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County Administrator
MICHAEL D. JOHNSON
(707) 784-6100
Fax (707) 784-6665

675 Texas Street, Suite 6500
Fairfield, California 94533-6342
<http://www.co.solano.ca.us>

October 21, 2008

Phil Isenberg, Chairman and Members
Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Comments on Strategic Plan Draft 5

Dear Chairman Isenberg and Members of the Task Force:

Solano County appreciates the opportunity to comment again on the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force Strategic Plan Draft 5. The following comments are in addition to those made to Drafts 1-4 (which are still germane):

1. In Figure 1-4 on the History of Delta Conflicts the 1982 initiative to defeat the peripheral canal was left off. This must be an oversight since other voter initiatives, such as the 1960 bond for the state water project, do appear.
2. There is an inadequate discussion of funding for projects that protect Delta infrastructure, including but not limited to: flood protection, roads, utility lines, railways, bridges, and drinking/agricultural water supply including screening of all (including non-SWP and non-CVP) water diversions in the Delta from take of listed species relocated or enhanced by Delta restoration projects.
3. Any proposed Delta solutions must respect the affected local governments' land use authority, revenues, public health and safety, economic development, water rights, and agricultural viability. The current proposal gives the Delta Protection Commission direct permitting authority for projects within the Delta's Primary Zone. This is unacceptable. Solano County urges you to continue the land use governance role local governments have under California's Constitution, as they are much better equipped to effectively manage these processes than a small State Commission. Local governments are responsible to advocate for the interests of the represented communities and are skilled at learning and adapting to difficult circumstances. This group regularly finds creative approaches to resolving complex issues. We strongly encourage you to take full advantage of this excellent and experienced resource.
4. Solano County recommends that you consider the following alternative structure for land use in the Primary Zone:
 - Allow the five Delta Counties and three Councils of Governments' appointees to join under a written agreement to respond to State imposed legal constraints as well as local needs and issues that transcend political boundaries in the Primary Zone.
 - This group should elect a rotating leader responsible for providing quarterly reports to the California Delta Ecosystem and Water Council.

- This group could work with state, federal, and non-governmental agencies to ensure proper management of the proposed ecosystem enhancements and National Heritage Area for the Delta.

We thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments.

Regards,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Reagan". The signature is written over the "Regards," text and extends across the width of the signature block.

Michael Reagan
Solano County Board of Supervisors

cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
All Federal & State Legislative offices representing Solano County
Michael Chrisman, Secretary of Resources
A.G. Kawamura, Secretary of Agriculture
Linda Adams, Environmental Protection Agency
Michael Peevey, President, Public Utilities Commission
Dale Bonner, Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing Agency
Lester Snow, Director of Water Resources
Joseph Grindstaff, Director of California Bay Delta Authority
John Kirlin, Executive Director of Delta Vision
Solano Cities
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Other Delta Counties
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