

**COMMENT MATRIX**

**CITATIONS FROM COMMENTS RECEIVED BY THE  
DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL BETWEEN  
JANUARY 10, 2011 AND FEBRUARY 4, 2011**

The following matrices include direct citations from comments received by the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) between January 10, 2011 and February 4, 2011. The citations are directly from letters and emails, and were not corrected for misspellings or grammar. Many comments were excerpted due to the length of the comment. All of the letters and emails are located on the Council website. The comments were placed into eight categories, as summarized below. Several comments occur in several categories. These comments do not include comments submitted to specific work groups.

<b>Number</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Number of Comments</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Matrix 1</b>	<b>List of Commentors</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Matrix 2</b>	<b>Comments Related to Bay Delta Conservation Program with the Delta Plan</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Matrix 3</b>	<b>Comments Related to Finance</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Matrix 4</b>	<b>Comments Related to Water Resources</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Matrix 5</b>	<b>Comments Related to Ecosystem Resources</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Matrix 6</b>	<b>Comments Related to Delta as an Evolving Place</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Matrix 7</b>	<b>Comments Related to Agricultural Resources</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Matrix 8</b>	<b>Comments Related to Risk Reduction</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Matrix 9</b>	<b>Comments Related to Development of the Delta Plan</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>53</b>

**Matrix 1 List of Commentors (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

<b>Association</b>	<b>Signatory</b>	<b>Date</b>
California Central Valley Flood Control Association	Terry	1/20/2011
California Farm Bureau	Scheuring	1/21/2011
California Farm Bureau	Frederickson	1/25/2011
California Farm Bureau	Frederickson	1/28/2011
Coalition for a Sustainable Delta	Phillimore	1/7/2011
Contra Costa Water District	Gartrell	2/2/2011
East Bay Municipal Utility District	Diemer	1/10/2011
Harmon Systems International and Earth Renaissance Technologies	Gong	1/10/2011
Latino Water Coalition	Santoyo	1/18/2011
Natural Desalination	Rizzi	1/9/2011
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	Mitchell	1/19/2011
Sierra Northern Railway	Toppenberg	1/31/11
The Nature Conservancy	Ingram	1/12/2011

**Matrix 2 Comments Related to Bay Delta Conservation Program with the Delta Plan (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	We support the Council's expressed intent to incorporate priority components of the BDCP into the Delta Plan, provided that they are sufficiently developed and broadly supported.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	While a final EIR/EIS for the BDCP may not be available by January 1, 2012, valuable information from preliminary studies and engineering work could be considered by the Council in that timeframe and supplemented by other input from stakeholders who are not part of the BDCP process. The Council provides the best forum to consider a broad cross section of input about the Delta's future, and some of the recommendations or actions in the Delta Plan should center on how to address competing interests or recommendations regarding conveyance, ecosystem restoration, economic sustainability, and other topics where divergent input is expected.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
Sierra Northern Railway	1/31/2011	We are considering selling our Fremont Trestle, our lake, and our related property in the area. In order to ensure that we are disclosing all relevant information to potential buyers, we are seeking to determine what, if any, rights other parties may claim to these properties. If you or your organization believes that you have any rights related to our trestle, lake, or any associated property (including any flowage rights or other easements over or through the properties), please provide us with copies of the documents that you believe grants such rights so that we can make the appropriate disclosures. In the event that it is relevant to your BDCP, enclosed is a copy of an MBK Engineers' white paper providing details about water flows and the Fremont Trestle. Also enclosed is a description of a proposed relocation of our line that would provide alternate rail access to Woodland from Davis and West Sacramento while allowing the removal of the Fremont Trestle.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR Alternatives.

**Matrix 3 Comments Related to Finance (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	...the federal interests in the Delta should also be identified as part of a comprehensive assessment of the beneficiaries and their financial obligations.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	Building on a recommendation in the Delta Vision Strategic Plan, EBMUD recommends that the Council adopt "a series of principles regarding design of financing" that could inform future legislation for Delta finance. Such principles should include: • Establishing that beneficiary pays means allocating costs to individual entities, classes of entities, or the public in approximate proportion to benefits received by each from implementation of measures in the Delta Plan; • Asserting that the mitigation of any adverse impacts to the Delta should be accomplished separately, as part of compliance with CEQA and any other permit conditions; • Defining "public benefits" as distinct from those that accrue to specific entities or classes of entities; • Imposing a cap on the total revenues that can be derived from the user fee(s) or other means of generating revenue, based on the legislatively approved annual budget for the Delta Plan; • Including protections against the redirection of user fee revenues or other revenue sources to unrelated purposes; • Creating guidelines for apportioning costs for projects with both private and public benefits; and Providing for an open, transparent public process that permits the presentation of evidence, on the record, to inform the design of a finance system for the Delta Plan.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	Further, expenditures for levee improvements should be tracked on an annual basis to understand where federal, state, and local investments are being made. The comparison of annual expenditures to a comprehensive Delta-wide inventory of interests and assets should provide an initial view of what is being protected by spending decisions prior to adoption of a Delta Plan.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	Regarding levees, the prioritization strategy for levee investments discussed above would involve several steps and ongoing inter-agency coordination. If that approach is pursued, the Council may be able to frame an action strategy or work plan by January 1, 2012, that includes future decisions on annual investment choices or recommendations as part of the state budget cycle. The levee investment strategy will also be part of a broader finance strategy for the Delta Plan with multiple components, each of which could be varying states of development by January 1, 2012. Adoption of basic principles as covered earlier is a recommended starting point for all parts of the finance plan.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan

**Matrix 3 Comments Related to Finance (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	Specifically regarding ecosystem restoration, EBMUD believes that it will be vital to conduct a transparent analysis for each major project to determine the proportions of each that constitute mitigation for past and future Delta water export operations, those that mitigate for other activities, and actual enhancement that can be recognized as a public benefit. While not a simple exercise, making these distinctions is critical for those entities that might be subject to a broad-based user fee to finance public benefits, and that rightfully hope for a reasonable effort to avoid cross-subsidies.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	The "beneficiary pays" principle should be reaffirmed as the most equitable basis for financing Delta improvements, whatever form those improvements ultimately take. To take steps toward this outcome, the Council should first resume the work already identified in its Interim Plan: "(1) beginning to develop accurate and complete information on current finances and (2) initiating discussion of long-term financing to support activities under the [Delta Reform] Act."	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	The Council may wish to consider, for example, a benefit assessment district for levee improvements that adheres to the principles described above. Recognizing its own obligation to contribute to Delta levees, EBMUD supported SB 34 (Torlakson) in 2007, which proposed a benefit assessment district for this purpose. Instream flow studies conducted under the purview of the SWRCB will require significant funding, which might be collected via SWRCB fees on water rights or other user fees. By contrast, other elements of the Delta Plan including ecosystem restoration, the Council's administrative costs, and the science program may be viewed as a public benefit, which may require a broader funding base than programs with more defined beneficiaries.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	To create a foundation for developing specific financing instruments, EBMUD recommends that the Council conduct a comprehensive inventory of all infrastructure and economic assets (e.g. highways and roads, pipelines, electric transmission lines, rail lines, homes, farmland, industry/businesses, etc.) in the Delta with particular attention to those that have a clear state interest. This inventory should also identify the full range of activities (agriculture, recreation, upstream and in-Delta water diversions) in which the state has an interest, and which should be supported by user fee revenues. Together, these lists should provide a preliminary basis for identifying all the beneficiaries that should be considered when designing a user fee system. This exercise will overlap in large part with the creation of the database of the interests and assets protected by Delta levees, described in the preceding section.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan

**Matrix 4 Comments Related to Water Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Farm Bureau	1/21/2011	Farm Bureau is supportive of identifying opportunities for increased efficiencies in water use, across the spectrum of beneficial uses...California's farmers and ranchers have a continuing role to play in the struggle for greater water use efficiency, as do urban users and proponents of environmental needs. As I have stated previously to the Council, farmers and ranchers are justifiably proud of their record over the past 40 years, as more and more crops move to efficient water systems and methodologies at the same time California retains its position as the nation's top agricultural producer.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources.
California Farm Bureau	1/21/2011	The Delta Watermaster, authorized by Water Code section 85230, has authority in relation to conditions and diversions within the Delta. As a practical matter, it is difficult to explain to our diverse membership – including, for example, farmers and ranchers in places like Modoc and Imperial counties – just why the Delta Watermaster should be calling for a summit on “reasonable use” and water use efficiency as it relates to them, calling for the commitment of general enforcement resources on this issue, or even why he should be authoring white papers on statewide policy. Nothing about the Delta Watermaster’s statutory authority or the legislative intent in the 2010 creation of this position, including the Watermaster’s charge to submit “regular reports” under Water Code section 85230, suggests such an authority-at-large.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources.
California Farm Bureau	1/21/2011	The Delta Watermaster’s Focus Is One-Dimensional. At the same time that the white paper overreaches with statewide ambition, it is also incomplete in terms of its limited focus on agriculture. Even to the extent the Delta Watermaster wishes to examine reasonable use within his geographic authority, any inquiry is incomplete without visiting the entire spectrum of beneficial uses. The constitutional requirements found within Article X, Section 2 are a test against which any use of water must stand – including environmental and M&I uses – and an inquiry as to whether any one category or type of use is “reasonable” is hollow unless balanced against other uses. It would itself be unreasonable, for example, to require farmers and ranchers to adopt a costly new technology for a marginal and incremental water savings, while the efficacy of large-volume dam releases for fisheries restoration goes unexamined for actual positive effect.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources.

**Matrix 4      Comments Related to Water Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Farm Bureau	1/21/2011	Increased efficiencies tend to manifest themselves incrementally, however, as technology becomes available and market conditions justify their use. It is not always possible to use the most efficient technology or method, and the caselaw interpreting Article X, Section 2 does not require so. Moreover, no reading of the California Constitution's enjoinder to reasonable and non-wasteful water use would justify some of the suggestions in the Delta Watermaster's white paper, such as identification of "approved" crop types.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources.
California Farm Bureau	1/21/2011	The Delta Watermaster has identified enforcement of the reasonable use doctrine as "reactive", and this is because the California Supreme Court has required a case-by-case inquiry on the subject. Hard and fast rules on the use of agricultural water – or any type of water use – must navigate the contours of Article X, Section 2. In the case of agricultural water use, those contours depend upon climate, weather, water source, soil type, market conditions and any number of other variables. The white paper perhaps asks too much in this regard, to the extent it would seek substantial enforcement resources up front to prospectively identify proper water use against the diversity of the agricultural landscape, or to vet water use efficiency "addendums" attached to all Statements of Diversion and Use which individually detail on-farm management practices.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources.
California Farm Bureau	1/21/2011	The Delta Watermaster Largely Ignores Other Institutions and Processes. The white paper was apparently formulated without reference to ongoing and very effective efforts within the agricultural industry to keep increasing irrigation efficiencies available to California's farmers and ranchers. Correctly, the white paper references recent enactments directed at agricultural water management planning, applicable to the agricultural water suppliers which serve the majority of California's agricultural landscape. The Delta Watermaster does not do a very good job, however, of detailing the numerous institutions and processes which provide technical assistance – and grant money – to farmers and ranchers for agricultural water use efficiency...The Delta Watermaster is apparently even only marginally aware of CIMIS, the California Irrigation Management Information System maintained by DWR's Office of Water Use Efficiency, a basic and widely-used tool which California farmers use to estimate crop water use for efficient irrigation scheduling.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources.

