will be required to create breakthroughs on some of the long standing challenges in the Delta. As such, they should be willing to:

- ▶ engage constructively on issues relating to Delta Vision among others who may have differing views
- ▶ consider new ideas and solutions
- ▶ be available for service through October 2008, consistent with the scheduled completion of the Strategic Plan component of Delta Vision.
- ▶ understand and accept their role in relationship to the Task Force and Committee
- ▶ commit to direct participation (substitutes will generally not be permitted)

- ▶ commit to active communication with their constituencies, bringing the interests and concerns of their constituencies to the process
- ▶ commit the necessary time to participate effectively (16-20 hours per month)
- ▶ work actively to ensure potential agreements emerging from SCG deliberations are understood and supported by their constituencies.

For the SCG to be most effective, it must be comprised of representatives of all key stakeholder groups, provide for balanced representation across these groups, reflect the diversity of views and values associated with the Delta, and be a manageable size (no more than 40).

Furthermore, to help the SCG function as efficiently and effectively as possible, a set of guiding principles is recommended to create an environment where progress on longstanding issues is more likely. SCG members should commit to:

- 1) Focus on new approaches and solutions rather than repeating history or responding to past “wins or losses.”
- 2) Look at the Delta from a holistic or system perspective – how can local, regional and state values be achieved; where trade-offs are required, what strategies can be created to meet their interests to the extent feasible.
- 3) Consider all possible alternatives to reducing pressure on the Delta and its resources.
- 4) Move beyond longstanding animosities and respond to the urgency to address the risks facing the Delta.
- 5) Move beyond just “minimizing damage” or “defending my position” to creating value and multiple benefits.

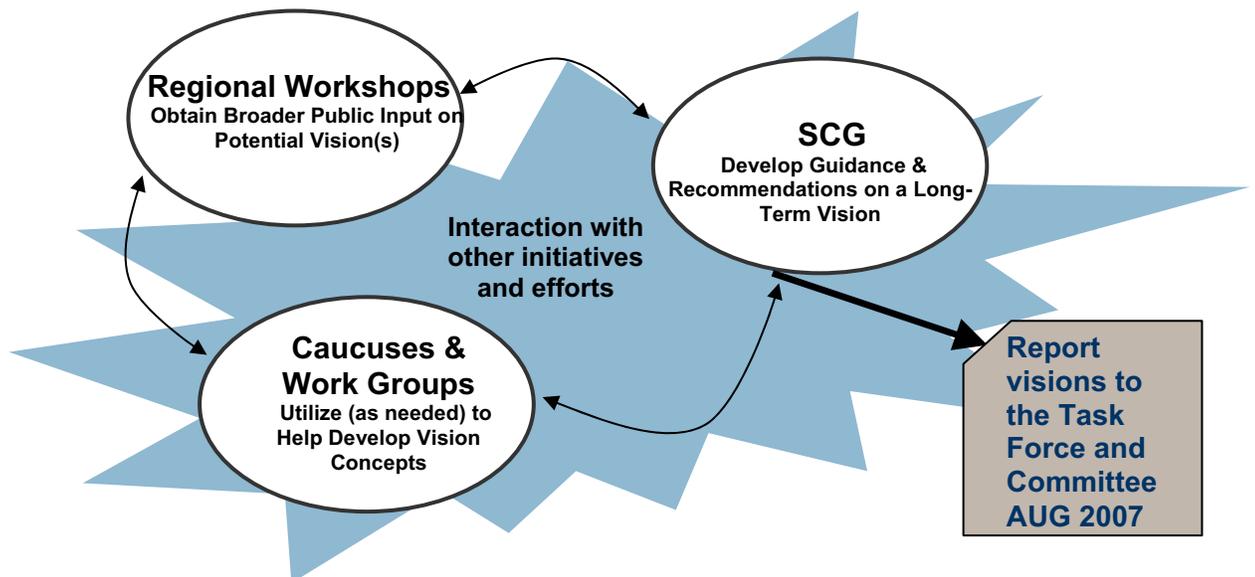
## 2. SCG Structure and Approach

The SCG has a lot to accomplish in a condensed time period. As such, it is recommended that the SCG utilize various approaches to accomplish its work (which include developing, discussing, evaluating and deciding on a set of recommendations to provide to the Task Force). The structure and various approaches to conducting the SCG’s work, represented in Figure V-1, includes:

- **SCG Meetings:** The SCG, as provided for in the Executive Order, is the centerpiece of Delta Vision stakeholder involvement. Its role is to identify stakeholder views related to the Delta and its future, and advance recommendations to the Task Force. The SCG is anticipated to meet monthly through the duration of the project. All SCG meetings will be open to the public. In addition SCG members will be encouraged to engage in other public processes as described below as well as support other public outreach and education efforts.

- **Work Groups:** As needed, the SCG will organize and utilize Work Groups to address specific issues. The role of these groups is to structure issues, organize relevant information and present options for consideration by the SCG. Work Groups will be comprised of SCG members or their designees, other stakeholders with interest in the topic, and technical experts.
- **Regional Workshops:** SCG members should help organize and/or participate in Regional Workshops. The goal of the workshops is to update member constituencies and other interested parties and serve as avenues of wider stakeholder input that can feed additional ideas into the SCG process. Input received from these workshops will help guide stakeholder representatives on issues under consideration and ensure they are in communication with their constituencies. Existing forums and organizational meetings (such as the Bay Area Water Forum, the Southern California Water Dialogue and Restore the Delta) should be used to the extent possible rather than initiating “stand alone” meetings.
- **Caucuses:** The different interest groups among the stakeholders may choose to meet in their own caucus groups to sharpen common goals, develop strategies and address matters of mutual concern. Caucuses often help improve communications within constituencies, identify differences and focus interests. On the other hand, safeguards are needed to ensure the individual interest groups do not create “positions” which undermine efforts to find mutually beneficial solutions. Groundrules are recommended to derive the benefits of caucuses while minimizing the potential for “Balkanization.”

**FIGURE V-1. PROPOSED SCG STRUCTURE**



It is envisioned that the SCG will use several tools to enhance its work and make the best use of SCG member’s time and state resources. Most SCG meetings are anticipated to be one and one-half to two days in duration. This will likely be essential given the short time frame

for the SCG to complete its work. Both plenary and small group discussions will be utilized to identify key issues and delve into the issues in greater detail as efficiently as possible. The use of Work Groups and Caucuses will need to be discussed by the SCG to determine their potential usefulness and timing.

Another recommended tool to assist the SCG meet its objectives is a design/visioning **charrette**. A charrette is a short, intensive design or planning activity conducted in a workshop setting. Well constructed charrettes provide for a free flow of information and opinion sharing. Using maps, models or other aids, and working in small groups, the setting stimulates ideas and involves stakeholders in the physical aspect of community planning and design. It results in a graphic visualization that brings a vision to life by providing a graphical, place-based representation of values and possible scenarios to achieve a set of project objectives.

A pilot charrette on the future of the Delta has been conducted by faculty and students of the University of California, Berkeley. This proved valuable in helping participants consider ways to address the many demands, resources and values associated with the Delta in a creative setting. It is recommended that a charrette be used with the SCG to help establish and evaluate various possible “futures” for the Delta.

As previously noted, there are numerous **other initiatives** currently focusing on Delta issues. These include the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, CalFed End of Stage 1, Delta Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan, the University of Pacific dialogue on Land Use, efforts to develop emergency preparedness and management plans, among several others. To help Delta Vision “connect the dots,” it is recommended that the information from these groups be presented to the SCG. To the extent possible, the SCG should build on and utilize the information developed by these groups rather than “reinventing the wheel.”

### 3. Decision Making

Ultimately, results of the SCG process are not dependent on consensus. The Task Force, not the SCG, is charged with creating final recommendations. Even so, to the extent agreement among the SCG exists, the influence of the group with decision makers at all levels of government will be substantially increased. The proposed “decision rule” is:

- While its aim is to arrive at broad agreement on a set of recommendations, the SCG will not use a consensus rule to make decisions. It will simply achieve the highest possible level of agreement and report this to the Task Force and Committee. The principal motive for stakeholders to work toward consensus is the political weight that agreement will have with the Task Force and state decision makers.
- The SCG will not use a voting process but may note in its final report the extent to which the vision, desired conditions and guiding principles have been supported. It is likely to report multiple scenarios for a vision and desired future conditions, especially on topics for which agreement is not reached.

## 4. Institutional Linkages

To improve coordination among the various groups charged with creating a vision for the Delta, the SCG should present periodic reports as well as its final recommendations to the Task Force and Committee. A timeline for these presentations will help focus SCG efforts on the central task of attempting to reach broad agreement on key principles and will also facilitate dialogue between the SCG and the other groups that are part of the Delta Vision process. Work plans for the Task Force and SCG should be used to help coordinate activities.

The Delta Vision Core Team (comprised primarily of representatives of state agencies with Delta responsibilities and expertise) should coordinate communication and staff integration between the SCG and the Task Force so that both groups can stay informed of one another's progress and have ample opportunity to share information. Similarly, the SCG and staff should maintain close linkages with other parallel process that may enlighten and add value to SCG deliberations. Coordination with Federal agencies and tribal governments must also be pursued.

## 5. General Timelines and Critical Path

The SCG, as currently envisioned, will meet regularly from March 2007 through October 2008. The proposed schedule is subject to change as attempts are made to integrate SCG activities with other public involvement efforts, activities of the Task Force, Delta Risk Management Strategy results and other Delta-related projects:

The proposed critical path for the SCG includes:

1. Developing a common base of knowledge and understanding of Delta risks, uses, processes, resources, trends and other information that will provide the basis for a vision
2. Creating an understanding of the various interests, values and perspectives of Delta stakeholders
3. Creating an overall vision(s) for a sustainable Delta based on the above information
4. Identifying and developing "agreements in principle" needed to support or clarify the vision(s)
5. Identifying and developing potential policy issues and recommendations to support the vision(s)
6. Identifying areas of agreement and disagreement as the basis for recommendations on a vision for the Delta
7. Developing advice on how to approach the strategic planning phase of Delta Vision.

Figure V-2 provides a “road map” of the proposed critical path for accomplishing the goals for this first phase of SCG activities.

