

T H E       D E L T A       W E T L A N D S       P R O J E C T



July 20, 2010

Delta Stewardship Council  
650 Capital Mall, Fifth Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Risk Reduction and Coequal Goals Work Group

Council Staff:

During Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) Risk Reduction & Coequal Goals Workshop there was a request for written responses to the following eight questions to provide input to the Interim Plan. As requested, Delta Wetlands offers the follow response:

*What and where are the most significant short-term and medium-term levee risks in the Delta?* A significant risk in the Delta is the inability of the Delta's agricultural economy to maintain the private non-project levees of the Delta. The highest risks to the Delta arise from the deeply subsided central and western Delta islands that protect the Delta from salinity intrusion. These islands also contain ecosystem habitat (e.g., wetland, riparian, and wildlife habitat) and critical utility and transportation infrastructure (e.g., SR 160, SR 12).

*What are the most effective ways to address the priority levees, given the state's restricted resources?*

The existing Delta levees program (i.e., Subventions and Special Projects) is a well established and effective program that should be supported by the Interim Plan. Non-residential projects, and land use changes that eliminate or manage subsidence, or bring private investment in levee improvements, should also be supported in the Interim Plan.

*What types of flood-related emergency planning activities should be conducted in the Delta and how should they be prioritized?*

The difference between 100 and 300 year flood events in the Delta is a matter of inches, not feet. Small improvements can make a big difference. Flood control planning studies to protect Delta structures and water quality should include consideration of operable barriers, in-Delta bypass and storage opportunities, and inflow/export adjustments.

*What local/regional land use incentives might enhance protection from floods?* Land use changes that reduce subsidence, protect Delta levees, and improve emergency response during Delta flood events should be encouraged, such as crop shifting to reduce oxidation of peat soils. Facilitate permitting and funding of wetland restoration projects. Also, the Interim Plan should seek opportunities for public/private partnerships to help finance levee improvements whenever possible.

If you have any questions or comments on our above responses or with regard to the Delta Wetlands Project, please contact us at (925) 932-0251.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Forkel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David A. Forkel  
Assistant General Manager  
Delta Wetlands Properties