

## Rogers, Pat@CALFED

---

**From:** Ryan, John@CALFED  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 01, 2008 10:55 AM  
**To:** Context, DeltaVision@CALFED  
**Subject:** Review of the Delta Vision Strategic Plan

**Importance:** High

Congratulations to Staff for developing an excellent initial draft of the Delta Vision Strategic Plan. I thought the document was informative and captured nicely the vision of the Blue Ribbon Task Force. There is definitely a foundation within the document for moving the vision forward, but it needs to be clearly articulated and presented in a way that the general public can better understand. In my opinion the document needs to be shortened and much "less wordy" than it currently stands.

I liked the introductory section, but it still is too wordy and difficult for anyone but the most informed to comprehend. It can be improved through the clarification of terms and phrases. For example, terms such as "**subsidence**" and "**regional self-sufficiency**" are used throughout and probably will not be understood by many in the general public. Additionally, phrases such as creating "**effective and transparent revenue-generation mechanisms**", "**Develop a robust, science-based adaptive management program**", "**The California Delta is a unique and valued area, warranting recognition and special legal status from the State of California**" are not well defined in the introduction or in the main body of the plan. Both the general public and perhaps even more knowledgeable folks may become frustrated or intimidated by some of the terms and phrases.

I found myself very interested in the Governance and Finance section of the plan. This is where most of my professional interest lies, but also in my opinion, it is by far the most important component of the vision. If we are to succeed in blending the two co-equal values of the Ecosystem and Water Supply Reliability we must have the proper governance structure in place from the beginning, . As a civil servant, I understand, respect, and agree with most of the goals, measures, strategies, and actions presented in the plan. As a tax payer and citizen of the State of California, I read this and say - oh no - how may more councils, commissions, conservancies, teams, utilities, programs, and boards do they need to spend the our hard earned money only to screw up the Delta even more than it already is. The document must be able to articulate clearly and concisely why and how all this additional bureaucracy is going to effectively and efficiently improve the California Delta. The people of this State want assurances that this structure is legitimate and not just another mechanism for bureaucrats and politicians to "hook-up" their cronies with nice paying jobs and benefits. I strongly believe that this structure will either be designed and managed properly with great success, or be manipulated by those only concerned with their own agendas and careers, with the Delta and all those depending on it suffering the consequences.

In reviewing the document, it certainly is evident that the California Delta Ecosystem and Water Council, if established, will have significant responsibility and work load. This type of work is not going to get done by senior level executives and my recommendation is to ensure that this organization is staffed with very skilled professionals. I recommend first creating and designing an effective Council and then staffing it with individuals that possess the necessary competencies to deliver the mission. Next, begin to develop and design the other pieces and staff them with individuals who have been developing and growing within the council. This approach will ensure the transfer of knowledge as each organization is brought on-line. This should greatly enhance consistency and collaboration among the different organizations.

Finally, this new Governance Structure will be the key to successful Delta initiatives. The entire structure must be composed of folks who will be thoroughly engaged and passionate about the Delta. They must also be given the tools to ensure their success. I still believe that **Portfolio and Performance management (plus associated tool sets)** are the key to supporting a robust and effective Governance process. To a lesser, but still important extent, the Implementing Agency's must standardize and commit to the disciplines of **Program and Project management (plus associated**

**tool sets)** in order to secure success at that level.

Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to comment on the document. Good luck!!

**John Ryan**  
**Program Manager**  
**CalFED Program Performance & Tracking**  
**[jjryan@calwater.ca.gov](mailto:jjryan@calwater.ca.gov)**  
**(916) 445-0672 (work)**  
**(916) 275-8881 (cell)**