The timeline and tasks for developing recommendations on a vision(s) for the Delta is presented in Figure V-3. SCG recommendations to the Task Force are due by August 2007. To achieve this goal, numerous questions will need to be addressed. While the SCG will address a variety of pre-designated issues listed in the Executive Order and SCG Charge, identification of critical questions related to each of these issues will help provide the foundation for discussions. Examples of these “critical path” questions include:

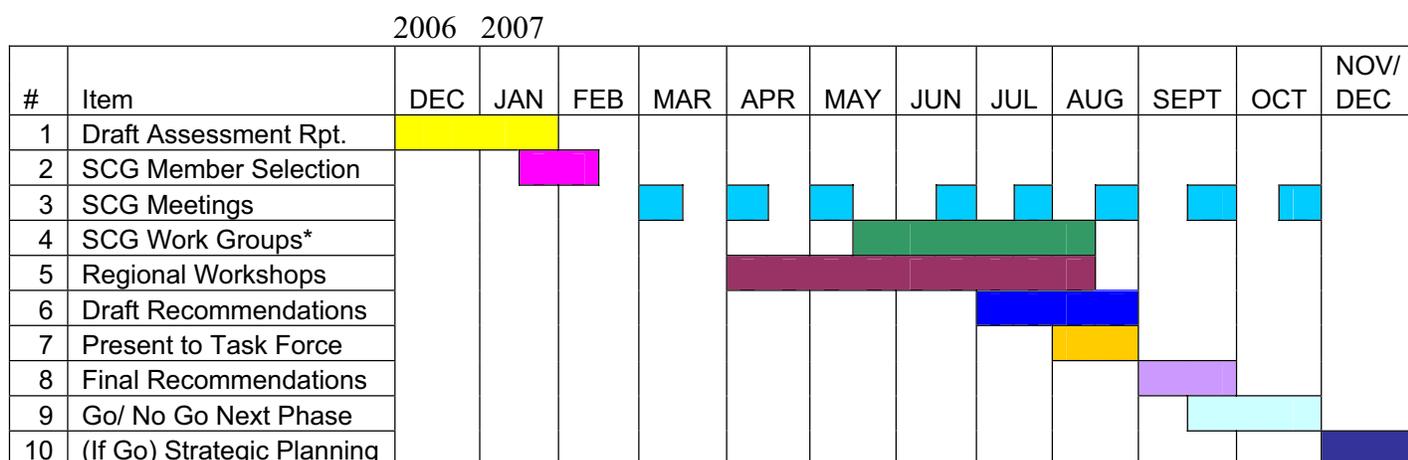
1. What are the options, including but not limited to emergency response systems, that will avert or minimize the threat of a near-term disaster?
2. What are the drivers of a healthy ecosystem and how should these affect the development of a vision(s) for the Delta?
3. What are the most pressing and critical risks, and how do these affect the vision?
4. What is the SCG vision for an appropriate level of flood protection for the Delta?
5. What is the SCG vision for land use patterns including recreation, agriculture and housing that will best support a durable and effective long-term management strategy?
6. What is the SCG vision for long-term water quality, supply and cross-Delta conveyance that will meet the needs of the various interests?
7. How do these SCG visions facilitate a healthy environment, provide for transportation and utility corridors, and ensure robust local and state economies?

SCG members will be asked in the early stages of deliberations to identify the key critical path issues they believe must be addressed as the basis for developing a sustainable vision for the Delta.

**FIGURE V-2. SCG “CRITICAL PATH” ROAD MAP - 2007**

<b>PHASE</b>	<b>GET GROUNDED, SHARED LEARNING</b>	<b>ID CRITICAL PATH ISSUES, VISIONS</b>	<b>ID NEEDED AGREEMENT PRINCIPLES, POLICIES</b>	<b>ID AGREEMENTS, PRESENT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>ADVICE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING</b>
<b>MONTH</b>	<b>MAR &amp; APR</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUNE &amp; JUL</b>	<b>JUL &amp; AUG</b>	<b>SEP - NOV</b>
	Outline the urgent work ahead. Confirm SCG willingness to engage in a “new conversation” about the Delta. Begin joint learning on critical information needed for deliberation. Build common understanding of information needed to develop a vision(s). Prepare for charrette.	Conduct charrette. Identify commonalities and differences. Identify potential areas requiring more information to support development of a vision(s).	Discuss results from charrette. Clarify principles of agreement. Develop plan of action for outstanding issues.	Building on outcomes and follow-up activities from the charrette, clarify areas of agreement and disagreement. Document both. Prepare and agree upon recommendations, and back-up materials, to be presented to the Task Force. Recommendations due to the Task Force (August).	Discuss response of Task Force to recommendations. Discuss direction for strategic planning phase of Delta Vision and develop recommendations for presentation to the Task Force. Present recommendations to Task Force.
<b>KEY ACTIVITIES</b>					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review Assessment, Status &amp; Trends, PPIC and DRMS Risk Analysis Reports</li> <li>▪ Review results of the charrette pilot</li> <li>▪ Conduct pre-work for SCG charrette</li> <li>▪ Agree on SCG objectives/protocols</li> <li>▪ Field trip</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conduct charrette</li> <li>▪ Review and discuss preliminary results</li> <li>▪ Identify key questions and critical path issues that must be addressed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review charrette summary</li> <li>▪ Establish Work Groups, as needed, to address critical path issues and develop draft agreement principles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discuss areas of agreement and disagreement</li> <li>▪ Resolve areas of disagreement to extent possible</li> <li>▪ Prepare summary report for Task Force</li> <li>▪ Present recommendations to Task Force</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discuss how the SCG can support the Strategic Planning process in 2008</li> <li>▪ Develop recommendations to present to the Task Force</li> </ul>

**FIGURE V-3. TIMELINE AND TASKS**



\* As needed

## 6. Formation of Long-Term Recommendations

The primary task assigned to the SCG is creating a vision(s) and associated recommendations for consideration by the Task Force and Committee. A variety of approaches will be used to develop long-term recommendations centered on a vision(s), and the components of that vision, for a sustainable Delta. The intent is for the SCG to successfully develop one or more visions for the Delta which are likely to be implementable and receive broad support from a cross-section of stakeholders. In the absence of this broad support, recommendations will nonetheless outline a range of possibilities for consideration by the Task Force.

The concern about having little agreement on at least major components of a vision relates to the political dynamics of the Delta. Significant “gridlock” has characterized past efforts to make the “hard decisions.” If key stakeholders are dissatisfied with the vision(s) developed, and equally or less satisfied with the recommendations of the Task Force, the end result could again be political gridlock.

This leads to a major recommendation that the work of the SCG, the Task Force, the Committee (Executive Branch) and legislative analysts not be conducted in silos, but rather interactively so that as concerns are raised, efforts can be made to address those concerns. This will provide for a more thorough understanding by all parties of the concerns, opportunities and potential solutions to Delta issues as the basis for making the hard choices potentially required at the Executive and Legislative levels.

## 7. Key Deliverables

Recommendations to the Task Force and Committee should address the various values, interests, resources and potential uses of the Delta that must be incorporated into a long-term vision. As noted in Part 1, key deliverables are outlined in the SCG charge from the Delta Vision Committee, which includes the various elements identified in the Governor’s Executive Order. Furthermore, most of those interviewed believe a vision, or array of visions which represent possible futures for the Delta, should also address the realistic risks to the Delta which will assist in identifying priorities. Most of those interviewed suggest the vision(s) should address both sustainability and implementability so that outcomes from the Delta Vision initiative will result in action and not a static plan.

## 8. Incorporate a Check-Point for Continuing the Stakeholder Process

It is also important to address some realities pertaining to the potential “value-added” from the SCG. The recommendations in this section build on the premise that the SCG will be able to make progress and add value to the Delta Vision initiative. As noted previously, however, a number of concerns have been raised about the potential ability of SCG members to work effectively together in crafting implementable, long-term options for a sustainable Delta. Likewise, concerns expressed about the time and resources required to participate, in the context of what many report as “stakeholder burnout,” suggests a check point be incorporated into the process.

SCG will add value to the Delta Vision process if it is able to reach agreement on at least some critical elements of a sustainable Delta. If the SCG proves unable to “change the nature of the conversation” and reach any significant agreements, however, it may prove best for all involved to reassess the value of continuing.

Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee examine the contributions of the SCG during the visioning stage of the process and determine the value of continuing the SCG process into the strategic planning phase. Changes may include altering the SCG charge, membership or implementing alternate means of securing stakeholder input. The SCG charter should include a provision to this effect. Even if success is achieved, a go/no go assessment should be conducted prior to moving forward, to determine if the approach being taken or proposed is the most effective method to meet project goals.

## Appendix I-1 EXECUTIVE ORDER S-17-06

Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force  
Meeting Date: March 1, 2007

Agenda Item: 2  
Attachment 1



Office of the Governor

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNOR

### EXECUTIVE ORDER S-17-06

09/28/2006

WHEREAS the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta estuary, including Suisun Bay and Marsh (hereafter "Delta"), supports a unique and irreplaceable combination of environmental and economic resources. The Delta is a source of water for farmlands, growing communities and businesses and provides a unique estuarine habitat for many resident and migratory fish and birds, some listed as threatened or endangered species. It is an area that supports vital energy, transportation, communications and water facilities, and important agricultural, recreational and cultural resources. The Delta is of state and national significance and must be protected and managed effectively for the future well being of the people and the environment; and

WHEREAS the Delta is intersected by highways, roads, and utility lines critical to regional, state and interstate commerce and economy; and

WHEREAS the Delta is the hub of California's two largest water distribution systems, the federal Central Valley Project and State Water Project, and at least 7,000 other permitted water diverters have developed water supplies from the watershed feeding the Bay-Delta estuary, providing drinking water to about 23 million people and irrigation water to about 7 million acres of highly productive agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS recent events like the Lower Jones Tract levee failure and Hurricane Katrina, and recent findings that indicate a two in three chance of a major earthquake occurring in or near the Delta in the next fifty years, have raised awareness and concerns about the vulnerability of Delta levees. Failure of Delta levees can have devastating consequences on farms, communities, roads, railways, power and fuel transmission lines, water conveyance and quality, wildlife resources, and the local and state economy; and

