

September 30, 2008

Phil Isenberg
Chair
Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force
650 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re. Comments on draft Delta Vision Strategic Plan

Dear Mr. Isenberg:

I am writing to provide the comments of the Executive Board of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force. The Board met on September 19th to consider comments forwarded to it by the Regional Planning Committee.

I sincerely appreciate the work that you and the Task Force have undertaken on behalf of the entire State of California. We at ABAG are focused on the ways in which our Delta communities (and those communities outside of the Delta that rely on it) can best assist you in your deliberations during this planning and implementation process.

Our member jurisdictions have focused on the following key issue areas:

- 1) Water quality/water supplies
- 2) Land planning/land protection
- 3) Infrastructure protection
- 4) Watershed restoration/species
- 5) Socio-economic impacts
- 6) Recreation
- 7) Flood management/emergency preparedness/recovery planning
- 8) Implications of sea level rise

In the interest of working cooperatively with the State of California and its partners in this endeavor, we offer the following specific comments to your staff as they prepare the 5th draft of the Strategic Plan:

- a) To achieve coherent land use planning across jurisdictions, the primary and secondary land use zones in the Delta should be coordinated with through a Delta-wide land use authority;
- b) The State of California should retain the current definition of “surplus water” for planning and implementation purposes; and
- c) The draft Strategic Plan should consider the following plan comments from ABAG jurisdictions:
 - **Co-Equal Goals: Health of Delta Ecosystem and a Reliable Water Supply**
 - Develop plan to re-route or protect existing infrastructure (non-water related) and involve local communities and the region.
 - Prioritize watershed restoration and species protection relative to water conveyance out of the Delta.
 - Ensure that each region of the state maximizes its existing water capacity for self sufficiency through the implementation of sustainable water conservation measures.
 - **Protect the Delta as a Unique and Valued Place**
 - Recognize the Delta as a place. Provide mitigation for economic and social impacts in Delta communities related to plan implementation.
 - Consider the public health, climate-change, and local economic benefits of retaining productive agricultural land in close proximity to urban centers.
 - Sea-level rise projections must be considered as part of plan. Work with Bay Area regional agencies – including ABAG and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) – to address this issue.
 - Provide for elected official representation (local/COG) on the proposed Delta Ecosystem and Water Council.
 - **Revitalize the Delta Ecosystem**
 - Ensure proposed water diversions and storage facilities do not compromise Delta water quality, regional and local water supply, and watershed/species protection programs.
 - Work with ABAG and regional agencies to identify potential loss of lands and land values in the Delta, and land conservation opportunities.
 - The California Department of Water Resources is preparing a joint Environmental Impact Report/Statement for the related but distinct Bay Delta Conservation Plan to include proposed conveyances and restoration opportunities. Clarify CEQA/NEPA applicability to the DVSP.

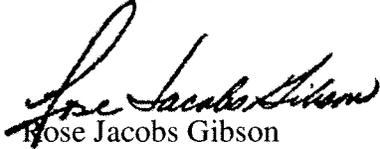
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- Reduce risks to people, resources, and state interest in the Delta
 - Current strategies do not adequately address the protection of critical infrastructure (water and transportation) that must cross the Delta to serve the San Francisco Bay Area.
 - Work with ABAG, Bay Area Regional Agencies, Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), and the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) to make the critical link between community development and reliable water supplies.

Please feel free to call Ken Kirkey, Planning Director, with any questions about these comments. He can be reached at (510) 464-7955.

Sincerely,



Rose Jacobs Gibson
President, Executive Board
Supervisor, County of San Mateo

Cc: John Kirlin, Executive Director, Delta Vision
Henry Gardner, Executive Director, ABAG
Kenneth Kirkey, Planning Director, ABAG