Council Roles and the Delta Plan

COORDINATE	ENSURE CONSISTENCY	INFORM	COMMENT	ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY
• Develop, implement, and update Delta Plan • Establish and oversee Interagency Implementation Committee	• Determine consistency of covered actions upon appeal • Advise local and regional agencies on consistency with Delta Plan	Adaptive management of the Delta Plan: Develop and use best available science and information to inform decision making in the Delta	Review and comment on environmental impact reports and other Delta-related programs and projects	• Hold hearings • Request reports • Track performance measures

Source: Delta Plan, 2013 pp. 38

Delta Conveyance Principles (Principles 1-5)

1. New or improved Delta conveyance infrastructure should (a) enhance the Delta ecosystem, including restoring more natural flows, (b) protect or enhance water quality, and(c) increase the reliability that water available for export supplies can be exported.
2. Flexibility is key to new or improved Delta conveyance infrastructure. Conveyance improvements should be able to adapt to changing conditions (hydrology, climate change, and ecosystem needs) both near-term and in the future while continuing to provide benefits to the ecosystem and reliably convey available water supplies.
3. New or improved Delta conveyance infrastructure should increase resiliency of the state's water supply systems in the face of future threats related to climate change and levee failures due to sea level rise, more frequent flood events and earthquakes.
4. To maximize benefits, new Delta conveyance infrastructure should be integrated with new and expanded storage projects, increased water-use efficiency and conservation improved groundwater management; and restoration of the structure and function of some key Delta ecosystems.
5. New or improved Delta conveyance infrastructure should contribute to achieving improved water quality both in the Delta and for water quality delivered to the end users of the conveyance system.

Source: *19 Principles for Water Conveyance in the Delta, Storage Systems, and for the Operation of Both to Achieve the Coequal Goals*, Nov 2015

Water Storage System Principles (Principles 6-10)

6. New or expanded water storage projects above and below the Delta are necessary.
7. New or expanded storage projects should be cost effective.
8. Groundwater storage opportunities should be protected.
9. New or expanded storage projects should provide both immediate and enduring ecosystem and water supply benefits.
10. New or expanded water storage projects are part of a system and should support a comprehensive approach to managing the water cycle.

Source: *19 Principles for Water Conveyance in the Delta, Storage Systems, and for the Operation of Both to Achieve the Coequal Goals*, Nov 2015

Delta Water System Operational Principles
(Principles 11-19)

11. Water exported from the Delta should more closely match water supplies available to be exported. .
12. Storage and conveyance should be operated by storing water in wet periods and reducing diversions in dry periods to (a) protect water quality in the Delta, (b) provide more natural, functional flows, and (c) enhance Delta inflows and outflows, consistent with the needs of the Delta ecosystem and water users.
13. Operational decisions should be based upon more accurate, timely, and transparent water accounting and budgeting.
14. Additional water supplies can be derived from more efficient reoperation of existing infrastructure.
15. Water storage operational guidelines should adopt a multi-year planning horizon to ensure adequate carryover of stored water in surface and groundwater reservoirs at the end of each water year to buffer against multiple dry years.
16. Surface and groundwater storage, whenever feasible, should be operated conjunctively to reduce long term groundwater basin overdraft and improve groundwater basin recharge.
17. Conveyance and storage infrastructure and their operation should provide net benefits to the ecosystem, as opposed to just protecting the ecosystem from further degradation.
18. Operation of storage and Delta conveyance infrastructure should be informed by best available science, adequately monitored and evaluated, and adaptively managed to ensure progress towards well-defined performance measures.
19. Ecosystem benefits should be assured through contracts, operations and governance protocols, or other enforceable agreements.

Source: *19 Principles for Water Conveyance in the Delta, Storage Systems, and for the Operation of Both to Achieve the Coequal Goals*, Nov 2015