WHEREAS threats such as an aging levee system, regional climate change, rising sea levels, seismic events and urbanization pose an imminent threat to the Delta; and

WHEREAS recent legislation, a number of planning efforts and scientists have affirmed that current uses and ecosystem health in the Delta are unsustainable over the long-term; and

WHEREAS there is growing recognition that prior Delta and Suisun strategic planning efforts have been too narrowly focused on only a few of the Delta's many uses and resources; and

WHEREAS the combined threats and changing conditions within the Delta require immediate attention because of the potentially catastrophic environmental and economic consequences if timely action is not planned for and undertaken; and

WHEREAS the existing complex system of Delta governance has been criticized because no one level of government is fully in charge, or capable of responding in an orderly and effective way to address and mitigate the range of threats to the Delta.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby order effective immediately:

## Appendix I-1

Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force  
Meeting Date: March 1, 2007

Agenda Item: 2  
Attachment 1

1. I hereby initiate the Delta Vision and establish an independent Blue Ribbon Task Force to develop a durable vision for sustainable management of the Delta. Making the Delta more sustainable will require a concerted, coordinated and creative response from leaders at all levels of government, stakeholders, academia and affected communities, and will require significant private and public partnerships and investments. The Delta Vision is designed to accomplish these goals:

- (a) Meet the requirements of Assembly Bill 1200 (Water Code Sections 139.2 and 139.4), Assembly Bill 1803 (Water Code Section 79473) and SB 1574.
- (b) Coordinate and build on the many ongoing but separate Delta planning efforts.
- (c) Assess the risks and consequences to the Delta's many uses and resources in light of changing climatic, hydrologic, environmental, seismic, and land use conditions. This assessment will look at:
  - The environment, including aquatic and terrestrial functions and biodiversity.
  - Land use and land use patterns, including agriculture, urbanization, and housing.
  - Transportation, including streets, roads, highways, waterways, and ship channels.
  - Utilities, including aqueducts, pipelines, and gas/electric transmission corridors.
  - Water supply and quality, municipal/industrial discharges and urban and agricultural runoff.
  - Recreation and tourism, including boating, fishing, and hunting.
  - Flood risk management, including levee maintenance.
  - Emergency response.
  - Local and state economies.
- (d) Develop a program for sustainable management of the Delta's multiple uses, resources and ecosystem. Sustainable management of the Delta means managing the Delta over the long term to restore and maintain identified functions and values that are determined to be important to the environmental quality of the Delta and the economic and social well being of the people of the state. As part of the Delta Vision, priority functions and values will be identified, and measures necessary to provide long-term protection and management will be evaluated.
- (e) Develop a Strategic Plan to implement findings and recommendations for public policy changes, public and private investment strategies, Delta-Suisun preparedness and emergency response plans for near-term catastrophic events, levee maintenance options, and how to monitor and report performance.
- (f) Develop recommendations on institutional changes and funding mechanisms necessary for sustainable management of the Delta. Recommendations may include a discussion of oversight, land use and implementation authorities.
- (g) Inform and be informed by current and future Delta planning decisions such as those pertaining to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, Bay Delta Conservation Plan, Suisun Marsh Plan, Water Plan, updates of related General Plans, transportation and utilities infrastructure plans, integrated regional water management plans, and other resource plans.

2. The Secretary of the Resources Agency as chair, and the Secretaries of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, Department of Food and Agriculture and the California Environmental Protection Agency, along with the President of the Public Utilities Commission shall be the Delta Vision Committee, for the Delta Vision. They shall undertake the following:

- 2 -

## Appendix I-1

**Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force**  
**Meeting Date: March 1, 2007**

**Agenda Item: 2**  
**Attachment 1**

- (a) Explore entering into agreements with private and non-governmental organizations to receive funding for Delta Vision. In addition, the Director of Finance may also accept monetary and in kind contributions to support the activities of the Delta Vision.
- (b) Create a Stakeholder Coordination Group to involve local government, stakeholders, scientists, engineers, and members of the public in this effort to develop a Delta Vision.
- (c) Select Delta Science Advisors from diverse scientific disciplines to provide independent review and advice to the Blue Ribbon Task Force on technical, scientific, and engineering data, analyses, and reports.
- (d) Report to the Governor and the Legislature by December 31, 2008 with recommendations for implementing the Delta Vision and Strategic Plan.

3. I will appoint the members of a Blue Ribbon Task Force to include diverse expertise and perspectives, policy and resource experts, strategic problem solvers, and individuals having successfully resolved multi-interest conflicts. The Task Force will seek input from a broad array of public officials, stakeholders, scientists, and engineers. The Task Force will prepare an independent public report that will be submitted to the Delta Vision Committee and Governor that sets forth its findings and recommendations on the sustainable management of the Delta by January 1, 2008 and a Strategic Plan to implement the Delta Vision by October 31, 2008.

4. Upon submittal of the Delta Vision Committee's recommendations to the Governor and Legislature, the Delta Vision initiative shall terminate unless extended by another executive order.

5. This order is not intended to create, and does not create, any right or benefit, whether substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, agents, or any other person.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have here unto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 28th day of September 2006.

This page has been intentionally left blank.

## Appendix I-2

### CHARGE TO THE DELTA VISION STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION GROUP

Executive Order S-17-06, signed by Governor Schwarzenegger, established the Delta Vision initiative to prepare a vision and strategic plan for the Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta estuary including Suisun Marsh. The Executive Order creates a Delta Vision Committee appointed by the Governor that includes designated Cabinet members and the President of the CPUC and is chaired by the Secretary for Resources.

As provided for in the Executive Order, the Delta Vision Committee will select a Stakeholder Coordination Group (Group) to advise the Blue Ribbon Task Force and Delta Vision Committee in developing conservation and economic strategies capable of sustaining the Delta as an economic and environmental resource of local, state and national significance. Members of the Group will be drawn from diverse organizations representing stakeholders that are knowledgeable on issues relating to the topical areas cited by the Executive Order.

#### **Stakeholder Coordination Group Charge**

The Stakeholder Coordination Group is charged to provide advice and recommendations to the Blue Ribbon Task Force and to the Delta Vision Committee to assist in achieving a durable and sustainable Delta Vision and Strategic Plan. The best available scientific, technical and economic (local, regional and state) information pertinent to their deliberations will be made available, and they will be assisted during their meetings by the Delta Vision staff. The Group shall convene and deliberate in public meetings.

1. The Stakeholder Coordination Group shall develop alternative visions for the Delta addressing the substantive topics identified in the Executive Order. In particular, visions should address the following four factors:
  - A) The potential impacts of natural disasters, including floods, earthquakes and global warming on the Delta;
  - B) The current and future impacts of residential, commercial and other development on the Delta;
  - C) The ability of the Delta to continue to exist as a vital environmental resource for California;
  - D) The ability of the Delta to continue to provide a statewide supply of water, of high quality, for residents, businesses and agriculture.

The visions should be developed to the extent that needed public policies are identifiable, but need not be developed to the point of specific assignment of responsibilities to any government, existing or needed statutory authority, administrative arrangements or financing.

These proposals shall be delivered to the Blue Ribbon Task Force by August 2007. The proposals will be considered in the deliberations of the Blue Ribbon Task Force as it develops recommendations for the draft Delta Vision Report.

## Appendix I-2

2. After the Task Force releases its Final Delta Vision Report, the Stakeholder Coordination Group will develop recommendations for implementing the vision(s). By June 2008 the Group will submit its recommendations to the Task Force for consideration in developing the draft Strategic Plan.
3. The Stakeholder Coordination Group will respond to the best of its abilities to requests by the Blue Ribbon Task Force or the Delta Vision Committee for input or specific work products.

Given the complexity of the issues to be addressed and scheduled project milestones, the Stakeholder Coordination Group is expected to meet regularly throughout preparation of the Delta Vision and Strategic Plan (through October 2008). At the discretion of the Stakeholder Coordination Group, one or more working groups may be created to address specific issues for reporting to the overall Group.

Stakeholder coordination group members serve at the pleasure of the Secretary for Resources, chair of the Delta Vision Committee. The composition to and charge of the group may be changed as needed to accomplish the goals of Executive Order S-17-06.

Stakeholder coordination group members are not compensated for time, but may, upon request, be compensated for travel expenses.

## Appendix II-1

### DELTA VISION AND STRATEGIC PLAN STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT

#### Interview Questions

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Organization/Group \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer \_\_\_\_\_

#### Experience/Values Related to the Delta

1. What Delta-related activities, interests or responsibilities do you, your agency or your organization have?
2. What is your long-term vision for the Delta (e.g., in 50+ years)?
3. What factors increase/decrease the likelihood of this vision being achieved?
4. How do you think about “sustainability” in the context of the Delta?
5. How would you define success for the Delta Vision/Strategic Plan initiative?

#### Interest Group Dynamics

6. Which groups do you think share your interests in, and vision for, the Delta?
7. Which might have substantially different interests or visions?
8. How would you describe your relationships with other groups or individuals involved with Delta issues?

#### Information and Uncertainty

9. To assist in creating a vision and strategic plan for the Delta, what key technical questions need to be answered?
10. Do you believe there are critical information/data gaps that need to be addressed before a vision and/or strategic plan can be developed?
11. What do you know about other planning activities, science efforts, programs, etc. regarding the Delta? How do you think they relate or should relate to each other and the Delta Vision process? Which ones are working the best? Which ones need the most improvement?

## Appendix II-1

12. In light of existing scientific uncertainties, what actions do you think might be taken, even now, to avert major risks and damages in the Delta, that would have the support of a wide range of stakeholders?

### Decision Making Challenges

13. What do you think are the critical issues related to developing a “sustainable” Delta?
14. What concerns, if any, do you have about how to implement strategies that might emanate from the Delta Vision/Strategic Plan initiative?
15. When it comes to decision making in the Delta, what are the “elephants in the room” that no one wishes to talk about? How do they impact your interests and what are your thoughts about how to address or resolve these issues?