**Matrix 4 Comments Related to Water Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Farm Bureau	1/21/2011	The Delta Watermaster Did Not Involve Agricultural Stakeholders. Perhaps the greatest flaw in the white paper is that it was formulated as a lawyer's piece, with too much attention paid to the legal background on the subject of reasonable use, and too little paid to in-field practices. This could have been avoided by substantially involving California's farmers and ranchers...If the Delta Watermaster wishes to help drive technical innovations in on-farm water use efficiency, either within or outside of his geographic purview, we would recommend that he engage in the many voluntary processes that are calculated to deploy irrigation techniques which farmers and ranchers are incentivized to adopt.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	AGRESWP For example, it is estimated that between 2003 and 2008, growers in the San Joaquin Valley invested over \$1.5 billion dollars in high-efficiency irrigation equipment, infrastructure, and technology. According to DWR's recently released 2009 California Water Plan Update, agricultural water use statewide ("crop applied water use") has fallen 14.6 percent over the last 40 years (1967-2007), from 31.2 million acre-feet to an estimated 26.7 million acre-feet in 2007. Despite this reduction in total applied water use, however, DWR estimates that "real, inflation-adjusted gross revenue" for California agricultural products during the same time period increased 84 percent, from \$19.9 billion in 1967 to \$36.6 billion in 2007.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	AGRESWP Whereas agriculture in the year 2000 accounted for about 41 of applied water use from both surface and groundwater in a normal year, environmental and urban water use accounted for approximately 48 and 11 percent, respectively. Recent significant regulatory reallocations since 2000 under the NMFS and USFWS OCAP biological opinions, under the San Joaquin River Restoration Agreement, and other developments notably increased the proportion of water going to environmental uses and substantially reduced current allocations to urban and agricultural use.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	AGRESWP ...the White Paper's "Water Quality" section includes no mention whatsoever of salinity intrusion, water levels, and lack of circulation or "null zones" as the Delta's most significant water quality issues, or of the need for potential avoidance or mitigation measures should the proposed conveyance facility and restoration significantly alter or worsen the problem of salinity intrusion into the Delta.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	AGRESWP Regarding salt build-up in soils and groundwater, for example, while this is again a significant problem in some areas of the state, assuming there is sufficient freshwater for leaching in the Delta, it is there a much less severe problem than elsewhere.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.

**Matrix 4 Comments Related to Water Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	AGRESWP...concerning water supply and groundwater depletion, while this is a significant problem in some of the areas adjacent to the Delta, in the parts of the Valley south of the Delta, and some other areas of the state, in the Delta, surface water from channels and sloughs is by far the primary source of irrigation water while, far from being overdrafted, the water table on many Delta islands is in fact so high that farmers must actually pump water off the land and into adjacent channels and sloughs to prevent water logging of the root zone.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	Contrary to the Delta Watermaster's criticism of the 10,000 and 25,000 acre thresholds in SB 7X 7, according to the Agricultural Water Management Council, based on 2005 data, agricultural water suppliers with 10,000 irrigated acres or more collectively serve 95 percent of the more than 6 million irrigated acres served by water districts statewide, while suppliers serving 25,000 irrigated acres or more represent more than 80 percent of the same area. It is therefore inaccurate and misleading to suggest that required agricultural water efficiency reporting, measurement, planning, and implementation under SB 7X 7 does not cover the lion's share of agricultural water use in the Central Valley, as well as the total area of land irrigated by water districts in California.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	In any case, given limited resources and the considerable representative coverage of the various tiers, the current approach is certainly an appropriate incremental step.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	Nonetheless, the formidable task of complying with additional requirements of SB 7X 7 will, between now and mid- to late 2012, absorb all of these agencies' available resources (and more) in the area of agricultural water use efficiency.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	Agricultural water suppliers will have to prepare or update existing agricultural water management plans to conform to the specific requirements of SB 7X 7 and implement additional "locally cost-effective" efficient water management practices, or otherwise submit documentation in support of a determination that such additional practices are not "locally cost-effective" at the time of reporting.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	As noted, agricultural stakeholders must engage in a stakeholder process with DWR to develop a proposed agricultural water efficiency methodology. Additionally, SB 7X 7 makes mandatory certain previously conditional, albeit already widely implemented efficient water management practices (volumetric pricing and "aggregated farm-gate delivery data").	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.

**Matrix 4 Comments Related to Water Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	SB 7X 7 requires conformance to a new standardized reporting form, coordination with other local agencies, and public dissemination of agricultural water management plans.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	...agricultural water suppliers are simultaneously striving to comply with additional new requirements in the 2009 Delta Reform Package, including new mandatory statements of water diversion requirements and new statewide groundwater monitoring and reporting responsibilities.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	As the result of a very inclusive and exhaustive public stakeholder process including actual farmers and agricultural interests as well as members of the environmental community and others, SB 7X 7 represents the best and most appropriate compromise currently possible. Implementation of the measures required under SB 7X 7 by agricultural water suppliers around the state will undoubtedly amount to an enormous step forward. Accordingly, we should not now rush to judgment; rather, the State of California should allow the legislation to work, without premature regulatory interference and second-guessing.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	...it is estimated that between 2003 and 2008, growers in the San Joaquin Valley invested over \$1.5 billion dollars in high-efficiency irrigation equipment, infrastructure, and technology. According to DWR's recently released 2009 California Water Plan Update, agricultural water use statewide ("crop applied water use") has fallen 14.6 percent over the last 40 years (1967-2007), from 31.2 million acre-feet to an estimated 26.7 million acre-feet in 2007. Despite this reduction in total applied water use, however, DWR estimates that "real, inflation-adjusted gross revenue" for California agricultural products during the same time period increased 84 percent, from \$19.9 billion in 1967 to \$36.6 billion in 2007.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.

**Matrix 4 Comments Related to Water Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	Required Levels of Investment above Readily Implementable “Locally Cost-Effective” Efficiency Measures That Would Be Necessary to Realize Aggressive Projections of Potential Water Savings Are Not Realistic, and Probably Not Feasible...Given the significant up-front expense of many such improvements, however, the primary limitation on the implementation of such measures is that they are simply not “locally cost-effective.” This, in fact, is one of the primary reasons why extremely aggressive projections of potential agricultural water efficiency savings ignore stubborn on-the-ground realities.18 [18 Other reasons such estimates are simply not realistic include their tendency to ignore downstream and in-basin use, overlook regional differences, differing crops types and agronomic practices, and double or accumulate assumed savings across different categories of efficiency measures, among other over-simplification and inaccuracies. See Burt, et al., Oct. 2008, “Agricultural Water Conservation and Efficiency in California—A Commentary,” <a href="http://www.itrc.org/papers/commentary/commentary.pdf">http://www.itrc.org/papers/commentary/commentary.pdf</a> .]	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	More, and not less, capacity and flexibility to capture, store, release, and convey water will be critically important to sustainably meet competing demands on limited water resources in the 21st century. This is not an either-or proposition; it is a dual necessity (and, indeed, something very much implicit in the “co-equal goals” concept that is the Stewardship Council’s charge). Thus, while increased water efficiency is necessary, so too are additional storage, improved conveyance, and greater regulatory certainty.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	One other critical aspect of agricultural water efficiency that is missed in the Delta Watermaster’s “The Reasonable Use” report and other similar treatments of this subject is the great importance of some relative certainty in terms of the overall stability and security of existing water rights...Namely, if the prevailing legal and regulatory environment is such that agricultural or other water users are made to live in constant fear of loss or reallocation of their existing water supplies, they will be less willing to implement practices that may result in further losses of water. In this regard, collaborative, voluntary, market-, and incentive-based approaches (though too seldom embraced in practice) are always more effective.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.

**Matrix 4 Comments Related to Water Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
Coalition for a Sustainable Delta	1/7/2011	The assignment to the ISB to “focus on identifying alternative classifications of stressors and ways of evaluating their relative importance, especially considering interactions of multiple stressors” is at the same time worthwhile and fraught with the potential to repeat failed past efforts to bring science to bear in informing environmental policy and management in the Delta. In our view, the task should be configured into a more basic endeavor in order to provide exactly the information that is needed to lead the state and federal agencies responsible for conservation in the Delta to an effective, efficient, and accountable species recovery and ecosystem restoration agenda.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to biological and water resources in the Delta.
Coalition for a Sustainable Delta	1/7/2011	The recently released Interagency Environmental Program 2010 Pelagic Organism Decline Workplan and Synthesis of Results goes a long way toward accomplishing the initial step with respect to a number of pelagic species by gathering the best available science on those species and the broader Delta ecosystem...But, as it stands, the report is an unreliable source of information to complete the analyses necessary to guide agency decision-making, as it doesn't differentiate between results from data derived from rigorous studies that employ an experimental framework and the most robust analytical tools, and results derived from other, lesser approaches. And, the report promulgates and espouses agency findings that a Federal District Court aided by two respected science experts have found to be not valid.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to biological and water resources in the Delta.
Coalition for a Sustainable Delta	1/7/2011	Accordingly, the ISB can and should pick up where the Workplan and Synthesis of Results left off by providing an expert assessment of the state of knowledge of the environmental stressors that act to compromise desired conditions in the Delta.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to biological and water resources in the Delta.

**Matrix 4 Comments Related to Water Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
Coalition for a Sustainable Delta	1/7/2011	<p>The process of informing agency determinations with the best available science, and then providing guidance to management programs that are intended to recover at-risk species and their habitats, has several discrete steps that require contributions from distinct participants...Two separate steps in the process require the active involvement of scientists; the first is ...the requirement that any and all available technical information that is pertinent to and may be useful in shaping and directing the conservation response to species and ecosystems at risk – including identifying management or restoration actions, determining their timing and the locations of the actions, engaging the right tools to facilitate the actions, and subsequently assessing the effectiveness and efficacy of the actions – be vetted and considered. That process step requires direct contributions from scientists...Scientists need to engage in the next step in the process of bringing science to decision-making; that is, the actual use of the “best available science” in what the federal wildlife agencies refer to as “effects analysis,” and the Environmental Protection Agency and others refer to as “risk assessment.”</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to biological and water resources in the Delta.</p>
Coalition for a Sustainable Delta	1/7/2011	<p>...risk assessment/effects analysis is a structured process that uses best available science to inform selection among resource management decisions or strategies. Effects analysis assesses the benefits and costs – both ecological and economic – that attend different planning outcomes.</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to biological and water resources in the Delta.</p>
Coalition for a Sustainable Delta	1/7/2011	<p>Therefore, we urge the ISB to use its position and expertise to discriminate formally from among available information, that constitutes the “best” science – in regards to species-environmental stressor relationships, and in other diverse attributes of the complex Delta ecosystems. And, the ISB should assist the Delta Stewardship Council and other state and federal regulatory agencies in applying those data, analyses, syntheses, system models and other “scientific” information and tools that are reliable in the requisite analysis of the probable effects of the diverse future Delta action scenarios that are available for consideration. We are concerned that engagement of the ISB in tasks peripheral to direct support of agency and inter-agency efforts to restore a desired Delta ecosystem – anything less than formal integration of the ISB, and its best judgments regarding best science and the role of best science in assessing the effects of future actions the Delta environment, into the structure of decision-making for the Delta – will simply be a continuation of the opportunities lost over the past decade.</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to biological and water resources in the Delta.</p>

