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July 14, 2008

Honorable Phil Isenberg  
Chairman  
Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force  
650 Capitol Mall, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, California 95814  
Via email: [dv\\_context@calwater.ca.gov](mailto:dv_context@calwater.ca.gov)

Dear Chairman Isenberg:

On behalf of the Southern California Water Committee I write to commend you, members of the Delta Vision Task Force, and Delta Vision staff for a first draft strategic plan that we believe is a bold step towards a new water strategy for California.

The preliminary staff draft on the Delta Vision Strategic Plan advances the policy basis for moving forward on major infrastructure investments in conveyance and storage to protect the environment and provide for water supply necessary for our state's economic health. This preliminary draft Plan identifies that relying on a system that is fragile makes the state's economy vulnerable to intolerable levels of risk.

The SCWC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, public education partnership dedicated to informing Southern Californians about our water needs and our state's water resources. It is a cooperative effort of business, government, water agencies, agriculture, and public interests. Since 1984, the sole purpose of the SCWC is to ensure adequate, reliable, affordable and quality water supply for all Californians.

The SCWC applauds the Plan's endorsement of a dual conveyance system and viewing the Bay Delta Conservation Plan as the vehicle for achieving the necessary environmental reviews for achieving that conveyance. We agree that this duality provides a wide array of opportunities to adaptively manage for Delta ecosystem health while flexibly shifting location and timing of export water diversions to when and where it is least harmful to the environment, but provides the necessary reliability for our region's water supplies.

July 14, 2008  
Honorable Phil Isenberg  
Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force  
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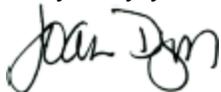
The SCWC looks forward to learning more about the concept in the Plan about increasing wet year diversions from the Delta. It speaks to common sense that with the infrastructure to facilitate this concept, it would benefit both water supply needs and the ecosystem.

The SCWC is on record supporting conservation and recycling. The Plan in calling for maximizing water self-sufficiency throughout California, we believe is an important precept. In addition, the SCWC has long advocated for "good science" in any decision-making process. We are pleased that the Plan calls for a Delta Science Program and a Delta Science and Engineering Board to support the co-equal goals of the Delta Vision.

The SCWC finds many details in the governance section of the Plan that require refinement and more information before we can adequately comment. However, we agree with the Plan when it identifies the California Delta Ecosystem and Water Council's (Council) role as ensuring Plan 'consistency' of action amongst state, federal, and local entities. We also concur with the Plan's conclusion that the Council will not subsume the authority of existing agencies and existing laws. The SCWC believes that it is important to ensure comprehensive and effective governance without replication of responsibilities and bureaucracy. We also agree with the Plan's recognition that Delta-focused nonpartisan operational entities empowered to address day-to-day operations, management, and administrative issues, such as a new California Water Utility or similar agency, will be required for efficient implementation of the new Delta-wide functions of the Plan to achieve the Council's policies for long term balancing of the co-equal goals.

The SCWC is pleased that the first draft Plan links solutions to the Delta's ecosystem and water supplies comprehensively. There are, of course, a myriad of details that we need to better understand. At first glance, however, the SCWC views the Plan as a whole as a major breakthrough in California water policy.

Very truly yours,



Joan Anderson Dym  
Executive Director