### Proposed Approach to Creating a Delta Vision and Strategic Plan

16. What are your thoughts about the proposed approach of having a Stakeholder Coordination Group providing input to a Blue Ribbon Task Force, which then makes recommendations to a Cabinet Committee outlining a vision and strategic plan for the Delta?
17. Do you think your interests in the Delta can be served, and reconciled with other interests, by the proposed approach? If not, what modifications to this approach would you suggest?
18. What individuals, groups, or organizations do you think need to be involved for this initiative to: 1) represent your interests effectively, and 2) be successful?
19. Do you think it is possible to reach agreements among stakeholders on a vision and implementable strategic plan for Delta? If not, why? If so, how?
20. What is your experience with collaborative or other public involvement processes?
21. If asked, would you be interested in participating in stakeholder activities that would continue through 2008?
22. Is there anything else you would like to share with us today?

## Appendix II-2

### DELTA VISION STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT INTERVIEWEES

*Aceituno, Mike – NOAA Fisheries*  
*Basye, George – Downey Brand*  
*Birmingham, Tom - Westlands Water District*  
*Bishop, Wally – Contra Cost Water District*  
*Blodgett, Bruce – SJFBF*  
*Bobker, Gary – Bay Institute*  
*Brandt, Alf - Assembly Water Committee*  
*Cain, John - Restoration Programs, Natural Heritage Institute*  
*Callaway, Merita – County Supervisors Association of California*  
*Cantu, Celeste – State Water Resources Control Board (formerly)*  
*Chapell, Steve – Suisun Resource Conservation District*  
*Coglianesse, Marci – Delta Resident*  
*Cosio, Jr., Gilbert – MBK Engineers*  
*Davis, Debbie – Environmental Justice Coalition for Water*  
*Davis, Martha – Inland Empire Utility District*  
*Eaton, Michael – The Nature Conservancy*  
*Erlewine, Terry – State Water Contractors, Inc.*  
*Ferguson, Bob – Ferguson Farms, SDWA, Delta Protection Commission*  
*Fiack, Linda – Delta Protection Commission*  
*Fryer, Lloyd – Kern County Water Agency*  
*Gardner, Henry – Association of Bay Area Governments*  
*Gastelum, Ron – LA Chamber of Commerce*  
*Gioia, John – Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors*  
*Giovanetti, Gary - City of Stockton*  
*Grader, Zeke - Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Association*  
*Guzman, Martha - California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation*  
*Hall, Steve – Association of California Water Agencies*  
*Harlow, Dave – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*  
*Hodgkins, Butch – Reclamation Board*  
*Hopkins, John – Institute for Ecological Health*  
*Huffman, Jared – State Assembly Member*  
*Hunter, Yvonne – League of Cities*  
*Jacks, Paul – Office of Emergency Services*  
*Johnson, David – Boating and Waterways*  
*Kanouse, Randy – East Bay Municipal District*  
*Kaspar, Jeff – Port of Stockton*  
*Keuhl, Shiela – State Senator*  
*Kiger, Luana – U.S. Department of Agriculture – NRCS*  
*LaMar, Steve – Building Industry Association, LegiSight, LLC*  
*Macaulay, Steve – California Urban Water Agencies*  
*Machado, Mike – State Senator*

*McGowan, Mike – Delta Protection Commission*  
*Medvitz, Al – Solano County Farm Bureau*  
*Michny, Frank – U.S. Bureau of Reclamation*  
*Miller, B.J. – Consultant*  
*Mills, John – Consultant*  
*Minton, Jonas – Planning and Conservation League*  
*Mitchell, Charlotte – Sac County Farm Bureau*  
*Mount, Jeff - Center for Watershed Sciences; Professor, Dept. of Geology, UC Davis*  
*Mulcahy, Gary – Winnemem Wintu Tribe*  
*Nelson, Barry – NRDC*  
*Nelson, Dan - San Luis/Delta Mendota Water Authority*  
*Nera, Valerie - California Chamber of Commerce*  
*Nesmith, David - Environmental Water Coalition*  
*Newman, John – PG&E*  
*Nomellini, Dante – South Delta Water Agency*  
*O'Connor, Dennis – Principal Consultant, State Natural Resources & Water Committee*  
*O'Leary, Lynn – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District*  
*Perez, Anthony – CA Department of Parks & Rec*  
*Quinn, Tim – State Water Project Issues, Metropolitan Water District*  
*Reagan, Mike – Solano County Board of Supervisors*  
*Rosekrans, Spreck – Environmental Defense*  
*Rosen, Rudy – Ducks Unlimited*  
*Scheuring, Chris - CA Farm Bureau Federation*  
*Shabazian, David – Sacramento Area Council of Governments*  
*Shaffer, Steve – CA Department of Food and Agriculture*  
*Sieferman, Jr., Frank - Yolo County Board of Supervisors*  
*Simitian, Joe – State Senator*  
*Spivy-Weber, Francis – Mono Lake*  
*Steinberg, Darrell – State Senator*  
*Thayer, Paul – State Lands Commission*  
*Torlakson, Tom – State Senator*  
*Travis, Will – Bay Conservation and Development Commission*  
*Van de Brooke, Tomi – Land Use & Water Policy, California Alliance for Jobs*  
*Whiteside, Carol – Great Valley Center*  
*Wolk, Lois – State Assembly Member*  
*Zlotnick, Greg – Santa Clara Valley WD*  
*Zuckerman, Tom – Central Delta Water Agency*

## Appendix II-3

### **WATER RESEARCH FOUNDATION – DELTA VISION WORKSHOP** **ROUNDTABLE QUESTIONS**

#### **Group Discussion Questions:** **Water Education Foundation Workshop, Stockton** **June 2006**

1. How are your interests being met, or not being met, by the status quo?
2. What should be the key outcomes of the visioning process; how can we ensure that the process is trustworthy and credible?
3. What key information do we need to know?
4. What are the difficult issues that nobody wants to talk about?
5. What actions could be taken now?

#### **Group Discussion Questions:** **Water Education Foundation Workshop, Los Angeles** **November 2006**

1. Besides water supply, why care in Southern California about sustainability of the Delta?
2. What issues (if any) tend to be avoided but need to be addressed if the Delta Vision & Strategic Planning processes are to be successful?
3. What are your thoughts about decision-making processes for the Delta Vision & Strategic Planning? How can we ensure the process builds a strong foundation for decisions?
4. What information or data gaps need to be filled?
5. What should be the key outcomes of the visioning and strategic planning process?

This page has been intentionally left blank.

Appendix III-1

## **Delta Vision**

### **Related Projects and Activities**

# Delta Vision – Related Projects and Activities

Appendix III-1

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

Introduction.....	67
Reference Table .....	68
Related Projects and Activities	
Habitat Protection/Ecosystem Restoration .....	69
Water Conveyance and Quality .....	76
Flood Control and Levee Maintenance .....	80
Local and Regional Land Use.....	82
Other Studies and Resources .....	87

## **Delta Vision – Related Projects and Activities**

### Appendix III-1

#### **INTRODUCTION**

In support of the Delta Vision process, this compendium describes various activities, projects, programs, and entities that are associated with efforts relating to or affecting conditions in the Delta. A brief overview of each project or activity is provided, along with key contacts and, if available, locations for obtaining additional information on the internet. Efforts are grouped into four general categories:

- Habitat Protection / Ecosystem Restoration
- Water Conveyance and Quality
- Flood Control and Levee Maintenance
- Local and Regional Land Use

A final category captures other efforts that do not readily fall into one of the above categories.

The table on page 2 provides a cross-reference for objectives associated with each project or activity. The table includes the page location where a description of each project is provided.

In seeking to identify related efforts, information was obtained through interviews and document review. Also, a break out session at the Delta Vision Conference – sponsored by the Water Education Foundation in June 2006 – participants were asked to identify related projects and interested parties regarding Delta activities. This compilation represents the results of those inquiries and is not intended to provide an exhaustive listing of the many ongoing programs and projects occurring in Delta.

## Delta Vision – Related Projects and Activities

### Appendix III-1

<b>DELTA VISION – RELATED PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES</b>						
Project	Ecosystem Restoration / Habitat Protection	Water Quality / Conveyance	Flood Control / Levees	Local / Regional Land Use	Other	(page location)
Abandoned Vessel Removal Program	X				X	72
Bay Area Council – So. California Water Committee Dialogue					X	86
Bay Delta Conservation Plan	X	X	X			69
Bethel Island Conceptual Water Supply Project						78
Big Break Shoreline Facilities				X		70
Bio-energy Grant Study					X	86
Central Valley Salinity Alternatives		X				77
Contra Costa County Clean Water Programs		X				78
Delta Boating Needs Assessment					X	84
Delta HCPs/NCCPs	X			X		69
Delta Improvements Package	X	X	X			76
Delta In-Channel Islands Restoration	X		X			71
Delta Long-Term Management Strategy	X	X	X			80
Delta Mercury TMDL and TMDL Collaborative	X	X				77
Delta Natural Gas Wells					X	81
DPC Land Use and RMP (Primary Zone) / Background Reports	X	X	X	X		83
DPC Recreation Masterplan Strategy				X		86
DPC Strategic Plan	X	X	X	X		83
DPC Urban Developments Project Tracking				X		85
Dredged Material Management Office					X	80
General Plan Updates						85
Great Valley Center Annual Report					X	87
Integrated Regional Water Management Plans	X	X	X			72
Invasive Species Aquatic Weed Control Program	X					71
Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs)				X		82
Lower Yolo Bypass Stakeholder Process						72
McCormack-Williamson Habitat Friendly Levee Rehabilitation						73
North Delta Improvement Project	X		X			81
Restore the Delta					X	74
Rodent Control Program			X			80
SACOG and SJCOG Blueprint Processes	X			X		84
Salinity Studies – DWR		X				79
San Joaquin County Ag Water Quality Control Program		X				76
SF Estuary Project – CCMP Update	X	X	X	X		68
Solano Wind Projects				X	X	81
South Delta Improvement Project	X	X				78
State Parks Central Valley Vision				X		82
Stone Lakes NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan	X				X	74
Suisun Marsh Habitat Mgmt., Preservation, Restoration Plan	X	X	X			74
Univ. of Pacific – Natural Resource Institute Dialogue					X	86
Walnut Grove Sewage Treatment Plant		X			X	81
Williamson Act Contracts and Easement Programs				X		84
Yolo Ag Water Quality Support Program		X				76
Yolo County Parks and Open Space Master Plan				X		73
Yolo Wildlife Area LMP	X					73

## Delta Vision – Related Projects and Activities

### Appendix III-1

#### **HABITAT PROTECTION/ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION**

**Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)** email sent 1.3..07

Contact Cindy Darling ([cindy.darling@resources.ca.gov](mailto:cindy.darling@resources.ca.gov)). 916-653-5656 [www.delta.ca.gov](http://www.delta.ca.gov).

