

STATE CAPITOL  
ROOM 205  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-4006  
FAX (916) 323-2263

DISTRICT OFFICE  
1020 N STREET, ROOM 576  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-1529  
FAX (916) 327-8754

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**DARRELL STEINBERG**  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE  
SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT

STANDING COMMITTEES:  
SENATE RULES  
CHAIR  
APPROPRIATIONS  
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RECEIVED  
DELTA COUNCIL  
MAILROOM

May 15, 2013

Phil Isenberg, Chair  
Delta Stewardship Council  
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Isenberg:

2009 was an historic year for the advancement of California water policy. I am proud to have played a role in that accomplishment. For the first time in decades, the Legislature and Governor passed a bipartisan, carefully balanced, package of bills to advance water policy in the state. The centerpiece of this package was the Delta Reform Act of 2009.

The Act established a new set of overarching coequal goals consisting of water supply reliability for California and Delta ecosystem restoration. It also provided new direction to reduce reliance on the Delta in meeting California's future water supply needs. The 2009 governance reforms included creation of your Council, a new conservancy to tackle the challenges of massive Delta restoration efforts and local economic development, and a reformulated Delta Protection Commission.

The passage of the Act was significant. It was incredibly difficult to achieve, but it also represented the best effort in decades to manage the Delta and broader California water objectives where prior efforts had fallen short. Many agencies have their own individual roles to play in managing the public interest in the Delta. But the Legislature specifically established the Delta Stewardship Council as an oversight body with central responsibility to ensure achievement of the coequal goals and related state policies.

In the next few days, your council will take up final adoption of the Delta Plan, the guiding document for the Council's future actions. I've watched the work of the Council over these past several years and periodically had the opportunity to meet with you and your fellow Council members to discuss your progress. I have reviewed the final draft that will be presented for adoption to the Council this week.

I want to commend you and your fellow Council members for the dedicated work you have put into this remarkable document.

The final Delta Plan builds on decades of scientific study and real world considerations affecting the Delta region. It provides a clear roadmap for the Delta, increasing the importance of scientific input and advancing a more informed, effective, and adaptive decision-making process for future Delta actions.



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Requirements to use the 'best available science' and 'adaptive management' are woven throughout the Delta Reform Act. These are not bureaucratic buzz words, they are tools necessary to cut through the political debate and gridlock in California's water wars. Their application in the Delta Plan illustrate that the Delta is a dynamic and constantly-changing ecosystem, not a static environment as it has been treated over many decades.

The Delta Plan moves the state into the 21<sup>st</sup> century of sustainable water management. The Council's Delta Science Program, along with the Delta Independent Science Board, plays an integral role in guiding the development and application of science in these matters.

I congratulate your Council for the open and balanced approach you have taken throughout development of the Delta Plan. There are no doubt great challenges ahead as the Plan is adopted and implemented. But your action to adopt the Plan is an important milestone, and one I that strongly support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell Steinberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

**DARRELL STEINBERG**  
Senate President pro Tempore  
Sixth Senate District