



July 14, 2008

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

Subject: Comments on Delta Vision Strategic Plan, Preliminary Staff Draft, Second Draft, regarding Delta as Place

Dear Mr. Isenberg,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Preliminary Staff Draft Delta Vision Strategic Plan. Discover the Delta Foundation previously submitted comments on the Delta as Plan Committee recommendations in a letter sent in April 2008.

The Discover the Delta Foundation is working to dramatically increase the awareness of the special values of the place called the Delta. The centerpiece of this work is to construct the two-story, 7,728-square-foot Discover the Delta Information and Visitor Center, which will open this year on a two-acre site at the intersection of State Highways 12 and 160 in Sacramento County, just east of the Rio Vista Bridge over the Sacramento River.

The Board created a California nonprofit corporation with the mission of increasing the awareness of “the agricultural, cultural, historical, environment and recreational values of the California Delta, so that this very important resource can be better understood, protected, enhanced and enjoyed.” The Foundation is supported by membership that includes individuals, businesses and community leaders from all over the Delta.

The Board supports the Delta as Place **goals** on page 12, including: Increase recognition of the Delta as a place; Enhance tourism and recreation , agriculture, and the local economy; Decrease flood risks to people and property, and match levee types to land uses, services and other management requirements; and improve governance of state interests and local priorities.

The Board supports the **strategies** on page 12, including #10: Increase recognition of the Delta as a place, and enhance tourism and recreation, by creating a National Heritage Area and a multi-unit State Recreation Area, and by facilitating new investments in “gateway” locations near major cities and highways.

The Board suggests the following to help meet the Delta as Place goals:

- Add an action item to allow for current and/or future grant monies to be made available to implement the goals for Delta as Place
- Add a performance measure for gateway investments including creation of information centers or facilities to support recognition of the Delta as a place.
- Add a performance measure for increasing understanding and awareness of the Delta and its natural and human history, and its role in California’s past, present and future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Preliminary Staff Draft Delta Vision Strategic Plan.

Sincerely,

Ken Scheidegger,
President
Board of Directors