Appendix F of the MOA provides a schedule for interim projects.

[http://resources.ca.gov/docs/BDCP\\_MOA\\_-\\_final\\_7-28\\_-\\_with\\_attachments.pdf](http://resources.ca.gov/docs/BDCP_MOA_-_final_7-28_-_with_attachments.pdf)

[http://resources.ca.gov/docs/BDCP\\_Planning\\_Agreement\\_10.6.06.pdf](http://resources.ca.gov/docs/BDCP_Planning_Agreement_10.6.06.pdf)

The goals for the BDCP include the following:

- conservation and management of Covered Species within the Planning Area
- preserve, restore and enhance aquatic, riparian and associated terrestrial natural communities and ecosystems that support Covered Species within the Planning Area through conservation partnerships
- allow projects to proceed that restore and protect water supply, water quality, and ecosystem health within a stable regulatory framework
- implementation of Covered Activities complies with applicable State and federal fish and wildlife protection laws and other environmental laws
- provide a basis for permits necessary to lawfully take Covered Species
- coordinate and standardize mitigation and compensation requirements for Covered Activities within the Planning Area

The Agencies (DWR, DFG, FWS, NOAA Fisheries, and USBR), support implementation of the following interim projects described in the MOU:

- water supply projects – attachment B
- water quality projects – attachment C
- ecosystem projects – attachment D
- levees and other work in the waterways – attachment E

The current schedules for these interim projects are included in Attachment F for information purposes only. Development of the BDCP shall not delay implementation of interim projects.

#### **Delta HCP and/or NCCPs**

- East Contra Costa County, John Kopchik – Community Development Department  
[jkope@cd.co.contra-costa.ca.us](mailto:jkope@cd.co.contra-costa.ca.us). 925-335-1227  
Website: <http://www.cocohcp.org> final HCP/NCCP available
- \*Yolo County JPA, Maria Wong [maria.wong@yolocounty.org](mailto:maria.wong@yolocounty.org) 530-666-8834  
Website: <http://www.city.davis.ca.us/yolohabitatjpa>
- \*Solano Water Agency, Chris Lee ([clee@scwa2.com](mailto:clee@scwa2.com)) 707-455-1105  
Website: <http://www.scwa2.com/hcp.html> draft HCP available
- SJ County COG, Steve Mayo [smayo@sjcog.org](mailto:smayo@sjcog.org) 209-468-3913  
Website: [www.sjcog.org/sections/habitat](http://www.sjcog.org/sections/habitat)
- Sacramento County, Vince King [kingv@saccounty.net](mailto:kingv@saccounty.net) 916-874-6141  
Website: <http://www.co.sacramento.ca.us/planning/habitat-conservation/overview.html>
- South Sacramento (City of Elk Grove), Taro Echibur ([techiburu@elkgrovecity.org](mailto:techiburu@elkgrovecity.org))

## Delta Vision – Related Projects and Activities

### Appendix III-1

#### **Big Break Shoreline Facilities**, East Bay Regional Park District

Mike Anderson, Project Manager [manderson@ebparks.org](mailto:manderson@ebparks.org) 510-544-2303

Jim Townsend, Trails Development Program Manager [jtownsend@ebparks.org](mailto:jtownsend@ebparks.org) 510-544-2602

The Big Break Shoreline facilities include public access, the Big Break Regional Trail, and a new Delta Discovery Center. East Bay Parks is currently developing the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail is providing public access at the old Anderson dairy property. East Bay Parks would also manage the feasibility study for the potential first segment of the Great California Delta Trail.

#### *San Francisco Estuary Project*

##### *Update of Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan*

Marcia Brockbank [mbrockbank@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:mbrockbank@waterboards.ca.gov) 510-622-2325

Paula Trigueros [ptrigueros@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:ptrigueros@waterboards.ca.gov) 510-622-2499

Website: <http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/projects/ccmp.html> provides update guidelines, workgroup charge document, and notes for each program workgroup meeting.

**CCMP Update Purpose:** to revise only those objectives and actions needing significant revision due to error, obsolescence, or new information. The first priority is to identify major omissions in the CCMP that need to be added to meet needs evident today. The second priority making a few substantive revisions of existing CCMP action items that are so out of date and misleading that their updating is essential. Third in priority would be identifying 1993 action items that are either completed or no longer needed.

Program areas are combined into five work groups:

- Aquatic resources and wildlife: Facilitator - *Rick Morat, US FWS*
- Pollution prevention and water quality: Facilitator - *Richard Looker, SF Bay Water Board*
- Water use and recycling: Facilitator - *Cindy Darling, CALFED*
- Watershed management (includes land use/economic incentives): Facilitators – *Cathy Bleier, Resources Agency and Rainer Hoenicke, SFEI*
- Wetlands: Facilitator - *Mike Monroe, US EPA, Region 9*

Dredging and Waterway Modification will be reviewed by Members of the Long Term Management Strategy for Dredged Materials

Delta ecosystem vision and levee stability: the CCMP Update will reference or incorporate appropriate recommendations from other agencies. Additionally, the Watershed management/land use work group will consider possible Delta objectives and actions.

Draft chapters are currently being submitted to the Implementation Committee for review and approval. The target timeline is to have the plan approved by the State of the Estuary conference in October 2007 (see <http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/soe> for conference information).

## Delta Vision – Related Projects and Activities

### Appendix III-1

#### *Delta In-Channel Islands Restoration Pilot Project*

Marcia Brockbank ([mbrockbank@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:mbrockbank@waterboards.ca.gov)). 510-622-2325 Email sent 1.3.07

Website: <http://www.delta.ca.gov/activities/in-channel-islands-proj.asp>

(older material) [http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/mtg\\_materials/channel\\_islands\\_wrk\\_grp.html](http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/mtg_materials/channel_islands_wrk_grp.html)

The objectives of the Delta In-Channel Islands Working Group pilot project were to assess the effectiveness of various biotechnical shoreline stabilization treatments in protecting and enhancing in-channel island habitat values. A final monitoring report for the demonstration project was released in June 2006 and is available at:

<http://www.delta.ca.gov/activities/pdf/Final%20Monitoring%20Report.pdf>.

The project was undertaken to demonstrate the feasibility of “environmentally friendly” methods for the stabilization of in-channel islands and their adjoining levees. The baseline biological and physical data collection for the candidate in-channel islands was completed in 1997. The CALFED Demonstration Project allowed the design and installation of eleven types of biotechnical wave and erosion control structures (modified to fourteen with adaptive management). The biotechnical wave and erosion control structures were installed in various combinations along three Delta in-channel islands. Construction at Webb Tract III was initiated in 2000 with final installation in October 2001, Little Tinsley Island was completed in November 2001, and Webb Tract I was completed in August 2002. The construction for the Amendment (Anchored Woody Debris Pile) on Webb III was initiated in 2004 and completed in 2005. The biotechnical wave and erosion control structures were sited to test different wave, tide and current exposure. The biological and hydrogeomorphic monitoring completed to date indicates that the biotechnical wave and erosion control structures were constructed and function as designed. Adaptive management has resulted in the abandonment of ineffective floating log booms and mulch pillows for tule plantings, dictated a retrofitting of the initial design for log wave breakers and a new design for the subsequent construction of buttressed log wave breakers, and modification of the tethered floating log planter. The report includes design schematics for each of the wave and erosion control structures and observations on longevity of the experimental structures.

#### *Invasive Species Aquatic Weed Control Program*

Karen McDowell, SF Estuary Project 510-622-2398 [kmcdowell@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:kmcdowell@waterboards.ca.gov)

Website: [http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/projects/invasive\\_species.html](http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/projects/invasive_species.html). draft plan available on-line SLC ballast water website:

[www.slc.ca.gov/Division\\_Pages/MFD/MFD\\_Programs/Ballast\\_Water/Ballast\\_Water\\_Default.htm](http://www.slc.ca.gov/Division_Pages/MFD/MFD_Programs/Ballast_Water/Ballast_Water_Default.htm)

The California Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan provides a framework for responding to aquatic invasive species in California, and for protecting the biological integrity of California's waters and native plant and animal communities. This plan targets both marine and freshwater environments. **The draft plan is currently posted for review purposes only. Do not cite draft.** The final Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan is expected to be

## Delta Vision – Related Projects and Activities

### Appendix III-1

released in Spring 2007. DFG will lead implementation efforts and the State Lands Commission will lead for ballast water vectors.

