

From: mary mctaggart [cavelanding@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 02, 2008 5:24 PM
To: Context, DeltaVision@CALFED
Subject: Comment to Strategic Plan - Third Revision
Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force
Comments - Strategic Plan, Third Revision - September 2, 2008

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am a resident of Reclamation 307 (Lisbon District) in the far northern Delta near Clarksburg. I grew up here, and my parents own small farmland holdings here and in Reclamation District 551 (Pierson District). I have attended two BDCP Scoping meetings in the Spring, the Delta Town Hall meeting in Walnut Grove, two BDCP Landowner meetings, and the Delta Vision Public Comment meeting held at the Ryde Hotel last week. I have read dozens of the comment letters available on your website and the whole of the third revision of your Strategic Plan. I have also read some of both PPIC reports, and others of the myriad of Delta-related documents available through Internet access. Here are some concerns/questions I hope you will address in the next revision of your Strategic Plan:

- Please retain the numbering of lines in the next versions, because otherwise it is very difficult to reference specific portions of the Draft. Also, leaving out the line numbers leaves the impression that the Draft is essentially finished, which I hope is not the case, given that attendees at the Ryde Hotel meeting were assured that there is still "lots of time" to respond to the Draft.
- Page 22: Recognizing the Delta's unique character: Please recognize here that the "unique cultural and historical character of the existing Delta" is predominantly agricultural, specifically production agriculture. How much of that agricultural character will remain after the proposed new conveyance and ecosystem facilities are built? Is this character part of what Delta Vision declared makes the Delta a "unique and valued area", or will this kind of agriculture here truly become "history"?
- Page 22: Please remove the sentence, "Finally, the Delta should be designated for specific agricultural programs that will help Delta farmers take advantage of the unique soils and growing environment of the Delta", unless what you mean by it is telling Delta farmers they will be "guided" into forms of farming that they would not have chosen if left alone.
- Strategy #11: What does designating the Delta as having "special legal status from the State of California" actually, legally, mean for the owners of private property in the Delta?
- Strategy #11: What are the "appropriate ways" Delta Vision sees to enhance the agricultural economy? How will this economy be helped by increasing the number of acres engaged in non-food- and -fiber-producing activities, such as flood conveyance and habitat, and by more acres of presently productive farmland being acquired by public agencies, presumably for non-farm purposes? How does this square with the concerns raised by a recent report by the American Farmland Trust ("Paving Paradise") about loss of prime farmland through urbanization, particularly given the fact that 75% of Delta land is prime farmland that is 45% more productive than California farmland generally. Does Delta Vision owe the public any explanation for why, when California's population has almost doubled in 40 years, it should essentially remove a large chunk of its richest farmland from production?
- Strategy #11: How will increasing tourism visitation strengthen the activities of Delta farmers who choose not to engage in agritourism pursuits? How will the Vision safeguard these farmers from the negative effects of increased traffic, vandalism, and dumping, to name only a few?
- Strategy #11: Please define "sustainable agriculture" and "multifunctional forms of agriculture".

Thank you for your consideration. Many of us are truly sorry that one of your number was not able to attend the meeting at the Ryde Hotel, as promised in the meeting notice.

Sincerely,

Mary McTaggart
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