**Matrix 4 Comments Related to Water Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	The Council must move forward to adopt a Delta Plan within the timeframe established by statute, rather than waiting for the BDCP Steering Committee to complete its work. The Council's Delta Plan must address what the BDCP has been unable to accomplish, including a comprehensive adaptive management strategy to actively respond to the complex and dynamic processes that shape the Delta. Given this highly complex system and a habitat conservation plan that federal agencies describe as having a "high degree of uncertainty," assurances regarding water supply reliability should be conditional on specific, measurable biological goals and objectives within a functional adaptive management plan. The Council should develop its own independent stance on adaptive management for the Delta Plan. With the assistance of the Independent Science Board, the Council should ensure that appropriate, measurable biological goals and objectives are established to guide restoration efforts in the Delta. Without a clear, comprehensive adaptive management plan and measurable goals and objectives, any water supply assurances will neither be durable nor reliable...Understanding the specifics of adaptive management in the Delta will better enable EBMUD to make appropriate decisions as it balances fishery needs and water supply demands on the Mokelumne River.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	The Council should urge the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to initiate an update of its Delta Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP) as soon as the SWRCB concludes its current proceedings on San Joaquin River flows. Such action by the SWRCB would also serve to guide the BDCP Steering Committee to complete its work within the parameters of the SWRCB's jurisdiction. The SWRCB has jurisdiction over the entire Delta and all its water users, and in this process other interests are invited to present evidence and testimony in SWRCB proceedings.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	In a statewide context, the Delta exporters collectively deliver less than twenty percent of the water used across the state, a relatively small fraction of both the state's water interests and the Delta water interests. Water interests that represent only a minority of the affected parties cannot be the only ones that participate in crafting a solution to the problems facing the Delta. Fixing the Delta involves many parties that have a greater stake in the Delta than is held by the Delta exporters. As part of SWRCB proceedings on the Delta, all affected parties, across the state, would have standing to fully participate, present evidence, cross-examine other witnesses, and are afforded the right of full due process.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan

**Matrix 4      Comments Related to Water Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	The SWRCB should be encouraged to make the necessary public trust flow determinations and effectively implement them by revising and updating its Delta water quality control plan. Once these flow determinations have been made, EBMUD and many other water agencies will benefit from having clarified "ground rules" and a better basis for long-term planning. To fulfill its charge of implementing the co-equal goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem protection, the Council must obtain balanced, scientifically-based, flow standards for the Delta. Only the SWRCB can provide that. Other Delta planning can proceed on a parallel track with the SWRCB efforts, but no long-term infrastructure decisions should be made until the quantity of water available for export is better understood and legally resolved.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
Harmon Systems International and Earth Renaissance Technologies	1/10/2011	The Importance of Integrating Nature Into Our Artificial Systems describes why the element of hydrogen is the the common denominator that drives our planet, and why we must emulate the natural acidification process in order to resolve our water related challenges....Summary Current wastewater treatment methods, because they add more contaminates into our natural waterways, are contributing to the impairment of the San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary and our precious farmland. To reverse this trend, we must consider changing the way we process our wastewater and land apply as much of it as possible. This will require us to process an entirely new class of recycled wastewater so that it can improve the soil it is applied to. Conventional wastewater treatment methods are incapable of doing this and the SO2/Sulfurous Acid Generator/Sulfur Burner wastewater treatment process has been recently developed to meet this purpose. This method can either amend the recycled water now emanating from conventional wastewater treatment facilities, or be used as a complete and separate wastewater processing system. Implementation of this method will enable us to: resuscitate this impaired ecosystem; protect the soil and economic productivity of our nation's most important farming regions; and solve a multitude of problems.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan and Delta Plan EIR alternatives.

**Matrix 4 Comments Related to Water Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
Harmon Systems International and Earth Renaissance Technologies	1/10/2011	<p>Processing Wastewater For Sustainability: A New Class of Recycled Water describes: the inability of conventional wastewater treatment systems to produce and condition recycled water specifically so that it can be sustainably applied to land; how increased land application removes it from our natural waterways and enables us to utilize the ammonia nitrogen it has to grow a variety of high value crops and bio-fuels; how to return a more natural and higher quality of water will resuscitate the Delta and mitigate damage to our state's vital agricultural economy...Conclusion The most important part of problem solving is determining what the actual problem is. This requires objectivity and the ability to realize the existence of a different and more accurate paradigm. By reexamining volcanic emissions of sulfur dioxide and the chemical reaction it has with water, both in the atmosphere and within seawater, we can learn to utilize the common denominator behind earth's natural process. We will also understand the root cause as to why our artificial systems deteriorate and why it is so important to integrate nature back into our artificial systems to make them more viable and sustainable.</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan and Delta Plan EIR alternatives.</p>
Latino Water Coalition	1/18/2011	<p>Effective flood management has doubtlessly prevented many millions of dollars in flood losses from occurring. Releasing water from reservoirs that encroach into designated flood control storage space is both necessary and prudent. At the same time, any flow sent down a river during a flood release is water that is no longer available to its service area or, to a large extent, the environment. The reason that water needs to be released for flood management boils down to not enough storage capacity to capture high flows generated by heavy rain and snow in Sierra watersheds. Unfortunately, those high flows in big-water years also represent a substantial portion of California's supply cushion. More surface water availability for municipal and agricultural users eases supply constraints caused by drought. It also translates into less dependence upon groundwater. It would seem to make sense in this perpetually water-short state to want to capture additional excess storm runoff - early surplus to any immediate need with everything already sopping wet - for use during dry months and years. Instead, we are continuing to lose valuable water because our existing reservoirs are insufficient to do the job.</p>	<p>This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR</p>

**Matrix 4 Comments Related to Water Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
Latino Water Coalition	1/18/2011	Detractors to new surface storage development, who include many environmental advocates, view dams as too costly and environmentally degrading. They suggest that the Valley, its farmers and communities could meet their water supply needs with stricter water conservation and groundwater recharging. Conservation and more groundwater recharge are important but most Valley agriculture is already using water at top efficiency levels. Groundwater recharge and water banking are terrific tools but, on their own, they work slowly. Canal sizes limit the amount of water that can be conveyed to recharge sites and, during a flood situation, conveyance capacity is often scores of times less than reservoir inflows, leaving river flood releases as the only option.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR
Latino Water Coalition	1/18/2011	The California Latino Water Coalition supports additional surface water storage as a vital part of the state's water infrastructure bond package on the November 2012 ballot. We favor the bond proposal's bipartisan comprehensive approach . It would address long-term water needs and shorter-term problem fixes. These would also result in the Delta "fixes" that are so vital to returning adequate, consistent water supplies to more than three million acres of farmland and 25 million California residents.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR
Latino Water Coalition	1/18/2011	In the last month, about 100,000 acre-feet of water had to be released because Millerton Lake is too small to contain it. That's equivalent to about an eight-month supply of water for the city of Fresno flowing to the Pacific Ocean, they said. A larger reservoir at Temperance Flat, upstream of Millerton, is needed to capture more water for crops, San Joaquin River restoration, ground-water recharge and growing cities...an \$11 billion state water bond has been delayed until 2012...bond measure includes 53 billion for storage, including dams and underground water banking. Temperance Flat near Fresno is a contender for the storage money.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	1/19/2011	LUSEWP The Introduction section references Water Code Section 85022 which specifically implies conservation requirements, including recycled water, for regions that utilize Delta watershed as a source of water supply to become more self reliant. It should also be noted that conservation measures and improvements to water flowing into the Delta watershed is of equal importance. As such, SRCSD makes several recommendations to incorporate reference to a coordinated expansion of the recycled water program in the Sacramento region and in the upstream portions of the Delta and its tributaries that could provide significant benefits to the Delta watershed.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to water resources.

**Matrix 4 Comments Related to Water Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	1/19/2011	LUSEWP Page 3-7 lines 14-17: SRCSD requests that a clarification be made to this section shown below in bold. "Communities outside the Primary Zone currently are anticipated to continue releasing treated wastewater into Delta waterways (through wastewater discharge requirements issued by the Central Valley RWQCB), onto constructed wetlands, or onto agricultural lands <b>including discharges of recycled water.</b> "	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to water resources.
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	1/19/2011	LUSEWP Page 4-11 Table 4-2: DPC Land Use and Resource Management Plan Policies under subheading Utilities and Infrastructure P-4 "Encourage recycling programs for metals, glass paper, cardboard, and organic materials, in order to minimize waste generation ... " SRCSD requests the addition of recycled water to the list of recycling programs in this section.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to water resources.
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	1/19/2011	LUSEWP Page 4-15 lines 6-24: South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (SSHCP) states on line 20 "Sacramento County is partnering with the incorporated cities of Rancho Cordova, Galt, and Elk Grove, as well as the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District and Sacramento County Water Agency, to further advance the regional planning goals of the SSHCP (Sacramento County, 2010). SRCSD recommends adding a statement to this section referencing section 5.4.2 of the SSHCP that discusses the development of recycled water supplies to "support agricultural lands and to improve aquatic and terrestrial habitat on existing and future conservation lands near the Cosumnes River Preserve." This section should specifically encourage the SSHCP partners to continue efforts to expand the regional recycled water program which could be a significant step toward an integrated approach to water, land use and resource management planning to achieve multiple objectives as described in this white paper.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to water, biological, and land use resources.
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	1/19/2011	LUSEWP Page 5-2 lines 10-20: SRCSD recommends that " increased recycled water supply and distribution" be added to the bullets for consideration of future policy issues to address the risks that face the Delta. An increase in the use of recycled water in the vicinity of the Sacramento River and the Cosumnes River would help to address the future risks listed in this section including agriculture, water supply and water quality. An investment in the production and distribution of recycled water in the Delta primary and secondary zones would provide multiple benefits including the provision of a new, sustainable supply of water that could be used to support agriculture, wetlands and other habitat areas, while decreasing the demands on surface and groundwater. Investing in programs like water recycling help achieve an integrated approach to water, land use and resource management planning.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to water and land use resources.

**Matrix 4 Comments Related to Water Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	1/19/2011	<p>WRESWP The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCS) safely treats and disinfects an average of 150 million gallons a day (mgd) of municipal wastewater - water that could be put to beneficial use as a recycled water supply for the Sacramento region. Unfortunately, most of this valuable and reliable water supply is not being recycled due to a lack of funding to construct the required infrastructure. Currently, SRCS's Water Reclamation Facility produces an average of 3 mgd of tertiary recycled water delivered seasonally for landscape irrigation in south Sacramento County, with a capacity to deliver up to 5 mgd. The design for a facility expansion up to 10 mgd is complete and the design for an additional water transmission pipeline is in progress. However, construction for the overall expansion project is on hold due to a lack of funding for the distribution pipeline and other necessary infrastructure. The capital cost for the water treatment facility expansion is estimated at \$18 million. State grants in the amount of \$5.4 million have been awarded for the facility expansion. The estimated cost for the storage, pumping and distribution system is estimated at \$17 million.</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to water resources.</p>
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	1/19/2011	<p>WRESWP In 2007, SRCS completed a Water Recycling Opportunities Study that identified several local and regional projects that could benefit from the use of recycled water. The South Sacramento County Agriculture and Habitat Lands Water Recycling Project is one of the projects identified by this study. This project would provide a safe and reliable supply of tertiary treated water for up to 8000 acres of land used for agricultural, conservation and mitigation purposes .. This project has multiple benefits including reducing local groundwater pumping, support of habitat restoration efforts, and providing near-term benefits to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the region. Other future projects that might be possible through a regional collaboration include the establishment of a local groundwater banking system and the use of recycled water for recharge of local surface waters such as the Cosumnes River.</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to water resources.</p>

**Matrix 4      Comments Related to Water Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	1/19/2011	WRESWP SRCSD wants to participate in solving the State's water supply issue by expanding our water recycling program in the Sacramento region. We have recently taken the lead in forming the Sacramento Water Recycling Coalition, a group of members that includes local water purveyors, representatives of agricultural and wildlife habitat groups, cities, county departments, local water authorities, and others who are interested in expanding the use of recycled water in our region. The purpose of this coalition is to collaborate to gain support for recycled water projects in the Sacramento area that have regional benefits while building the framework to support a regional comprehensive water reuse program. However, in order to expand the use of recycled water on a regional scale, state and federal funding will be needed to help offset project costs and to guide the future direction for water recycling in the Sacramento region...SRCSD's goal is to increase water recycling throughout the Sacramento region up to 30 to 40 million gallons per day (MGD) over the next 20 years.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to water resources.