#### *Integrated Regional Water Management Plans*

- Yolo County, Traci Sheehan for (Petrea Marchand , Water Resources Coordinator, 530-666-8835) final draft expected March 2007; adoption expected in summer 2007  
Website: [www.yolowra.org](http://www.yolowra.org) draft IRWMP available on-line
- San Joaquin County  
water resources Mel Lytle 209-468-3089
- Solano County, Solano County Water Agency 707-451-6090  
IRWMP adopted in February 2005.  
Website: <http://www.scwa2.com/uwmp.html>
- Sacramento Valley, Northern California Water Association, 916-442-8333  
Website: [http://www.norcalwater.org/int\\_program/irwmp.shtml](http://www.norcalwater.org/int_program/irwmp.shtml) IRWMP on-line
- American River Basin, Rob Swartz, [rswartz@rwah2o.org](mailto:rswartz@rwah2o.org), 916-967-7692  
Website: <http://www.rwah2o.org/rwa/programs/irwmp> IRWMP on-line
- Bay Area IRWMP (Contra Costa County Water Agency, 925-335-1226, Roberta Goulart, Executive Director, [rgoul@cd.cccounty.us](mailto:rgoul@cd.cccounty.us))  
Website: final IWRMP available on-line at:  
[http://www.bayareairwmp.net/Content/10050/BAY\\_AREA\\_IRWMP\\_DOCUMENT.html](http://www.bayareairwmp.net/Content/10050/BAY_AREA_IRWMP_DOCUMENT.html)

#### *Lower Yolo Bypass Stakeholder Process*

In 2004 and 2005, an assessment was conducted on behalf of the Yolo Basin Foundation to determine whether a stakeholder-based process could help create solutions to address conditions in the Lower Bypass. The assessment recommends that a collaborative stakeholder process be convened to address Lower Yolo Bypass conditions. The process should be sponsored by the Yolo Basin Foundation, potentially with co-sponsor support from the Delta Protection Commission. The recommended outcome of the collaborative process is a comprehensive set of management recommendations for the Lower Bypass, developed through a consensus-seeking process, that include the following specific elements:

- guiding principles and agreements for multi-party management of the Lower Bypass
- mutually beneficial actions with proposed implementation timelines
- preliminary technical analysis to support proposed actions, and
- preliminary regulatory strategies required to implement different actions

The assessment is available on-line at:

[http://www.csus.edu/ccp/publications/LYB\\_Feasibility\\_Assessment\\_Report\\_Final\\_For\\_Web\\_\(8-24-05\).pdf](http://www.csus.edu/ccp/publications/LYB_Feasibility_Assessment_Report_Final_For_Web_(8-24-05).pdf)

#### **DPC Abandoned Vessel Removal Program**

DPC: 916-776-2290

Delta-wide program to address the removal of abandoned vessels Delta-wide utilizing Boating and Waterways funding – up to \$500,000 available annually.

## Delta Vision – Related Projects and Activities

### Appendix III-1

#### *Yolo Wildlife Area Land Management Plan*

Dave Feliz, DFG, [dfeliz@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:dfeliz@dfg.ca.gov) 530-757-2431

Website: <http://www.yolobasin.org/management.cfm>

The Preliminary Draft Land Management Plan (LMP) for the California Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Yolo Wildlife Area was released in March 2006. In August of 2001, the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) acquired approximately 12,000 acres of land in the Yolo Bypass (Bypass) to expand the Yolo Wildlife Area. The LMP includes both the original Yolo Wildlife Area and the expanded acreage.

The purpose of the LMP is to establish a descriptive inventory of the sites and the wildlife and plant resources that occur in the Yolo Wildlife Area; guide the management of habitats, species, appropriate public use, and programs to achieve DFG's mission; direct an ecosystem approach to managing the Yolo Wildlife Area in coordination with the objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, Ecosystems Restoration Program; identify and guide appropriate, compatible public-use opportunities within the Yolo Wildlife Area; direct the management of the Yolo Wildlife Area in a manner that promotes cooperative relationships with adjoining private-property owners; and provide an overview of the Yolo Wildlife Area's operation, maintenance, and personnel requirements to implement management goals, and serve as a planning aid for preparation of the annual budget for the Sacramento Valley–Central Sierra Region (Region 2).

#### *Yolo County Parks and Open Space Master Plan*

Contact Julia McIver, Yolo County Deputy Director of Parks and Natural Resources

[Julia.mciver@yolocounty.org](mailto:Julia.mciver@yolocounty.org) (530) 666-8775

Website: <http://www.yolocounty.org/prm/Master-Plan/2%20Frontmatter.pdf>

The Yolo County Parks & Open Space Master Plan guides county-wide parkland planning. It provides programmatic policies and guidelines for the management, use, and development of County park properties, both individually and system-wide. Plan recommendations address:

- building upon the existing County parks, open space areas, and resources
- future parkland acquisition
- administration and management

#### *McCormack-Williamson Habitat Friendly Levee Rehabilitation*

Keith Whitener, The Nature Conservancy, TNC 916-683-1767

The McCormack-Williamson Habitat Friendly Levee Rehabilitation project is part of the North Delta Improvement Project and has received funding through the CALFED Levee System Integrity Program. This project is converting a 1,600 acre agricultural island to a restoration island designed to accommodate planned flooding. Treatments of interior levees include

## Delta Vision – Related Projects and Activities

### Appendix III-1

resloping and establishment of native grasses, shrubs and trees to allow interior slopes to withstand inundation.

#### **Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge**

Beatrix Treiterer, Acting Refuge Manager 916-775-4421

David Bergendorf, Regional NWR Planner [David\\_Bergendorf@fws.gov](mailto:David_Bergendorf@fws.gov) 916-414-6503

Website for Comprehensive Conservation Plan: [www.fws.gov/stonelakes/ccp.htm](http://www.fws.gov/stonelakes/ccp.htm)

In September 2006, the US Fish and Wildlife Service released the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), to guide management of fish, wildlife, plants, other natural resources, and visitor use on the refuge for the next 15 years. The final plan is expected to be released by late spring 2007. The CCP is flexible and will be revised periodically. Measurable objectives and specific strategies are provided for the following key goals:

- conserve, enhance, restore, and manage Central Valley and native habitats to benefit associated species
- conserve, enhance, and restore high quality migrating, wintering, and breeding habitat for migratory birds
- provide visitors with wildlife-dependent recreation, interpretation, and education opportunities that foster understanding of the refuge's unique resources
- in cooperation with Tribal representatives, identify and protect cultural resources and educate the public regarding American Indians and the history of the region

#### **Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan**

Steve Chappelle, Executive Director, Suisun Resource Conservation District 707-425-9302

Website: <http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/suisunmarsh/charter/smip.asp>

The Suisun Marsh Plan will serve as a regional plan to guide ongoing operations in managed wetlands and recovery actions for listed species. Key components of the plan are:

- tidal restoration
- at-risk species recovery
- water quality
- levee system integrity
- managed seasonal wetlands

In addition to developing the Suisun Marsh Plan, concurrent activities will include:

- obtaining a new Regional General Permit, from US Army Corps of Engineers
- amending the Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement
- tidal restoration projects at Hill Slough West, Blacklock, and Meins Landing
- recommending Suisun Marsh salinity objectives to the State Board

#### **Restore the Delta**

Barbara Barrigan-Parilla, Campaign Director, [Barbara@restorethedelta.org](mailto:Barbara@restorethedelta.org) 209-479-2053

Website: [www.restorethedelta.com](http://www.restorethedelta.com)

## **Delta Vision – Related Projects and Activities**

### Appendix III-1

Restore the Delta is a grassroots campaign of residents and organizations committed to restoring the California Delta so that its waters are fishable, swimmable, drinkable, and farmable. A coalition of California Delta residents, community groups, farmers, business leaders, fishermen, faith-based communities, unions, and environmentalists, Restore the Delta envisions the California Delta as a place where a vibrant local economy, tourism, recreation, farming, wildlife, and fisheries thrive as a result of resident efforts to protect our water way commons.

## Delta Vision – Related Projects and Activities

### Appendix III-1

#### WATER CONVEYANCE AND QUALITY

##### **Yolo Ag Water Quality Support Program, Yolo County RCD**

Clara Mamone (530) 662-2037 x. 120

Website: <http://yolorcd.org/programs/ag-water-quality-improvement-program>

The *Yolo-Solano Ag Water Quality Management Support Program* is funded through the State Water Resources Control Board. The program provides financial assistance (and the RCD's technical expertise) in installing *sediment traps*, *vegetated ditches* and/or *winter cover crops*, for farmers who are members of a Yolo or Solano County water quality coalition group. The program includes free monitoring during the first irrigation or storm event, in order to measure the effectiveness of these conservation practices in reducing runoff and improving water quality.

##### **San Joaquin County and Delta Ag Water Quality Program**

San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition

John Meek, Director ([jmeek@jmeek.com](mailto:jmeek@jmeek.com)) 20-603-8567

The Coalition oversees the ag waiver program associated with the ag water drainage exemption from the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The program extends from Alturas to Bakersfield and includes water quality monitoring and testing. There are 15 monitoring sites, with each site being tested 8 times per year.

##### **Delta Improvements Package**

Ron Ott, CBDA, [ronott@calwater.ca.gov](mailto:ronott@calwater.ca.gov) 916-445-2168

Paul Massera, DWR, 916-651-7194 [pmassera@water.ca.gov](mailto:pmassera@water.ca.gov)

Website: <http://www.calwater.ca.gov/DeltaImprovements/DIP/DeltaImprovementPackage.shtml>

The Delta Improvements Package outlines actions related to water project operations in the Delta that will result in increased water supply reliability, improved water quality, environmental protection and ecosystem restoration, protection of the Delta Levee system, and analyses and evaluation to support improved real-time and long-term management.

The Delta Improvements Package also outlines conditions under which the SWP would be allowed to increase its permitted export pumping capacity from 6,680 to 8,500 cubic feet per second. In addition to the commitments in the CALFED ROD to avoid adverse fishery impacts and to protect in-Delta water supply reliability, these conditions include:

- Construction of permanent operable barriers in the South Delta;
- Development of a salinity management plan for the San Joaquin River;
- Improvements to protect water quality near the Contra Costa Canal;
- Environmental protection for important native fish species, including implementation of the Ecosystem Restoration Program; and,

## Delta Vision – Related Projects and Activities

### Appendix III-1

- Development of a long-term Environmental Water Account.

#### Delta Mercury TMDL

Patrick Morris, Central Valley RWQCB, [pmorris@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:pmorris@waterboards.ca.gov) 916-464-4621

Website: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/programs/tmdl/deltahg.html>

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Board) is currently developing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) value for mercury in the Delta; such TMDLs have already been approved for Cache Creek, San Francisco Bay, and other California waterways. The Board's process underway consists of two parts: Delta methylmercury TMDL development and a Basin Plan Amendment. Regarding the first step, a revised draft of the "Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary TMDL for Methylmercury " was issued in June 2006. A Basin Plan Amendment staff report was also prepared, containing propose a site-specific water quality objective for the Delta, an implementation plan to achieve the objective, and regulations to reduce mercury and methylmercury discharges. The Central Valley Water Board will hold a public workshop in mid-March 2007 to discuss the development of an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the control of methyl and total mercury in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary.

