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# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Council Hires Chief Deputy Executive Officer** *Veteran Planner Joins Experienced Staff*

SACRAMENTO – The Delta Stewardship Council announced the hiring of Dan Ray, longtime planner and public servant, to the key post of chief deputy executive officer.

“Dan has demonstrated his acumen for managing large and complex organizations and projects throughout more than 35 years of experience in water management and natural resources,” Delta Stewardship Council Executive Officer Joe Grindstaff said. “The Council is committed to achieving the coequal goals of providing a more reliable water supply and protecting, restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem while protecting and enhancing the Delta as a unique and evolving place – Dan Ray is someone who will help us meet those goals.”

As the Chief of the Planning Division for California State Parks, Ray has overseen the preparation of plans for 22 state parks and preserves, including a 20-year, \$270-million program to improve outdoor recreation in the Delta and Central Valley. For the past 10 years he’s worked in various roles for the State of California as an environmental program manager and planner and is well-acquainted with the challenges of the Delta.

“I know the issues that the Council is dealing with – I’ve worked with them both firsthand and as a planner – I know the Delta, its people and its resources and I’m committed to helping people reach agreements about preparing for the future,” Ray said. “I can’t think of a more important thing to do than to help people reach agreement about how to better manage the Delta – both in terms of creating a reliable water supply and managing and protecting the ecosystem.”

Previously, Ray worked for the Department of Water Resources where he planned and helped implement North Delta restoration actions, supervised its Flood Maintenance Office and assured California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance – experience that will be useful as the Council writes a legally enforceable plan.

Before his work with the State, Ray served as the environmental director for the McKnight Foundation where he originated grant-making strategies aimed at restoring the environment of the 10-state Mississippi River corridor, encouraging renewable power development and energy conservation, and promoting smarter growth for the \$1.9 billion philanthropic foundation.

Ray, a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), earned his B.S. in Zoology from the University of Wyoming and his M.S. in Ecology from the University of California, Davis.

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*“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.”*

– CA Water Code §85054

### ***About the Council***

The Delta Reform Act of 2009, which created the Delta Stewardship Council, directed it to “develop, adopt, and commence implementation of the Delta Plan.” The Council is composed of members who represent different parts of the state and offer diverse expertise in fields such as agriculture, science, the environment, and public service. Of the seven, four are appointed by the Governor, one each by the Senate and Assembly, and the seventh is the Chair of the Delta Protection Commission. For more information visit <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/>

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