

August 18, 2008

Phil Isenberg
Chairperson
Chairperson & Members
Delta Vision Plan Task Force
650 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Dear Chairperson Isenberg:

We are writing this Letter of Opposition to the Delta Vision Plan which is currently being developed. As citizens concerned about the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, we ask that you, as our elected officials, make sure that any plans regarding the future of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta include the following conditions:

- Protect and improve water quality in both the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the estuary leading to the San Francisco Bay.
- That all future planning processes and any future governing structures include local representation, including reclamation districts, city and county governments.
- Ensure the improvement and maintenance of those Delta levee systems which protect residences, recreational boating environments and high quality agricultural land. The Delta is a significant source of valuable residential areas and provides significant recreational services to California. Any governmental plans or actions which would negatively impact residential property values, recreational environments or productive agricultural lands are unacceptable.
- That all planning processes for the Delta be open and transparent, with all meetings and documentation widely distributed and communicated to the public, along with made available via the internet.
- All legal commitments for North Delta Water District water quality and quantity be guaranteed to continue as currently defined.
- Protect the economic viability of agriculture in the Delta and ensure that high quality agricultural land is not taken out of production.
- Land for habitat restoration should focus on those properties already owned by the State of California and federal governments as well as non-governmental conservation organizations.
- Create reservoirs in the Sierra Nevada Mountains to capture snow and rain water for future uses such as electricity generation, recreation, drinking water and irrigation for all of California.
- Insist that Southern California start producing fresh water from desalinization of ocean waters to become more self-sufficient in their water needs. We can not continue to take water from Northern California or other states to support Southern California.

It is not acceptable to assume that the Delta is "dying" and that it can not be maintained and protected in its current state. Plans need to be developed that preserve the Delta, as we know it, and address Southern California's need for water.

It is time to stop assuming that the solution to the needs for water in Central and Southern California is to take water away from Northern California and the Delta.

We urge you to act responsibly to preserve the future of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and to look to alternative solutions for water storage and conveyance which will benefit everyone in California.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Dick Wareham and Amelia Cook in cursive script.

Dick Wareham & Amelia Cook
14024 Islandview Way
Walnut Grove, CA 95690