Central Valley Water Board staff is compiling a database that describes existing managed wetland areas as well as completed, in-progress and anticipated habitat restoration efforts in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (the Delta) and its upstream watersheds. The database will identify wetland characteristics and allow habitat managers and wetland project proponents to collaborate on methylmercury characterization and control studies. Please contact Michelle Wood at [mlwood@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:mlwood@waterboards.ca.gov)

#### Delta Mercury TMDL Collaborative (916) 776-2290

Website: <http://www.delta.ca.gov/activities/mercury.asp>

The Delta Protection Commission (Commission) has convened a collaborative group to provide coordinated input into the Board's Delta mercury TMDL process. To date, the Collaborative has expressed a desire for integration of the Commission's Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta (Plan), several "Delta visioning" processes and programs being undertaken by other entities, multi-species HCP/NCCPs, and other prominent Delta activities, into the process. The collaborative will be reviewing and providing input on the

To date, the Collaborative includes representatives from: CA Bay-Delta Authority; cA Dept. of Fish and Game; CA Dept. of Water Resources; US Dept. of Agriculture; Contra Costa Water Agency; Yolo County Planning, Resources & Public Works; Sacramento County Sanitation District; San Joaquin County Public Works; San Joaquin County RCD; Yolo HCP/NCCP JPA; Yolo Basin Foundation; The Nature Conservancy; Ducks Unlimited; HART Restoration; DCC Engineering; KSN Engineering; Environmental Justice Water Coalition; and Delta Landowners/Stakeholders.

## Delta Vision – Related Projects and Activities

Appendix III-1

### Contra Costa County Clean Water Programs

Donald Freitas, Program Manager, [dfrei@pw.cccounty.us](mailto:dfrei@pw.cccounty.us) 925-313-2373

Website: <http://www.cccleanwater.org/index2.php>

In 1972, The Federal Water Pollution and Control Act was enacted. In 1987, it was amended and is currently known as the Clean Water Act (CWA). In accordance with CWA amendments, regulations require municipalities to obtain permits which outline programs and activities to control surface stormwater pollution.

To comply with these regulations, Contra Costa County, nineteen of its incorporated cities and the Contra Costa Flood Control & Water Conservation District have joined together to form the Contra Costa Clean Water program (CCCWP). The CCCWP strives to eliminate stormwater pollution through public education, inspection and enforcement activities and industrial outreach.

### South Delta Improvement Project

Paul Marshall, DWR, [marshall@water.ca.gov](mailto:marshall@water.ca.gov) 916-653-2118

Website: [www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa\\_projdetails.cfm?Project\\_ID=316](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_projdetails.cfm?Project_ID=316) The final EIS/EIR is available on-line.

The South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP) is a series of interrelated actions to manage water levels and water quality, protect fish and provide increased flexibility for operations of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and the State Water Project (SWP).

The specific actions include the following:

- replace a seasonal rock gate installed to protect fish with a permanent operable gate at the Head of Old River
- replace three seasonal rock gates with permanent operable flow gates on Middle River, Grantline Canal and Old River
- improve flow conditions in south Delta channels with limited dredging in Middle River, Old River and West Canal
- extend 24 existing local agricultural diversions in the south Delta to deeper water to limit the necessity for more frequent gate operations
- increase the permitted diversion capacity at the SWP Clifton Court Forebay to 8,500 cfs
- implement an interim operations regime from December 15<sup>th</sup> – March 15<sup>th</sup> until permanent barriers are fully operable

## Delta Vision – Related Projects and Activities

Appendix III-1

### Bay Delta Water Quality Control & Basin Planning

#### Bethel Island Conceptual Water Supply Project

Paul Harper, General Manager, Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District, [BIMID@sbcglobal.net](mailto:BIMID@sbcglobal.net)

#### DWR Salinity Studies

DWR, Modeling Support Branch, 916-653-4391 Tara Smith [tara@water.ca.gov](mailto:tara@water.ca.gov)  
Methodology for Flow and Salinity Estimates in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh available on-line at <http://modeling.water.ca.gov/branch/annual.html>

Water quality monitoring data for specific conductance and some salinity data are available on-line at [http://bdat.ca.gov/Php/Data\\_Retrieval/data\\_retrieval\\_by\\_category.php](http://bdat.ca.gov/Php/Data_Retrieval/data_retrieval_by_category.php) and at <http://iep.water.ca.gov/dss>. Karl Jacobs, Div. of Environmental Services [kjacobs@water.ca.gov](mailto:kjacobs@water.ca.gov)

Information on South Delta Salinity is available on-line at [www.waterrights.ca.gov/baydelta](http://www.waterrights.ca.gov/baydelta).

#### Central Valley Salinity Alternatives

Jim Martin, Central Valley RWQCB – Sacramento [jmartin@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jmartin@waterboards.ca.gov) 916-464-4685  
Website: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/cv-salts/index.html>

Elevated salinity in surface water and groundwater in California's Central Valley is an increasing problem affecting much of California, other western states, and arid regions throughout the world. As surface and groundwater supplies become scarcer, and as wastewater streams become more concentrated, salinity impairments are occurring with greater frequency and magnitude. The Central Valley Water Board and State Water Board have initiated a comprehensive effort to address salinity problems in California's Central Valley and adopt long-term solutions that will lead to enhanced water quality and economic sustainability. Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) is an effort to develop and implement a comprehensive salinity management program. The goal of CV-SALTS is to maintain a healthy environment and a good quality of life for all Californians by protecting our most essential and vulnerable resource: water.

## **FLOOD CONTROL AND LEVEE MAINTENANCE**

### **Delta Long-Term Management Strategy (LTMS)**

Al Paniccia, Program Manager, [Al.Paniccia@usace.army.mil](mailto:Al.Paniccia@usace.army.mil) 415-977-8468

Website: <http://www.deltaltms.com/index.htm>

Draft framework and charter on-line at: <http://www.deltaltms.com/studydocuments.htm>

The Long Term Management Strategy (LTMS) is designed to improve operational efficiency and coordination of the collective and individual agency decision making responsibilities resulting in approved dredging and dredged material management actions in the Delta. Approved dredging and dredged material management actions will take place in a manner that protects and enhances Delta water quality, identifies appropriate opportunities for the beneficial reuse of Delta sediments for levee rehabilitation and ecosystem restoration, and establishes safe disposal for materials that cannot be reused.

The Delta LTMS will facilitate development and implementation of a Sediment Management Plan (SMP) based on science, enhanced communication and coordination among the stakeholders, and resolution of issues surrounding Delta dredging and beneficial use of sediments. The goals of the Delta LTMS include the following:

- maintain and stabilize Delta levees protecting land-based activities and water conveyance
- protect and enhance water quality for Delta water supply and ecosystem function
- support and maintain Delta channel functions for navigation, flood control, water conveyance, and recreation
- protect and enhance aquatic, wetland, and terrestrial ecosystems

### **Dredged Material Management Office, US Army Corps of Engineers**

Rob Lawrence [robert.j.lawrence@usace.army.mil](mailto:robert.j.lawrence@usace.army.mil) 415-977-8020

The DMMO is a joint program of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, State Lands Commission, San Francisco District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Also participating are the California Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The purpose of the DMMO is to cooperatively review sediment quality sampling plans, analyze the results of sediment quality sampling and make suitability determinations for material proposed for disposal in San Francisco Bay. The goal is to increase efficiency and coordination between the member agencies and to foster a comprehensive and consolidated approach to handling dredged material management issues.

**Rodent Control Program** facilitated jointly by Contra Costa and San Joaquin county ag commissioners. Cathy Roybal, CC Ag Commissioner 925-427-8610 [croyb@ag.cccounty.us](mailto:croyb@ag.cccounty.us)

## **North Delta Improvement Project**

<http://mcwatershed.org/NorthDelta/northdelta.html> (old website)

The North Delta Improvement Project consists of three components:

- North Delta Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Project: public draft of EIR expected by May 2007. Chris Elliot, Jones and Stokes 916-737-3000
- Delta Cross-Channel Project Ron Ott, CBDA, [ronott@calwater.ca.gov](mailto:ronott@calwater.ca.gov) 916-445-2168
- Through-Delta Facility Project Don Kurosaka 916-653-6636 [donk@water.ca.gov](mailto:donk@water.ca.gov)

## **Delta Natural Gas Wells**

Jim Hart, Senior Mineral Resources Engineer, Mineral Resources, SLC (562) 590-5251

Division of Oil and Gas, Dept. of Conservation – Headquarters: 916-445-9686

Website: [www.consrv.ca.gov/dog/index.htm](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dog/index.htm)

Oil and gas facilities are permitted through the Department of Conservation, Division of Gas, Oil and Geothermal Resources. The Oil and Gas division oversees conditions for the permits. Facilities located on State lands must also obtain a lease through the State Lands Commission. SLC oversees operational aspects of the leases.

## **SMUD Solano Wind Project**

Solano County Department of Resource Management 707-784-6765

Wind project EIRs: Montezuma - <http://www.montezumawind.ene.com/deir.aspx>;

Shiloh II - <http://www.co.solano.ca.us/FileDownloads/Downloads.asp?NavID=1438>

Website: <http://www.smud.org/green/wind.html>

The wind turbine siting plan is a component of the General Plan and is available upon request through the Department of Resource Management.

## **Walnut Grove Sewage Treatment Plant**

Sonny Lunde, Project Engineer 916-876-6056; Vicky Fry [fryv@saccounty.net](mailto:fryv@saccounty.net)

Website: <http://www.csd-1.com/prj-cwg.html> both lines projected to be operation by 2008

The rural communities of Courtland and Walnut Grove are located in south Sacramento County on the banks of the Sacramento River. Each community has its own wastewater treatment plant. These outdated treatment plants have not been able to keep up with increasingly stringent new rules governing their operations. The project includes the construction of new pump stations at the existing Courtland and Walnut Grove treatment plants and the installation of main pipeline to connect to existing sewer facilities and deliver wastewater to the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant in Elk Grove.

## LOCAL AND REGIONAL LAND USE

### **State Parks Central Valley Vision**

The Central Valley Vision project began in early 2003 when the Department perceived a serious lack of available recreational opportunities in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys. The Department set out to gather data to better understand the magnitude of the problem and to make recommendations for actions to be taken that would serve to anticipate the needs of Valley (of “Central Valley”) residents, whose members and diversity are expected to substantially change over the next 35 years.