NOTE: WRESWP - Water Resources White Paper, AGREWP - Agricultural Resources White Paper, LUSEWP - Land Use White Paper

**Matrix 5 Comments Related to Ecosystem Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	AGRESWP Ecosystems and fish and wildlife populations impacted by historical land and water development can likely be rehabilitated only to a point; thus, the possible limited extent to which depleted species and ecosystems can be recovered and restored should perhaps act as a check on our haste to sacrifice other important values in the pursuit of anticipated benefits which may in fact never materialize.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources and terrestrial resources in the Delta.
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	AGRESWP The White Paper highlights quite prominently the loss in recent decades of important farmland in the Delta to urban development,58 yet it includes no commentary whatsoever on the significant loss of an equivalent area of agricultural land during the same period to a large and growing acreage of conservation and open space lands in the Delta—or of the much larger potential, future loss of some 80,000 to 100,000 acres of existing farmland to various proposed restoration projects.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources and terrestrial resources in the Delta.
Coalition for a Sustainable Delta	1/7/2011	The assignment to the ISB to “focus on identifying alternative classifications of stressors and ways of evaluating their relative importance, especially considering interactions of multiple stressors” is at the same time worthwhile and fraught with the potential to repeat failed past efforts to bring science to bear in informing environmental policy and management in the Delta. In our view, the task should be configured into a more basic endeavor in order to provide exactly the information that is needed to lead the state and federal agencies responsible for conservation in the Delta to an effective, efficient, and accountable species recovery and ecosystem restoration agenda.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to biological and water resources in the Delta.
Coalition for a Sustainable Delta	1/7/2011	The recently released Interagency Environmental Program 2010 Pelagic Organism Decline Workplan and Synthesis of Results goes a long way toward accomplishing the initial step with respect to a number of pelagic species by gathering the best available science on those species and the broader Delta ecosystem...But, as it stands, the report is an unreliable source of information to complete the analyses necessary to guide agency decision-making, as it doesn't differentiate between results from data derived from rigorous studies that employ an experimental framework and the most robust analytical tools, and results derived from other, lesser approaches. And, the report promulgates and espouses agency findings that a Federal District Court aided by two respected science experts have found to be not valid.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to biological and water resources in the Delta.

**Matrix 5 Comments Related to Ecosystem Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
Coalition for a Sustainable Delta	1/7/2011	Accordingly, the ISB can and should pick up where the Workplan and Synthesis of Results left off by providing an expert assessment of the state of knowledge of the environmental stressors that act to compromise desired conditions in the Delta.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to biological and water resources in the Delta.
Coalition for a Sustainable Delta	1/7/2011	The process of informing agency determinations with the best available science, and then providing guidance to management programs that are intended to recover at-risk species and their habitats, has several discrete steps that require contributions from distinct participants...Two separate steps in the process require the active involvement of scientists; the first is ...the requirement that any and all available technical information that is pertinent to and may be useful in shaping and directing the conservation response to species and ecosystems at risk – including identifying management or restoration actions, determining their timing and the locations of the actions, engaging the right tools to facilitate the actions, and subsequently assessing the effectiveness and efficacy of the actions – be vetted and considered. That process step requires direct contributions from scientists...Scientists need to engage in the next step in the process of bringing science to decision-making; that is, the actual use of the “best available science” in what the federal wildlife agencies refer to as “effects analysis,” and the Environmental Protection Agency and others refer to as “risk assessment.”	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to biological and water resources in the Delta.
Coalition for a Sustainable Delta	1/7/2011	...risk assessment/effects analysis is a structured process that uses best available science to inform selection among resource management decisions or strategies. Effects analysis assesses the benefits and costs – both ecological and economic – that attend different planning outcomes.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to biological and water resources in the Delta.

**Matrix 5 Comments Related to Ecosystem Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
Coalition for a Sustainable Delta	1/7/2011	Therefore, we urge the ISB to use its position and expertise to discriminate formally from among available information, that constitutes the “best” science – in regards to species-environmental stressor relationships, and in other diverse attributes of the complex Delta ecosystems. And, the ISB should assist the Delta Stewardship Council and other state and federal regulatory agencies in applying those data, analyses, syntheses, system models and other “scientific” information and tools that are reliable in the requisite analysis of the probable effects of the diverse future Delta action scenarios that are available for consideration. We are concerned that engagement of the ISB in tasks peripheral to direct support of agency and inter-agency efforts to restore a desired Delta ecosystem – anything less than formal integration of the ISB, and its best judgments regarding best science and the role of best science in assessing the effects of future actions the Delta environment, into the structure of decision-making for the Delta – will simply be a continuation of the opportunities lost over the past decade.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to biological and water resources in the Delta.
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	In developing an investment strategy, the Council may need to grapple with the concept of a "do not resuscitate list" as recommended in a PPIC report. Related issues include "converting" or "transitioning" some islands (or parts of islands) to ecosystem habitat, and how to prioritize expenditures for such ecosystem restoration. Just because a restoration project can be implemented on a given island does not mean it should be, unless it is a high priority in the larger ecosystem restoration plans for the Delta. There are many different aspects to levee investment decisions, and the Council is encouraged to start gathering information in weighing tradeoffs and priorities. Again, a panel of experts might provide valuable input on these important decisions.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	1/19/2011	ECOWP SRCSD has noted in many of the sections discussing contaminants, and ammonia in particular, that the most currently available science has not been referenced. We request you use the most recent, best available science, in describing the ecosystem baseline, especially in relationship to the role wastewater discharges may play in driving the ecosystem. SRCSD agrees with the summary table of drivers for a poorly functioning ecosystem in the Executive Summary, which shows that the largest contributors to a poorly functioning ecosystem are invasive species, dams, channel configuration, and Delta exports.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to biological resources.

**Matrix 5 Comments Related to Ecosystem Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	1/19/2011	ECOWP Page 4-2, Table 4-1, " Indicators and Drivers of Poor Ecosystem Function" is an excellent summary of the human modifications that drive ecosystem functionality. Clearly invasive species has affected the ecosystem greatly and is exasperated by nine out of 10 of the human modifications. Dams, channel configuration and Delta exports appear to be the next most significant contributors to a functioning ecosystem. SRCSD agrees with Table 4-1 that nutrient and contaminant loadings appear to be one of the least significant drivers in this poorly functioning ecosystem.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to biological resources.
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	1/19/2011	ECOWP Page 4-13. lines 10-12: Please note there are two Werner et al 2008 reports and it is not clear which report is being referenced in this statement. Werner's conceptual model included the possibility that nutrients from agricultural runoff or wastewater treatment plants may cause localized toxicity to aquatic organisms, but actual field data in later studies by Werner et al did not show any localized toxicity.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to biological resources.
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	1/19/2011	ECOWP Page 4-21, lines 35-40: The direct impact of water diversions on the overall population dynamics of Delta smelt is not well understood and is an area where significant future research is needed. The effect of the SWP and CVP exports on phytoplankton, zooplankton, nutrients and organic material that support the base of the Delta food web is another area that needs additional research to determine the importance of these effects to Delta smelt and other POD species. SRCSD has attached a document prepared for SRCSD by Larry Walker Associates which synthesizes data and facts from existing reports and studies to provide a comprehensive look at what is known about the water project operations and the impact they have on Delta fish (Attachment Four).	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to biological resources.
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	1/19/2011	ECOWP Page 4-22, lines 33 through 35: A statement is attributed to Werner (2008) regarding sub-lethal toxicity. It would be very helpful to clarify if this is a hypothetical statement or is it based on Delta-specific research.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to biological resources.
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	1/19/2011	ECOWP Page 4-23. line 28: The statement that mercury toxicity can lead to population declines of fish should be modified or qualified to state that it is not referring to POD species. As noted in the 2008 Alpers et al Mercury Conceptual Model, Delta Regional Ecosystem Restoration Implementation Plan, "The major limitation regarding effects for fish and wildlife is the lack of species-specific toxicity information on those organisms most at risk in the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary."	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to biological resources.

**Matrix 5 Comments Related to Ecosystem Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	1/19/2011	ECOWP Page 4-24, line 16 through 19: SRCSD Comment: Page 4-24, line 16 through 19: The 2006 and 2007 work by Werner asserting that ammonia may contribute to localized toxicity in Delta smelt is dated and known to be incorrect. SRCSD recommends this statement be eliminated or modified such that it recognizes more recent studies by Werner that yielded a different conclusion that ambient ammonia/ium concentrations do not contribute to reduced survival of Delta smelt. Attachment five provides a list of Dr. Werner's references, some are included in this white paper, and others provide more recent information that should be considered for the baseline EIR.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to biological resources.
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	1/19/2011	LUSEWP Page 4-15 lines 6-24: South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (SSHCP) states on line 20 "Sacramento County is partnering with the incorporated cities of Rancho Cordova, Galt, and Elk Grove, as well as the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District and Sacramento County Water Agency, to further advance the regional planning goals of the SSHCP (Sacramento County, 2010). SRCSD recommends adding a statement to this section referencing section 5.4.2 of the SSHCP that discusses the development of recycled water supplies to "support agricultural lands and to improve aquatic and terrestrial habitat on existing and future conservation lands near the Cosumnes River Preserve." This section should specifically encourage the SSHCP partners to continue efforts to expand the regional recycled water program which could be a significant step toward an integrated approach to water, land use and resource management planning to achieve multiple objectives as described in this white paper.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to water, biological, and land use resources.
The Nature Conservancy	1/12/2011	Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Environmental Benefits in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: What Next for Carbon Capture Wetland Farms and What Potential Exists for Low Carbon Agriculture...This project represents the work of a large collaborative team, funded by a diverse group of interested parties...building on the success of this project, that TNC, in close partnership with EDF, has submitted a USDA/NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) application for funding to construct up to two farm scale pilot carbon farms and develop a draft wetland carbon protocol for submittal to a carbon registry. The CIG grant is a three year grant with award anticipated in August, 2011. We hope to have at least one wetland up and running within 12 months of the award. We have requested the maximum award of \$2,000,000 and the Department of Water Resources has graciously agreed to provide up to 100% of the required cost share match for the grant. We will be approaching additional potential cost share partners who have express interest in carbon projects in the Delta.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR Alternatives

NOTE: WRESWP - Water Resources White Paper, AGRESWP - Agricultural Resources White Paper, ECOWP - Ecosystem Resources White Paper

**Matrix 6 Comments Related to Delta as an Evolving Place (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	To create a foundation for developing specific financing instruments, EBMUD recommends that the Council conduct a comprehensive inventory of all infrastructure and economic assets (e.g. highways and roads, pipelines, electric transmission lines, rail lines, homes, farmland, industry/businesses, etc.) in the Delta with particular attention to those that have a clear state interest. This inventory should also identify the full range of activities (agriculture, recreation, upstream and in-Delta water diversions) in which the state has an interest, and which should be supported by user fee revenues. Together, these lists should provide a preliminary basis for identifying all the beneficiaries that should be considered when designing a user fee system. This exercise will overlap in large part with the creation of the database of the interests and assets protected by Delta levees, described in the preceding section.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	1/19/2011	LUSEWP The Introduction section references Water Code Section 85022 which specifically implies conservation requirements, including recycled water, for regions that utilize Delta watershed as a source of water supply to become more self reliant. It should also be noted that conservation measures and improvements to water flowing into the Delta watershed is of equal importance. As such, SRCSD makes several recommendations to incorporate reference to a coordinated expansion of the recycled water program in the Sacramento region and in the upstream portions of the Delta and its tributaries that could provide significant benefits to the Delta watershed.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to water resources.
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	1/19/2011	LUSEWP Page 4-15 lines 6-24: South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (SSHCP) states on line 20 "Sacramento County is partnering with the incorporated cities of Rancho Cordova, Galt, and Elk Grove, as well as the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District and Sacramento County Water Agency, to further advance the regional planning goals of the SSHCP (Sacramento County, 2010). SRCSD recommends adding a statement to this section referencing section 5.4.2 of the SSHCP that discusses the development of recycled water supplies to "support agricultural lands and to improve aquatic and terrestrial habitat on existing and future conservation lands near the Cosumnes River Preserve." This section should specifically encourage the SSHCP partners to continue efforts to expand the regional recycled water program which could be a significant step toward an integrated approach to water, land use and resource management planning to achieve multiple objectives as described in this white paper.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to water, biological, and land use resources.

