



## DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

*The Council was created by the Legislature to play a synthesizing and coordinating role among the various agencies and to develop an enforceable plan to achieve the coequal goals of ecosystem restoration and statewide water supply reliability.*

*Numerous governmental entities play diverse roles in the Delta and in California's water management. This structure has contributed to many decades of dispute over the right actions for the Delta's future.*

*Implementation of the Delta Plan will take place through compliance with regulations of specific actions and through the coordination and support of state, federal and local activities to achieve the coequal goals that are State policy for the Delta.*

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## Delta Plan Themes

### **Action is Needed Now**

We have been studying the problems of our water supply and the declining Delta ecosystem for decades. Near-term actions must move forward while long-term conveyance, storage and ecosystem solutions are studied.

State law now requires achievement of the coequal goals of water supply reliability for California and a healthy Delta ecosystem, in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place.

We must consistently invest in the Delta ecosystem and in California's water supplies. Boom and bust funding will occur, but more certain funding must be found to sustain the needed scientific advancement and infrastructure improvements to achieve the coequal goals.

### **Adaptive Management**

A commitment to adaptive management will allow us to take action under uncertain conditions. It provides a strategy for making decisions rather than constantly delaying actions until more information is available.

### **Water Management: Conservation and Efficiency**

Everyone in California must conserve water and must increase their efforts to do so.

Everyone who uses water from the Delta must take action to develop alternative supplies to improve regional self reliance and water reliability, and as a result reduce reliance on the Delta for future water supplies.

California's water supplies must be used more efficiently. There is great capacity now to reuse and recycle existing supplies and we must take advantage of these opportunities.

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### **Reduce Flood Risk**

Flood risk must govern land use. The Delta is inherently flood prone and federal, state and local agency actions must be guided by that fact.

Urbanization is only appropriate in the Delta behind levees that provide a minimum of 200 year protection. In all other cases, the inherent high flood risk in the Delta mandates that agriculture and natural resource uses are the most appropriate land use.

In addition to strategic levee investments we must go after big wins in flood protection such as the expansion and addition of bypass areas and floodplains. Making room for rivers is one of the most important steps we can take.

In the face of climate change and in an era of limited public funding, we must find a more sustainable source of funding for ongoing levee improvement and maintenance. The principles of beneficiary pays must govern all levee protection policies.

### **Delta Ecosystem Restoration**

Restoring the Delta ecosystem is a responsibility shared by all Californians. We must preserve land for future habitat restoration, and we must immediately begin restoration efforts on priority areas.

In the Delta, the way we move water and the health of native species are in conflict.

Minimum protections for fisheries must be established for the Delta and its major tributaries. Without adequate water flow (the right mix of timing and amount), we cannot expect fisheries to recover. Flow changes are not a silver bullet. We must identify and address all ecosystem stressors.

### **Water Supply Reliability & Water Storage**

The task of providing a more reliable water supply for California is a responsibility shared by all Californians.

Improving water supply reliability for the state means expansion of and more efficient management of California's water through a strategic combination of state and regional investments that enable California to more predictably match water use to the amount of water that is available.

Successful completion of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) is essential and it should be done as soon as possible. BDCP may offer our best opportunity to reduce conflict between water supply and ecosystem in the Delta.

New surface and groundwater storage is necessary to manage the timing of water for people and for fish. Done right, additional storage can make efficient water management possible and better allow for water use that is wildlife-friendly.