The assessment concluded that there are significant resource protection and recreational opportunities and programs in the Central Valley through which State Parks can better serve the needs of Valley residents and visitors. Detailed recommendations are provided in the summary report. The report recommends State Parks undertakes the following actions:

1. Systematically assess and, as appropriate, expand and improve park facilities and recreation programs at Central Valley State Park System units to accommodate the varied needs and interests of visitors and an increasingly changing Valley population.
2. Significantly expand recreational and interpretive opportunities, programs, and the preservation of resources, particularly those along river corridors.
3. Continue to provide quality recreation programs and interpretive activities and consider expanding these services depending on staffing availability at Central Valley park units.
4. Strengthen partnerships with non-profits, concession operators, and other public agencies to expand active and passive-use, park and recreation facilities, programs and services.

### **LAFCOs**

- Solano LAFCO  
Shaun Pritchard, Executive Director, [eo@solanolafco.com](mailto:eo@solanolafco.com) 707-438-1785  
Website: <http://www.solanolafco.com>
- Yolo County LAFCO  
Elizabeth Kemper, Executive Officer [elizabeth.kemper@yolocounty.org](mailto:elizabeth.kemper@yolocounty.org) 530-666-8048  
Website: <http://www.yolocounty.org/lafco/default.htm>
- Contra Costa LAFCO  
Lou Ann Texeira [LTexe@lafco.cccounty.us](mailto:LTexe@lafco.cccounty.us) 925-335-1094  
Website: <http://www.contracostalafco.org>
- San Joaquin LAFCO  
Bruce Barraco, Executive Director [bbaracco@sjgov.org](mailto:bbaracco@sjgov.org) 209-468-3198  
Website: <http://www.co.san-joaquin.ca.us/lafco>
- Sacramento LAFCO  
Peter Brundage, Executive Officer [Peter.Brundage@SacLAFCo.org](mailto:Peter.Brundage@SacLAFCo.org) 916-874-6458  
Website: <http://www.saclafco.org>

## **DPC Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta**

Available on-line at: <http://www.delta.ca.gov/plan.asp>

The Delta Protection Act of 1992 directs the Delta Protection Commission to prepare a comprehensive resource management plan for land uses within the Primary Zone of the Delta (Plan). The planning conducted by the Delta Protection Commission involved preparation and public review of eight background reports:

- Environment
- Utilities and Infrastructure
- Land Use and Development
- Water
- Levees
- Agriculture
- Recreation and Access
- Marine Patrol, Boater Education, and Safety Programs

These reports provided the information base for the Plan findings, policies, and recommendations for each element. The reports are available on-line at <http://www.delta.ca.gov/bkgrpt.asp>

The Plan consists of three sections. Part I, the Introduction, describes the planning program and the Plan objectives. Part II provides Findings and Policies, and Recommendations for more than one local government, or for State agency or special district action. Part III describes the program for implementing the Plan. Part IV is a map which shows the boundary of the Primary and Secondary Zones of the Delta.

## **DPC Strategic Plan**

Website: <http://www.delta.ca.gov/pdf/strategicplan.pdf> quarterly updates available (left-side link)

Outlines elements of the program strategy, funding strategy, and leadership strategy, as well as program administration goals regarding public relations, budget, staffing, commissioners, and legislation. Implementation tasks address goals for:

- the regional plan for the primary zone
- the environment
- utilities and infrastructure
- land use
- agriculture
- water
- recreation and access
- levees
- marine patrol, boater education, and safety programs

## **Williamson Act Contracts and Easement Programs – Department of Conservation**

Brian Leahy, Assistant Director, Division of Land Resources Protection

[brian.leahy@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:brian.leahy@conservation.ca.gov); DLRP offices [dllrp@constrv.ca.gov](mailto:dllrp@constrv.ca.gov) 916-324-0850

Website: <http://www.constrv.ca.gov/DLRP/lca/index.htm> 2006 Status Update available at:

[www.constrv.ca.gov/DLRP/lca/stats\\_reports/2006%20Williamson%20Act%20Status%20Report.htm](http://www.constrv.ca.gov/DLRP/lca/stats_reports/2006%20Williamson%20Act%20Status%20Report.htm)

The California Land Conservation Act of 1965--commonly referred to as the Williamson Act--enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use. In return, landowners receive property tax assessments that are much lower than normal because they are based upon farming and open space uses as opposed to full market value. Local governments receive an annual subvention of forgone property tax revenues from the state via the Open Space Subvention Act of 1971.

## **SACOG and SJCOG Blueprint processes**

David Shabazian, SACOG, [dshabazian@sacog.org](mailto:dshabazian@sacog.org) 916-340-6231

Website: <http://www.sacregionblueprint.org/sacregionblueprint/home.cfm>

Michael Swearingen, SJCOG, [mswearingen@sjcog.org](mailto:mswearingen@sjcog.org) 209-468-3913

Website: <http://www.sjcog.org/sections/BlueprintProcess>

2 year planning process, public workshops scheduled for March 2007,

The Blueprint process is designed to help regions plan for future growth and quality of life through the integration of transportation, housing, land use, economic development, and environmental protection. Elected officials from each city and county within the region will determine how their jurisdictions will accommodate the regional vision. The final product, known as the Regional Blueprint, includes a visual representation of the goals expressed in general plans and individual regional transportation plans.

## **Delta Boating Needs Assessment – Department of Boating and Waterways**

Steve Watanabe, Acting Chief, Boating Facilities Division

[swatanabe@dbw.ca.gov](mailto:swatanabe@dbw.ca.gov) 916-263-0780

Website: <http://www.dbw.ca.gov/deltaindex.asp> assessment available on-line

The Boating Needs Assessment was undertaken by the California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) in cooperation with the Delta Protection Commission's Recreation Citizen's Advisory Committee. The study was conducted during 2000 to 2002, to review and evaluate the status and needs associated with recreational boating in the Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta. Existing and future levels of boating-related recreational use in the Delta were projected. In addition to these estimates, the study also projected the cost expected to meet both existing and future facility needs to accommodate those levels.

**General Plan Updates:** (especially the park, ag, and open space elements)

- Yolo – David Morrison [david.morrison@yolocounty.org](mailto:david.morrison@yolocounty.org) 530-666-8775  
Website: <http://www.yolocountygeneralplan.org> preferred land use alternative identified, final update anticipated to be adopted by early 2009
- Sacramento – Surinder Singh [singhsu@saccounty.net](mailto:singhsu@saccounty.net) 916-874-6141  
Website: <http://www.saccounty.net/planning/gpupdate/gpu-index.html> public review draft available on-line
- Solano – Dale Cardwell, 707-784-6765 draft anticipated by end of 2007; final update and EIR by November 2008  
Website <http://solanocountygeneralplan.net>
- San Joaquin – Kerry Sullivan, Director, Community Development Dept, San Joaquin County 209-468-3124; contact Jackie Fonsi at 209-468-3384 to obtain copy of General Plan; during the next fiscal year, San Joaquin County will begin the program to update the general plan.
- Contra Costa – Patrick Roche 925-335-1242  
General Plan available online at:  
<http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/2005%20General%20Plan/General%20Plan.pdf>

**DPC Urban Developments Project Tracking**

Website: <http://www.delta.ca.gov/pdf/PPMemo.pdf> (current projects monitoring list)  
<http://www.delta.ca.gov/pdf/PPMemoLongVersion.pdf> (on-going projects list)

**County Planning Department Contact Information**

- Sacramento County Planning and Community Development Department  
website: <http://www.saccounty.net/planning> 916-874-6221
- Yolo County Planning, Resources, and Public Works Department  
website: <http://www.yolocounty.org/org/ppw> 530-666-8775
- San Joaquin County Planning / Development Services Division, Community Development Department  
website: <http://www.sjgov.org/commdev> 209-468-3121
- Solano County Planning Services Division, Department of Resource Management  
website: <http://www.co.solano.ca.us/SubSection/SubSection.asp?NavID=235>  
707-784-6765
- Contra Costa County Current Planning Division, Community Development Department  
website: [http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/cd/current\\_planning.htm](http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/cd/current_planning.htm) 925-335-1381

Add any **appropriate local Advisory Committees** (example, Clarksburg Advisory Committee)  
Contact each Planning department to determine if there are advisory committees in their county that are applicable.

- Solano Agricultural Advisory Committee – focus on agricultural sustainability and economic prosperity Ag Commissioner Office: 707-784-1310  
<http://www.co.solano.ca.us/SubSection/SubSection.asp?NavID=757>

## **OTHER EFFORTS**

### **DPC Recreation Masterplan Strategy** DPC 916-776-2290

The initial recreation report focused on aquatic recreation and is available online at:

[http://www.dangermond.com/dpc/DELTA\\_PLAN\\_FINAL6\\_DRAFT.pdf](http://www.dangermond.com/dpc/DELTA_PLAN_FINAL6_DRAFT.pdf)

This report now serves as Phase I for the larger Recreation Masterplan Strategy. Funding is currently being sought to address the upland component of the Delta Recreation Masterplan. Additional recreation reports are available online at <http://www.delta.ca.gov/recreation.asp>.

### **Bay Area Council – So. California Water Committee Dialogue**

Jim Levine, 510-596-9501 [jim.levine@lfr.com](mailto:jim.levine@lfr.com)

Since Spring of 2006, the Bay Area Council Water Policy Committee has been holding discussions with the Southern California Water Committee, exploring challenging water issues. A joint effort is being planned to bring together key stakeholders for dialogue, starting in Spring of 2007. Special attention is being given to bringing business interests from southern and northern California to work together in addressing key issues. This would involve chambers of commerce, water companies, and members of the business community.

### **University of the Pacific – Natural Resources Institute Dialogue**

Margit Aramburu, Director

The UOP – NRI Dialogue began meeting in December 2006. A Drafting Committee develops consensus issues to be discussed by the full group, with each meeting addressing a particular aspect of development in the flood plain – including funding and liability issues.

### **Great Valley Center annual report**

Carol Whiteside, President, [carol@greatvalley.org](mailto:carol@greatvalley.org) 209-522-5103

Website: <http://www.greatvalley.org>

Available on-line – search “annual report” at <http://www.greatvalley.org/publications/index.aspx>

### **Bio-energy Fuels Study**

Delta Resource Conservation and Development Council

John Brodie, SJ RCD Watershed Coordinator 209-327-2823