**Matrix 6 Comments Related to Delta as an Evolving Place (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	1/19/2011	LUSEWP Page 5-2 lines 10-20: SRCSD recommends that " increased recycled water supply and distribution" be added to the bullets for consideration of future policy issues to address the risks that face the Delta. An increase in the use of recycled water in the vicinity of the Sacramento River and the Cosumnes River would help to address the future risks listed in this section including agriculture, water supply and water quality. An investment in the production and distribution of recycled water in the Delta primary and secondary zones would provide multiple benefits including the provision of a new, sustainable supply of water that could be used to support agriculture, wetlands and other habitat areas, while decreasing the demands on surface and groundwater. Investing in programs like water recycling help achieve an integrated approach to water, land use and resource management planning.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to water and land use resources.
Sierra Northern Railway	1/31/2011	We are considering selling our Fremont Trestle, our lake, and our related property in the area. In order to ensure that we are disclosing all relevant information to potential buyers, we are seeking to determine what, if any, rights other parties may claim to these properties. If you or your organization believes that you have any rights related to our trestle, lake, or any associated property (including any flowage rights or other easements over or through the properties), please provide us with copies of the documents that you believe grants such rights so that we can make the appropriate disclosures. In the event that it is relevant to your BDCP, enclosed is a copy of an MBK Engineers' white paper providing details about water flows and the Fremont Trestle. Also enclosed is a description of a proposed relocation of our line that would provide alternate rail access to Woodland from Davis and West Sacramento while allowing the removal of the Fremont Trestle.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR Alternatives.

**Matrix 6 Comments Related to Delta as an Evolving Place (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
The Nature Conservancy	1/12/2011	Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Environmental Benefits in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: What Next for Carbon Capture Wetland Farms and What Potential Exists for Low Carbon Agriculture...This project represents the work of a large collaborative team, funded by a diverse group of interested parties...building on the success of this project, that TNC, in close partnership with EDF, has submitted a USDA/NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) application for funding to construct up to two farm scale pilot carbon farms and develop a draft wetland carbon protocol for submittal to a carbon registry. The CIG grant is a three year grant with award anticipated in August, 2011. We hope to have at least one wetland up and running within 12 months of the award. We have requested the maximum award of \$2,000,000 and the Department of Water Resources has graciously agreed to provide up to 100% of the required cost share match for the grant. We will be approaching additional potential cost share partners who have express interest in carbon projects in the Delta.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR Alternatives

NOTE: LUSEWP - Land Use White Paper

**Matrix 7 Comments Related to Agricultural Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	...agricultural water suppliers are simultaneously striving to comply with additional new requirements in the 2009 Delta Reform Package, including new mandatory statements of water diversion requirements and new statewide groundwater monitoring and reporting responsibilities.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	...it is estimated that between 2003 and 2008, growers in the San Joaquin Valley invested over \$1.5 billion dollars in high-efficiency irrigation equipment, infrastructure, and technology. According to DWR's recently released 2009 California Water Plan Update, agricultural water use statewide ("crop applied water use") has fallen 14.6 percent over the last 40 years (1967-2007), from 31.2 million acre-feet to an estimated 26.7 million acre-feet in 2007. Despite this reduction in total applied water use, however, DWR estimates that "real, inflation-adjusted gross revenue" for California agricultural products during the same time period increased 84 percent, from \$19.9 billion in 1967 to \$36.6 billion in 2007.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	AGRESWP ...it is widely known that the average American's consumption of fruits, vegetables, and other food groups as a percentage of dietary intake is well below the recommended quantities and proportions, while the average American's intake of other less healthy categories (such as sugars, fats, and carbohydrates) is well above recommended levels. For evidence of this imbalance, one need look no further than America's epidemic levels of obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and other health issues...Is it wise to offshore and curtail domestic fruit and vegetable production—and, in balancing food production against other values, can we really say that this is "in the public interest"?	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	AGRESWP ...not only is the United States among the most efficient agricultural producers in the world, but as shown in the graphics which follow, it is also one of the largest, in addition to producing more food per unit of labor, while using less water than in most countries around the world (including, especially, the high-input, low-productivity agricultural economies observed in most developing countries).	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	AGRESWP ...the White Paper's "Water Quality" section includes no mention whatsoever of salinity intrusion, water levels, and lack of circulation or "null zones" as the Delta's most significant water quality issues, or of the need for potential avoidance or mitigation measures should the proposed conveyance facility and restoration significantly alter or worsen the problem of salinity intrusion into the Delta.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.

**Matrix 7 Comments Related to Agricultural Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	AGRESWP ...water and land utilized for food production does not go only to the farmer or the handful of workers in his direct employ; rather, it goes into the agricultural product that ultimately reaches each and every one of us—though not without having, first, navigated the entire extended network of supporting and supported services, industries, and processes, each with some quantum of associated economic activity along the way, en route to the consumer.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	AGRESWP “California,” the text on pages 4-1 and 4-2 of the White Paper reads, “is the leading agricultural [producing state] in the nation, with 14 percent of the nation’s agricultural GDP and more than twice as much agricultural GDP than the next state, Texas.” “Although the value of California’s agricultural production is large,” the text continues, “[at] approximately \$38 billion in 2009 [...], this represents about 2 percent of California’s estimated gross domestic product in 2009 (\$1.9 trillion).” “[I]ndirect economic activities related to agriculture,” the White Paper is quick to add, “also add to the state’s economy.” <sup>1</sup> [1 More precisely, on this point, the California Department of Food and Agriculture estimates that California’s \$36.6 billion in direct farm gate revenues in turn stimulated at least \$100 billion in related economic activity. (For more on economic ripple and multiplier effects see discussion below under the heading “Agriculture in California’s Central Valley Generally.”)]	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	AGRESWP 2 While it may be that the direct farmgate value of California agriculture represents 2 percent of California’s economy, one finds that the direct economic value of agricultural production nationally and globally in relation to the national or global economy is comparable: 0.7 percent of the U.S. economy per the USDA (See USDA Economic Research Service, “The Twentieth Century Transformation of Agriculture,” Dimitri, et al.) and 6 percent of the world economy (IndexMundi World Economy Profile 2010, <a href="http://www.indexmundi.com/world/economy_profile.html">http://www.indexmundi.com/world/economy_profile.html</a> ). Again, though, quite apart from the indirect “multiplier effects” of California’s, the United States’, or the world’s agricultural economy, who in California, the United States, or the world can go without eating?	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.

**Matrix 7 Comments Related to Agricultural Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	AGRESWP Again displaying an inordinate preoccupation with bare economics, the White Paper makes much of the relatively slower rate of conversion from “lower value” field and truck crops in Delta to “higher value” tree, vine, and nursery crops, when compared to the agriculture elsewhere in the larger 5 Delta county region. However, it is important to recognize that so-called “high value” crops presently fetch a higher price because of a particular level of market demand for those crops or the products derived from them at this time. Moreover, agricultural commodity markets, in general, encompass a much broader array of products, each of which has its own place in the market.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	AGRESWP Another problem with the White Paper’s percentage-based snapshot of agriculture in the Delta, versus agriculture in the adjacent areas of the five counties outside of the Delta, is that this limited perspective fails to capture the relative quality, density, and diversity of agricultural land uses in the two areas. Thus, while areas adjacent to the Delta may boast large acreages of vines, for example, as well as nurseries to supply the high-value demand for nursery products from sizeable urban population centers found in these same adjacent areas—and while these adjacent areas may also include large acreages of grazing land, for example—it is a fact that few areas are so richly endowed with prime soils, moderating climate effects, or abundant easily accessed water for irrigation as the Delta.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	AGRESWP as the White Paper itself acknowledges, the Delta’s current, proportionately lower ratio of so-called “higher value” orchard and vineyard crops and nurseries to so-called “lower value” truck and field crops, in fact provides important wildlife habitat not found elsewhere in the five-county region or state.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	AGRESWP As to the inherent significance and importance of Delta agriculture itself, and why it is not an expendable commodity, a few choice statistics from the White Paper itself will hopefully suffice...	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	AGRESWP California is the top agricultural producing state in the nation, well of ahead of the closest contenders, Iowa, Texas, Nebraska, and Illinois. California is the nation’s leading producer of over 70 different crops. Of the nation’s 10 agricultural top counties, 9 are located in California. California also leads the nation in agricultural exports, with \$10.9 billion in exports to some 156 countries worldwide in 2007. Almonds, wine, dairy products, cotton, table grapes and walnuts make up nearly 50 percent of California agricultural exports. About 70 percent of California farm cash receipts are linked to markets in the U.S., while the remaining 30 percent derives from exports.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.

