



September 2, 2008

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Mr. Phil Isenberg, Chair
Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Delta Vision Strategic Plan – Third Staff Draft – August 14, 2008

Dear Mr. Isenberg:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), I want to thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the Draft Delta Vision Strategic Plan. CSAC recognizes the complexities of water use and distribution throughout the state and has reiterated its position on these issues over the years through various policy statements, including, but not limited to support for statutory protection of counties of origin and watershed areas, support for existing water rights, the need for new and expanded water resources, and the need for local water conservation efforts.

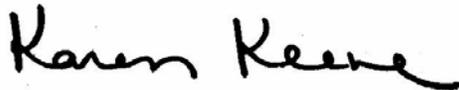
CSAC also acknowledges that many counties rely on the Delta as a water delivery system, and recognizes the urgency with which all of the Delta partners, including the State must act to resolve and fund infrastructure, environmental and supply issues. We have reviewed the draft strategies and urge you and the other task force members to ensure that any proposed Delta solutions be implemented in a manner that:

- Respects the affected counties' land use authority, revenues, public health and safety, economic development, water rights, and agricultural viability.
- Promotes recreation and environmental protection.
- Ensures Delta counties' status as voting members of any proposed Delta governance structure.
- Improves flood protection for delta residents, property, and infrastructure.
- Improves and protects the Delta ecosystem, water quality, flows and supply.
- Ensures consistency with affected counties adopted policies and plans.

- Secures financial support for flood management, improved emergency response, preservation of agriculture, protection of water resources, and enhancement and restoration of habitat.
- Accords special recognition, and advances the economic vitality of “heritage” or “legacy” communities in the Delta.
- Demonstrates a clearly evidenced public benefit to any proposed changes to the boundaries of the Delta.
- Supports development of adequate water supply for the south, utilizing the concept of "Regional Self Sufficiency" whereby each region maximizes conservation and recycled water use, implements storage (surface and groundwater) and considers desalination, as necessary.

In addition, we respectfully request that you seriously consider the comments and recommendations offered by individual counties, as well as the Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Keene". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Keene
CSAC Legislative Representative

cc: Members, Delta Blue Ribbon Task Force
Members, Delta Vision Committee