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DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A California State Agency

July 12 2013

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Honorable Anthony Rendon
California State Assembly
Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife
State Capitol Bldg., Room 2136
Sacramento, CA 94249-0051

Dear Chair Rendon,

Congratulations on last week's successful Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee hearing on a revised water bond. Your principles and categories are a very helpful way to think about California's interconnected water and environmental issues, and will hopefully lead the way to a reasoned modification of the current bond set for the 2014 ballot.

The 2009 Legislative Water Package took an unusual approach to the old battle over war and the environment: it enacted an interconnected set of actions and policies, rather than pushing just one or a few ideas, and calling that comprehensive policy. The coequal goals of water reliability for California, and an improved and restored Delta ecosystem were the best exemplar of this linkage, and your principles take that same approach.

The Delta Stewardship Council was directed by the Legislature to adopt and implement a Delta Plan to achieve the coequal goals. Our independent 7-member Council took the first step by adopting the Plan by unanimous vote in May of this year.

The Delta Plan includes a number of specific recommendations very similar to those identified in your list of Principles. We organized them in five policy chapters including:

- A more reliable water supply for California (including a focus on regional investments)
- Protect and restore the Delta ecosystem
- Protect the Delta as an evolving place
- Improve water quality to protect human health and the environment, and,
- Reduce flood risk to people, property, and state interests in the Delta.

As required by the 2009 legislation, we also strongly emphasized the need for independent scientific judgment, based on the 'best available science' to resolve both water supply and Delta ecosystem problems. We were pleased when Governor Jerry Brown and U.S. Interior

"Coequal goals" means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place."

Honorable Anthony Rendon

July 12, 2013

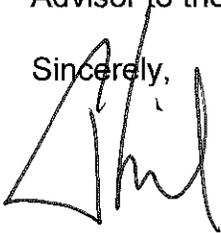
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Secretary Ken Salazar echoed this approach in their mid-2012 announcement on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

Your work to revise the current water bond is very important. We recognize that any water bond will not be limited to funding Delta-related actions. We would be more than happy to make our board and staff, including the members of our Delta Science Program available to assist you and the members of your Committee and working group.

Please don't hesitate to contact me (916 445-0065) or Jessica Pearson, Legislative and Policy Advisor to the Council at 916 445-0936.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Isenberg". The signature is stylized and written over the word "Sincerely,".

Phil Isenberg, Chair
Delta Stewardship Council

cc: Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
Water Bond Working Group Members and Staff