



DELTA WETLANDS PROJECT

September 2, 2008

Mr. Phil Isenberg, Chair
Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force
California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Delta Vision Strategic Plan, Third Staff Draft

Dear Mr. Isenberg,

As the Strategic Plan clarifies elements of the Blue Ribbon Task Force's Delta Vision, it becomes clear that the promise of preserving the "Delta As Place" is very limited. In combination with the emphasis on isolated conveyance, the Vision becomes a nightmare for Delta interests, and becomes a significant obstacle to building consensus for conveyance improvements.

Specifically, Strategy 11 is little more than a marketing plan, and Strategies 12 and 13 are strategies for limiting investment in the Delta rather than a commitment to Delta protection.

Nowhere else in the Vision and Strategic Plan is the Blue Ribbon Task Force so timid and defeatist. With respect to the "Delta As Place," there is no stated objective to strive for, and nothing that balances limitations on land use with protections that maintain local economies and their associated tax base. There is no serious consideration of alternate land uses and levee improvement and maintenance strategies that could protect the Delta in a cost effective manner. There is no discussion of using changes in law or governance structure to manage risk. And absent identified strategies, there is no call for an effort to identify options that will work.

This stands in stark contrast with the Vision and Strategic Plan's proposed Herculean efforts to protect water supply reliability and ecosystem functions. In these areas, strategies are proposed that constitute a best educated guess as to what might work with little evident

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concern with the cost or probability of success. Whatever else their faults may be, these strategies cannot be criticized for being timid and defeatist.

The Vision and Strategic Plan for the Delta should be equally bold. In time, others will weigh in on the amount of money to be allocated to water supply, ecosystem restoration, and Delta protection. Traditional thinking is good at that.

It is up to the Vision process to be visionary. And in the third staff draft, it has failed at that promise with respect to Delta protection. You can and should do better.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anson B. Moran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Anson B. Moran
Delta Wetlands General Manager
Member, Delta Vision Stakeholders' Coordination Group