**Matrix 7 Comments Related to Agricultural Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	<p>AGRESWP Ecosystems and fish and wildlife populations impacted by historical land and water development can likely be rehabilitated only to a point; thus, the possible limited extent to which depleted species and ecosystems can be recovered and restored should perhaps act as a check on our haste to sacrifice other important values in the pursuit of anticipated benefits which may in fact never materialize.</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources and terrestrial resources in the Delta.</p>
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	<p>AGRESWP Even more overtly appearing to bait the false conclusion that Delta agriculture is somehow expendable, near the bottom of page 4-3, the White Paper includes the odd conflation of statistics that, while agricultural employment declined by 27 percent Delta-wide and 40 percent in the Primary Zone of the Delta between 2002 and 2008, overall employment in the 5 Delta counties (including rapidly urbanizing and expanding portions of those counties) grew 20.5 percent, while “agricultural exports [statewide] increased.” This trend toward an ever leaner and more efficient agricultural workforce, however, is not new and is not unique to the Delta where, even as agricultural labor inputs have steadily and dramatically declined over time, yields and incomes have just as dramatically increased. It is a trend driven, in part, by current U.S. immigration policy and the mounting regulatory burden of doing business. In any case, it is a fact that, even as the percentage of the national workforce employed in agriculture has declined from 41 percent to 1900, to 21.5 percent in 1930, to 16 percent in 1945, to 4 percent in 1970, and to 1.9 percent in 2000-02, U.S. agricultural output has more than doubled in the last 50 years, growing at an average rate of 1.76 percent per year.</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.</p>
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	<p>AGRESWP For example, it is estimated that between 2003 and 2008, growers in the San Joaquin Valley invested over \$1.5 billion dollars in high-efficiency irrigation equipment, infrastructure, and technology. According to DWR’s recently released 2009 California Water Plan Update, agricultural water use statewide (“crop applied water use”) has fallen 14.6 percent over the last 40 years (1967-2007), from 31.2 million acre-feet to an estimated 26.7 million acre-feet in 2007. Despite this reduction in total applied water use, however, DWR estimates that “real, inflation-adjusted gross revenue” for California agricultural products during the same time period increased 84 percent, from \$19.9 billion in 1967 to \$36.6 billion in 2007.</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.</p>

**Matrix 7 Comments Related to Agricultural Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	<p>AGRESWP Grasslands, pasture, and grazing lands and cropland in all 50 of the United States of America represent an estimated 23.3 and 19.5 percent or 587 and 442 million acres, respectively, of a total 2,264 million acres in all land use categories. In California, out of a total land area of some 100 million acres (of which 45 million acres—or 45 percent—are federally owned public lands as of 1999), the California Department of Conservation currently classifies 12,328,508 acres as “important farmland” (of which some 9.6 million acres are cropland “irrigated cropland”) and 16,521,928 acres as “grazing land.”</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.</p>
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	<p>AGRESWP Ironically though, even as we pave over and systematically desiccate millions of acres of our best fruit and vegetable producing farmland, the American Farmland Trust and the USDA estimate that the United States needs “at least another 13 million acres of farmland growing fruits and vegetables just for Americans to meet the minimum daily requirement of fruits and vegetables set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) 2005 dietary guidelines.”</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.</p>
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	<p>AGRESWP It would seem that the fact that farmers in the Delta, elsewhere in California, the United States, or the world now produce more with less than ever before should hardly form the basis for concluding agriculture is now obsolete, expendable, or any less essential than ever.</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.</p>
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	<p>AGRESWP Nationwide, in 2000, 159 million acre-feet of a total of 387 million acre-feet of fresh water in the United States was extracted and applied to some 60 million acres of irrigated cropland (representing roughly 59 percent surface water and 37-41 percent groundwater). In California, of the between 145.5 and 336.9 million acre-feet of water either falling annually in form of precipitation or entering California from other states or Mexico, or available from storage or groundwater, an average of 34.2 million acre-feet a year are used to irrigate 9.6 million acres of irrigated cropland. Of an average annual total of 43.4 million acre-feet used by agricultural, urban, and managed wetlands combined, an average of 35% or 15 million acre-feet is met from groundwater, with the majority of that use occurring in the Central Valley. Thus, for the recent 1998-2001 period, agricultural water use in a wet year, a normal year, and a below normal year, ranged from 29 to 52 percent of California’s “dedicated water supply,” while “environmental water use” (made up of instream flows, wild and scenic flows, required Delta flow, and managed wetlands water use) made up between 35 and 63 percent</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.</p>

**Matrix 7 Comments Related to Agricultural Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	<p>AGRESWP Outsourcing food production and environmental costs of necessary food production to other parts of the world has the clearly foreseeable result of redirecting those environmental costs to other countries and societies—often in parts of the world with greater remaining biodiversity, more intact ecosystems, and far fewer environmental regulations and protections. Outsourcing food production to other countries will make the United States increasingly dependent on other countries for food, in the way we are presently dependent upon other countries for oil and manufactured goods.</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.</p>
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	<p>AGRESWP Proposals to simply reallocate land and water from existing agricultural uses to environmental or other uses ignore the tremendous value and importance of agriculture itself and the public benefits it provides—not least of all as the food supply for a large and growing population. These values are the same, whether in the Delta, in areas upstream or south of the Delta, or elsewhere in California, the United States, or the world.</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.</p>
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	<p>AGRESWP Regarding salt build-up in soils and groundwater, for example, while this is again a significant problem in some areas of the state, assuming there is sufficient freshwater for leaching in the Delta, it is there a much less severe problem than elsewhere.</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.</p>

**Matrix 7 Comments Related to Agricultural Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	<p>AGRESWP The Delta and its tributaries irrigate over 7 million acres of the world's most productive and diverse cropland in the world. California is the number 1 agricultural producer and exporter, and the leading dairy state in the U.S. (22 percent of U.S. milk supply), grows more than 400 different commodities statewide, and supplies roughly half of U.S.-grown fruits, nuts, and vegetables, including 3/4 of all lettuce. Of a total of \$36.6 billion in direct farm sales for California in 2007, upwards of 60 percent would have been produced in the valley floor of the Delta's watershed, also known as the Central Valley, with a large portion of the State's remaining agricultural production occurring in areas also receiving a portion of their water supplies from the Delta in Southern California and in the California Central Coast area. \$36.6 billion represents 12.8 percent of farm sales nationally, yet in terms of acreage, the Central Valley amounts to just 1 percent of farmland nationwide. "Including multiplier effects," says the U.C. Davis Agricultural Issues Center, "California farms and related processing industries generate 7.3 percent of the state's private sector labor force [...] and account for 5.6 percent of state labor income." "Excluding ripple effects," says the same source, "agriculture directly accounts for 12.6 percent of jobs and 8.4 percent of labor income" statewide, while in the Central Valley itself "[a]gricultural production and processing [...], including ripple effects, generate 24.2 percent of private sector employment and 18.5 percent of the private sector labor income." For every \$1 billion in direct farm sales, the Issues Center estimates, "there are 18,000 jobs created in the state, about 11,000 in the farm sector itself plus about 7,000 in other industries."</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.</p>
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	<p>AGRESWP The Delta Stewardship Council's December 6, 2010 "Delta As A Place: Agriculture White Paper" ("White Paper") serves in many respects as a useful compilation of data and statistics related to Delta agriculture. However, when faced with major policy issues such as flood control and proposed large-scale changes in land use patterns and water conveyance in the Delta the White Paper fails to recognize the extraordinary value and importance of agriculture in general and in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta region in particular.</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.</p>

**Matrix 7      Comments Related to Agricultural Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	<p>AGRESWP The discussion of “Agricultural Employment” on page 4-3 mirrors the White Paper’s discussion of California agriculture as a percentage of the State’s economy in that it appears to again invite the conclusion that, merely because the percentage of the workforce employed in Delta agriculture is proportionately small, that agriculture in general, and Delta agriculture in particular, is somehow insignificant or readily expendable. Thus, although agriculture represents a full 38 percent of just 2,800 jobs in the Primary Zone of the Delta itself, the White Paper notes the Delta agriculture accounts for just 2 percent of total employment in the five Delta counties, and just 4.4 percent of employment within both the Primary and Secondary Zones of the Delta (including portions of the Secondary Zone that are now heavily urbanized)</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.</p>
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	<p>AGRESWP The obvious problem with such cut-and-dried, dollars-and-cents assessments of the value of agriculture in the Delta, the State of California, the rest of the nation, or the world is that such assessments ignore that which is undeniable: 1. People eat. 2. The world is full of people (currently an estimated 311 million in the United States and 6.9 billion worldwide). 3. Without large and dependable quantities of food, many of those people would go hungry (or, at least, be at an acute risk of going hungry, in the event of some cataclysm, such as a war, a drought, or a collapse in world markets). 4. Agriculture produces the food to feed all of these people.</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.</p>
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	<p>AGRESWP The White Paper highlights quite prominently the loss in recent decades of important farmland in the Delta to urban development,<sup>58</sup> yet it includes no commentary whatsoever on the significant loss of an equivalent area of agricultural land during the same period to a large and growing acreage of conservation and open space lands in the Delta—or of the much larger potential, future loss of some 80,000 to 100,000 acres of existing farmland to various proposed restoration projects.</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources and terrestrial resources in the Delta.</p>
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	<p>AGRESWP The White Paper’s focus on agricultural runoff in the Delta as a supposed source of significant water quality problems in the Delta completely omits any mention of the fact that recent monitoring and research have, in fact, pinpointed urban sources of contaminants, including both unregulated pyrethroids pesticides in urban stormwater and ammonia, as a much more likely source of ecological harm than Delta agriculture.</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.</p>

**Matrix 7      Comments Related to Agricultural Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	<p>AGRESWP Too frequently now, one hears proposals such as the one presented not long ago to the Stewardship Council itself regarding the West Side of the San Joaquin Valley, that portray one or another agricultural "solution" as the solution to any number of other problems—but whose real thrust is to drastically curtail, or simply remove from the equation, the existing agriculture in one or another region of the state...it only involves sacrificing agriculture. What such proposals ignore is the point strenuously argued here, first, that agriculture in general is a critically important and necessary activity for the human race; second, that California's climate, infrastructure, and land and water resources make it specially suited for tilling and harvesting of the land as are very few other places in the world; and, third, that it is not only the West Side or the East Side or the Delta or the Sacramento Valley that is being steadily eroded by misguided policies and regulations, but rather all of the State's major agricultural regions.</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.</p>
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	<p>AGRESWP Whereas agriculture in the year 2000 accounted for about 41 of applied water use from both surface and groundwater in a normal year, environmental and urban water use accounted for approximately 48 and 11 percent, respectively. Recent significant regulatory reallocations since 2000 under the NMFS and USFWS OCAP biological opinions, under the San Joaquin River Restoration Agreement, and other developments notably increased the proportion of water going to environmental uses and substantially reduced current allocations to urban and agricultural use.</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.</p>
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	<p>AGRESWP While the White Paper's "Future Risks and Policy Issues" makes much of the familiar list of imminent threats to the Delta from subsidence, to levee failures, to climate change, the reality is that all of these are risks Delta farmers and the State of California have lived with in the past, and all are manageable. After all, it is hardly as if the Delta were the only part of California or the world that faces various risks and unknowns in the future, and even from one moment to the next...</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.</p>
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	<p>AGRESWP With \$115.4 billion in exports in 2008, agriculture is not only a major source of exportable goods for the United States, but indeed it is currently the first among just a very few export categories in the United States' increasingly service- and import-centered economy to carry an actual trade surplus. Meanwhile, California leads the nation in agricultural exports by a margin of roughly double the exports of any of the states in the next closest tier of contenders (Illinois, Iowa, Texas, Nebraska, Kansas, and Montana).</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.</p>

**Matrix 7 Comments Related to Agricultural Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	<p>AGRESWP Worldwide, to sustain a global population of 6.9 billion people, there are an estimated 543 to 618 million acres of irrigated farmland in production, with over half of this acreage occurring in India, China, the United States, and Pakistan. Hunger remains a real problem in the 21st century with an estimated 882 million people worldwide currently classified as “food-insecure” (that is having a diet of less than 2,100 calories per day per person).</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.</p>
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	<p>AGRESWP...California is ranked first among all 50 United States in terms of both California’s existing level and rate of growth of agricultural productivity. Moreover, among Western states, California’s relative level of productivity and productivity growth rate is even more remarkable...while agricultural production in California is most notable for its large proportion of specialty fruit, vegetable, and nut crops, in terms of the agriculture’s global footprint...the United States as a whole, along with China, the Korean Republic, Japan, Germany, and the United Kingdom, is among the most efficient producers of the world’s food staples (cereals, pulses [peas, beans, and lentils], and roots/tubers)</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture.</p>
California Farm Bureau	1/25/2011	<p>AGRESWP...concerning water supply and groundwater depletion, while this is a significant problem in some of the areas adjacent to the Delta, in the parts of the Valley south of the Delta, and some other areas of the state, in the Delta, surface water from channels and sloughs is by far the primary source of irrigation water while, far from being overdrafted, the water table on many Delta islands is in fact so high that farmers must actually pump water off the land and into adjacent channels and sloughs to prevent water logging of the root zone.</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.</p>
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	<p>Agricultural water suppliers will have to prepare or update existing agricultural water management plans to conform to the specific requirements of SB 7X 7 and implement additional “locally cost-effective” efficient water management practices, or otherwise submit documentation in support of a determination that such additional practices are not “locally cost-effective” at the time of reporting.</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.</p>
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	<p>As noted, agricultural stakeholders must engage in a stakeholder process with DWR to develop a proposed agricultural water efficiency methodology. Additionally, SB 7X 7 makes mandatory certain previously conditional, albeit already widely implemented efficient water management practices (volumetric pricing and “aggregated farm-gate delivery data”).</p>	<p>This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.</p>

**Matrix 7      Comments Related to Agricultural Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	As the result of a very inclusive and exhaustive public stakeholder process including actual farmers and agricultural interests as well as members of the environmental community and others, SB 7X 7 represents the best and most appropriate compromise currently possible. Implementation of the measures required under SB 7X 7 by agricultural water suppliers around the state will undoubtedly amount to an enormous step forward. Accordingly, we should not now rush to judgment; rather, the State of California should allow the legislation to work, without premature regulatory interference and second-guessing.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	Contrary to the Delta Watermaster's criticism of the 10,000 and 25,000 acre thresholds in SB 7X 7, according to the Agricultural Water Management Council, based on 2005 data, agricultural water suppliers with 10,000 irrigated acres or more collectively serve 95 percent of the more than 6 million irrigated acres served by water districts statewide, while suppliers serving 25,000 irrigated acres or more represent more than 80 percent of the same area. It is therefore inaccurate and misleading to suggest that required agricultural water efficiency reporting, measurement, planning, and implementation under SB 7X 7 does not cover the lion's share of agricultural water use in the Central Valley, as well as the total area of land irrigated by water districts in California.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.
California Farm Bureau	1/21/2011	Farm Bureau is supportive of identifying opportunities for increased efficiencies in water use, across the spectrum of beneficial uses...California's farmers and ranchers have a continuing role to play in the struggle for greater water use efficiency, as do urban users and proponents of environmental needs. As I have stated previously to the Council, farmers and ranchers are justifiably proud of their record over the past 40 years, as more and more crops move to efficient water systems and methodologies at the same time California retains its position as the nation's top agricultural producer.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources.
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	In any case, given limited resources and the considerable representative coverage of the various tiers, the current approach is certainly an appropriate incremental step.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.

**Matrix 7      Comments Related to Agricultural Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Farm Bureau	1/21/2011	Increased efficiencies tend to manifest themselves incrementally, however, as technology becomes available and market conditions justify their use. It is not always possible to use the most efficient technology or method, and the caselaw interpreting Article X, Section 2 does not require so. Moreover, no reading of the California Constitution's enjoinder to reasonable and non-wasteful water use would justify some of the suggestions in the Delta Watermaster's white paper, such as identification of "approved" crop types.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources.
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	More, and not less, capacity and flexibility to capture, store, release, and convey water will be critically important to sustainably meet competing demands on limited water resources in the 21st century. This is not an either-or proposition; it is a dual necessity (and, indeed, something very much implicit in the "co-equal goals" concept that is the Stewardship Council's charge). Thus, while increased water efficiency is necessary, so too are additional storage, improved conveyance, and greater regulatory certainty.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	Nonetheless, the formidable task of complying with additional requirements of SB 7X 7 will, between now and mid- to late 2012, absorb all of these agencies' available resources (and more) in the area of agricultural water use efficiency.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	One other critical aspect of agricultural water efficiency that is missed in the Delta Watermaster's "The Reasonable Use" report and other similar treatments of this subject is the great importance of some relative certainty in terms of the overall stability and security of existing water rights...Namely, if the prevailing legal and regulatory environment is such that agricultural or other water users are made to live in constant fear of loss or reallocation of their existing water supplies, they will be less willing to implement practices that may result in further losses of water. In this regard, collaborative, voluntary, market-, and incentive-based approaches (though too seldom embraced in practice) are always more effective.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.

**Matrix 7 Comments Related to Agricultural Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	Required Levels of Investment above Readily Implementable “Locally Cost-Effective” Efficiency Measures That Would Be Necessary to Realize Aggressive Projections of Potential Water Savings Are Not Realistic, and Probably Not Feasible...Given the significant up-front expense of many such improvements, however, the primary limitation on the implementation of such measures is that they are simply not “locally cost-effective.” This, in fact, is one of the primary reasons why extremely aggressive projections of potential agricultural water efficiency savings ignore stubborn on-the-ground realities. <sup>18</sup> [18 Other reasons such estimates are simply not realistic include their tendency to ignore downstream and in-basin use, overlook regional differences, differing crops types and agronomic practices, and double or accumulate assumed savings across different categories of efficiency measures, among other over-simplification and inaccuracies. See Burt, et al., Oct. 2008, “Agricultural Water Conservation and Efficiency in California—A Commentary,” <a href="http://www.itrc.org/papers/commentary/commentary.pdf">http://www.itrc.org/papers/commentary/commentary.pdf</a> .]	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.
California Farm Bureau	1/28/2011	SB 7X 7 requires conformance to a new standardized reporting form, coordination with other local agencies, and public dissemination of agricultural water management plans.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.
California Farm Bureau	1/21/2011	The Delta Watermaster Did Not Involve Agricultural Stakeholders. Perhaps the greatest flaw in the white paper is that it was formulated as a lawyer’s piece, with too much attention paid to the legal background on the subject of reasonable use, and too little paid to in-field practices. This could have been avoided by substantially involving California’s farmers and ranchers...If the Delta Watermaster wishes to help drive technical innovations in on-farm water use efficiency, either within or outside of his geographic purview, we would recommend that he engage in the many voluntary processes that are calculated to deploy irrigation techniques which farmers and ranchers are incentivized to adopt.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources in the Delta.

**Matrix 7 Comments Related to Agricultural Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Farm Bureau	1/21/2011	The Delta Watermaster has identified enforcement of the reasonable use doctrine as “reactive”, and this is because the California Supreme Court has required a case-by-case inquiry on the subject. Hard and fast rules on the use of agricultural water – or any type of water use – must navigate the contours of Article X, Section 2. In the case of agricultural water use, those contours depend upon climate, weather, water source, soil type, market conditions and any number of other variables. The white paper perhaps asks too much in this regard, to the extent it would seek substantial enforcement resources up front to prospectively identify proper water use against the diversity of the agricultural landscape, or to vet water use efficiency “addendums” attached to all Statements of Diversion and Use which individually detail on-farm management practices.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources.
California Farm Bureau	1/21/2011	The Delta Watermaster Largely Ignores Other Institutions and Processes. The white paper was apparently formulated without reference to ongoing and very effective efforts within the agricultural industry to keep increasing irrigation efficiencies available to California’s farmers and ranchers. Correctly, the white paper references recent enactments directed at agricultural water management planning, applicable to the agricultural water suppliers which serve the majority of California’s agricultural landscape. The Delta Watermaster does not do a very good job, however, of detailing the numerous institutions and processes which provide technical assistance – and grant money – to farmers and ranchers for agricultural water use efficiency...The Delta Watermaster is apparently even only marginally aware of CIMIS, the California Irrigation Management Information System maintained by DWR’s Office of Water Use Efficiency, a basic and widely-used tool which California farmers use to estimate crop water use for efficient irrigation scheduling.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources.
California Farm Bureau	1/21/2011	The Delta Watermaster, authorized by Water Code section 85230, has authority in relation to conditions and diversions within the Delta. As a practical matter, it is difficult to explain to our diverse membership – including, for example, farmers and ranchers in places like Modoc and Imperial counties – just why the Delta Watermaster should be calling for a summit on “reasonable use” and water use efficiency as it relates to them, calling for the commitment of general enforcement resources on this issue, or even why he should be authoring white papers on statewide policy. Nothing about the Delta Watermaster’s statutory authority or the legislative intent in the 2010 creation of this position, including the Watermaster’s charge to submit “regular reports” under Water Code section 85230, suggests such an authority-at-large.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources.

**Matrix 7      Comments Related to Agricultural Resources (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Farm Bureau	1/21/2011	The Delta Watermaster’s Focus Is One-Dimensional. At the same time that the white paper overreaches with statewide ambition, it is also incomplete in terms of its limited focus on agriculture. Even to the extent the Delta Watermaster wishes to examine reasonable use within his geographic authority, any inquiry is incomplete without visiting the entire spectrum of beneficial uses. The constitutional requirements found within Article X, Section 2 are a test against which any use of water must stand – including environmental and M&I uses – and an inquiry as to whether any one category or type of use is “reasonable” is hollow unless balanced against other uses. It would itself be unreasonable, for example, to require farmers and ranchers to adopt a costly new technology for a marginal and incremental water savings, while the efficacy of large-volume dam releases for fisheries restoration goes unexamined for actual positive effect.	This comment will be used in the development of the Delta Plan, Delta Plan EIR alternatives, and impacts assessment related to agriculture and water resources.

NOTE: WRESWP - AGRESWP - Agricultural Resources White Paper

**Matrix 8 Comments Related to Risk Reduction (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Central Valley Flood Control Association	1/20/2011	FLDRSKWP Page No. ES-1, Lines 22 through 29: This section discusses the un-sustainability of business as usual. One of the problems with the recent studies that have been performed on Delta levees is that they don't adequately look at the state of the levees in the mid-1980's and the improvements to the levees after the increased funding provided by SB34 and subsequent legislation. This is a key issue due to the fact that the increased funding provided by Props 1 E and 84 (2006) will set the stage for future levee condition. The fact of the matter is at the end of the 2006 proposition funding, levees will be in a much more advanced state. This should be considered by the Delta Stewardship Council in the development of its plan. Plate 1 shows the major improvements within the past 20 years where central Delta levees have been raised several feet in some areas. Based on these types of improvements and funding provided over the past 20 years, we are confident the levees will be in a much better state following expenditure of Propositions I E and 84 funding.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR, including description of the Existing Conditions for Flood Management
California Central Valley Flood Control Association	1/20/2011	FLDRSKWP Page No. ES-2, Lines 27 through 33: This section deals with the question on who owns levees in the Delta. Lines 27 and 28 indicate that in some instances the reclamation district owns the levee. In regard to our experience, there is only one reclamation district that actually owns the property under a levee. All the others have written or implied easements authorizing them to operate and maintain the levee but do not have fee title of ownership.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR, including description of the Existing Conditions for Flood Management
California Central Valley Flood Control Association	1/20/2011	FLDRSKWP Page No. ES-3, Lines 8 through 11: These lines answer the question regarding the effect of sea level rise on the Delta levees. We would like to inform the Delta Stewardship Council that reclamation districts are planning for sea level rise. In fact, under the State Delta Levees Program, studies have been performed defining the amount of work that must be performed to keep up with the sea level rise. The study was conducted under levee engineering grants from the Delta Levees Program. We can provide this study to you if DWR has not already done so.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR, including description of the Existing Conditions for Flood Management

**Matrix 8      Comments Related to Risk Reduction (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Central Valley Flood Control Association	1/20/2011	<p>FLDRSKWP Page No. ES-3 Lines 12 through 18: This question and answer concerns subsidence in whether it is still occurring in the Delta. The answer uses the word, "widespread", in describing the occurrence of peat oxidation in the Delta. This type of description leads one to believe that the entire Delta is subject to oxidation which is not true. We have been reviewing the LiDAR data produced by the Department of Water Resources in 2007. In comparing this elevation data to the USGS Quadrangle maps, which were surveyed between 1974 and 1976, we have found that in over 30 years between the two surveys, subsidence did not occur in areas that are currently at elevation minus 10 feet below sea level, and above. In fact, in regard to problems associated with subsidence, such as drainage, we are only finding problems that subsidence is most likely occurring on lands currently below elevation 12 feet NGVD; and in some areas, this may be as low as minus 15 feet NGVD. The attached Plate 2 shows the amount of land in the Delta that is situated below elevation minus 12 feet NGVD. The total acreage when below this elevation is approximately 96,000 acres. Therefore, based on the total acreage of the Delta being approximately 700,000 acres, the actual area that has any possibility of subsiding at this time is less than 14% of the entire Delta. If lands below elevation minus 15 feet NGVD are the only grounds subsiding at this time, that number drops considerably to 57,000 acres or 8.1 % of the entire Delta. Therefore, to use the word, "widespread", in describing the occurrence of subsidence may give the false impression that the entire Delta has issues in regard to subsidence. In addition, for the amount of acres that are actually subsiding, the second question should be whether subsidence effects stability of levees and the answer based on our experience based on surveys and geotechnical evaluation in the Delta is that it does not significantly impact levees. The simple answer is that the subsidence that is currently occurring is situated landward of the effective structural foundation of the levee. There are cases where subsidence is close enough to the levee where it could impact stability but these are not common. We do not believe a stability analysis has ever been performed using real survey data in an area known for subsidence that shows that the subsidence will effect the structural stability of levee. The reports that have been citing the fact that subsidence is a significant stressor are only basing this on theory and not actual data.</p>	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR, including description of the Existing Conditions for Flood Management

**Matrix 8      Comments Related to Risk Reduction (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Central Valley Flood Control Association	1/20/2011	<p>FLDRSKWP Page ES-3, Lines 19 through 29: This question and answer discuss the Delta Risk Management Strategy and whether the analysis is acceptable. The answer quotes a section of the CALFED Science Program's Independent Review Panel's of the Revised Phase I Report which indicates that the report is appropriate for informing policy makers and others. However, that quote is taken out of context from the executive summary of the Independent Review Panel's Report. The Report goes on to say in the lines immediately following that quote that, "This conclusion however is subject to some important caveats, First, the IRP cautions users of this revised DRMS Phase I Report that future estimates of consequences must be viewed as projections that can provide relative indicators of directions of effects, not predictions to be interpreted literally. Second, anyone using the results of the DRMS scenarios must be aware that ecosystem effects are not fully captured in the analysis, and that, in particular, the lack of ecosystem consequences reported does not imply small ecosystem impacts." The IRP Report goes on to describe a lot of the issues regarding DRMS and the error involved in the analysis. The Delta Stewardship Council should be aware of the uncertainties regarding DRMS. Therefore, enclosed as Exhibit A is the entire 20 pages of the IRP Review Panel's Report. Emphasis has been added to draw your attention to important caveats.</p>	<p>This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR, including description of the Existing Conditions for Flood Management</p>

**Matrix 8 Comments Related to Risk Reduction (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Central Valley Flood Control Association	1/20/2011	FLDRSKWP ES-3, Lines 30 through 41: This question and answer discuss the assistance afforded to Delta levees in the event of a disaster. One form of assistance is from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It describes FEMA grants as pertaining to levees that protect a given area and meet the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) standard. This answer also describes that there are currently very few areas or islands that have all their levees up to this standard. This answer is a little bit deceiving because of the fact that most Delta levees meet or exceed the minimum HMP standard. The issue that came up during the 2005-2006 Flood was that some areas did not specifically meet the HMP standard over 100% of its levee system. However, most non-project levees were brought above the HMP standard during the 1990s. Due to the fact that this standard is a geometric standard, and not a stability standard, districts have to work to maintain this standard. The districts perform work to the standard when enough levee crown has consolidated below the standard. An example of how close these levees are to meeting the standard is described in Exhibit B. This exhibit is an appeal by a local reclamation district to FEMA for acceptance of their disaster claim due to the fact that their levee met or exceeded the HMP plan over 99.4% of its entirety. In other words, out of 11.2 miles of levee, only 351 feet were found to be below this minimum HMP standard and that most of that was one inch or less below the standard.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR, including description of the Existing Conditions for Flood Management
California Central Valley Flood Control Association	1/20/2011	FLDRSKWP Page No.2-II, Lines 10 through 23: The list of lands protected by federal project levees is incomplete. The list should include islands such as Pearson District, Tyler Island, Walnut Grove, levees of the Yolo Bypass, Twitchell Island and Maintenance Area 9. This section should also be expanded to discuss the amount of acres protected by these project levees to give an indication of the significance of the project levees on the overall Hood protection of the Delta.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR, including description of the Existing Conditions for Flood Management
California Central Valley Flood Control Association	1/20/2011	FLDRSKWP Page No.3-I, Line II: State Highways 220,84, and 5 should be added to this list.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR, including description of the Existing Conditions for Flood Management
California Central Valley Flood Control Association	1/20/2011	FLDRSKWP Page No.3-I Line 22 and 23: Similar to previous comment regarding unsubstantiated general subsidence data.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR, including description of the Existing Conditions for Flood Management

**Matrix 8 Comments Related to Risk Reduction (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Central Valley Flood Control Association	1/20/2011	FLDRSKWP Page No. 3-8, Lines 14 through 17: These lines discuss the levee failures that occurred in 1997. They state that Table 3-1 does not include failures along the San Joaquin River where it enters the Delta. This is not quite true. Table 3-1 does include levees that are not significant to the water quality of the State because they protect upland areas along the San Joaquin which would drain naturally as the flood waters recede. For instance, in Table 3-1 it cites McMullen Ranch, Paradise Junction, River Junction, Walthall Tract, Weatherbee Lake, and Pescadero Tract. It also lists islands that have either restricted elevation levees or levees that are not designed to withhold flood waters such as McCormack Williamson Tract, Prospect Island, and Glanville Tract. Glanville Tract's back levee is actually a railroad embankment; and therefore, during certain periods of time, it will fail because it is not designed to hold back water. In essence, use of the above islands in estimating future levee breaks is not acceptable since these islands breached for reasons other than failing when water exceeded their design capacity and do not impact the water quality of the Delta.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR, including description of the Existing Conditions for Flood Management
California Central Valley Flood Control Association	1/20/2011	FLDRSKWP Page No. 5-7, Lines 9 through 30: This section describes the levee risk due to flooding. In our opinion, the DRMS study is erroneous in assuming that the frequency of flooding is directly related to the peak day Delta inflow, especially in the most critical area; the central Delta. In the central Delta the channel hydraulics do not control the flood elevations; rather, the tide and surges from storm systems have a more significant influence. Although inflow is a contributing factor, it is not the predominant factor in the central Delta. Table I describes this more clearly, comparing recent high tide elevations at the San Joaquin River at Venice Island and the San Joaquin River at Antioch. Note that although 1986 was the highest peak day inflow, two other floods that do not even appear on the table. (1998 and 2005) had much higher water levels at these two sites.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR, including description of the Existing Conditions for Flood Management
California Central Valley Flood Control Association	1/20/2011	FLDRSKWP Page No. 5-23, Lines 14 through 20: This section discusses the assumption that DRMS makes regarding "business-as-usual". This is a key area that the Delta Stewardship Council must open up to additional studies and information prior to the completion of DRMS, and subsequent to DRMS, hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent on Delta levees, an assess that should be made to evaluate the change that this work has made in regard to risk reduction.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR, including description of the Existing Conditions for Flood Management
California Central Valley Flood Control Association	1/20/2011	FLDRSKWP Page No. 5-25, Lines 8 through 15: This area discusses the zone of influence within which subsidence could cause a problem with levee stability. This is a good point; however, based on previous comments herein, we feel that the estimation of ongoing peat subsidence is overstated in DRMS and other studies.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR, including description of the Existing Conditions for Flood Management

**Matrix 8 Comments Related to Risk Reduction (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
California Central Valley Flood Control Association	1/20/2011	FLDRSKWP Page No. 5-25, Lines 26-35: This section talks about continued subsidence and long-term ground elevations due to subsidence. There are several problems with the DRMS estimate in regard to long-term subsidence. First, there seems to be no regard to the bottom of the organic layer. For instance, DRMS estimates that by 2100, Empire Tract will have a landside elevation of -30 feet NGVD. In reality, nowhere within Empire Tract does the peat extend below -25 feet NGVD. In addition, there are other factors that would contribute to the cessation of subsidence and areas that are not considered. As ground subsides, areas become too wet to farm; and therefore, farming ceases. These areas appear sporadically in the current Delta and will continue to expand as subsidence continues. However, once the land is out of production, it remains moist; and subsidence will essentially halt. In addition, at some point, it would become uneconomical to continue farming certain areas because of the cost to keep them dry enough to farm. More studies should be performed in this regard.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR, including description of the Existing Conditions for Flood Management
Contra Costa Water District	2/2/2011	The Delta Plan should include an emergency response study to optimize system-wide response to a catastrophic Delta event such as a flood or an earthquake. Operations and facilities can be put in place to minimize the impacts of such an event and to quickly restore the drinking water supply after a destructive seismic event. Actions to protect water supplies and important infrastructure (including Highway 4, aqueducts, and railroads) include: • stockpiling materials, • building cutoff levees, • managing reservoir and water export operations after an event, and • coordinating responses from a multitude of agencies. The study should be done in coordination with the ongoing Delta emergency preparedness work underway by the Department of Water Resources and the Army Corps of Engineers, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and the UC Berkeley RESIN study being led by Dr. Robert Bea.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan, EIR Alternatives, and description of the Existing Conditions for Levees
Contra Costa Water District	2/2/2011	One recent study showed that Delta water supplies would be disrupted for approximately 4 months under a worst-case earthquake scenario without any actions taken to prevent seawater intrusion ["Potential Impacts of Large Scale Delta Levee Failure on BDCP Restoration and Intake Investments". RMA Presentation at the BDCP Steering Committee Meeting July 29th 2010.] The results of this study are counter to the popular notion that after such an event, the Delta would be doomed to a salt water lake condition indefinitely. The rivers do not stop flowing after an earthquake, and the water that cannot be pumped flushes out the salt. Because the study did not include any special actions, it is clear the disruption to fresh water supplies could be even less with proper management actions.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan, EIR Alternatives, and description of the Existing Conditions for Levees

**Matrix 8 Comments Related to Risk Reduction (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
Contra Costa Water District	2/2/2011	A Delta Plan emergency response study should strive to minimize water supply disruption. Optimization of reservoir releases, export pumping, and placement or reinforcement of emergency barriers must be analyzed. The logistics of implementing response measures (such as the availability of barges to deliver stockpiled material) must also be considered. The BDCP studies suggest that, if properly managed, water supply impacts from a major earthquake could be comparable to those sustained during a dry year under normal system operation (we note that while a major seismic event has a 31 % chance of occurring once in the next 30 years, a dry year event has a 35% chance of occurring in any year). Plans to optimize operations after a seismic event must be a top priority.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan, EIR Alternatives, and description of the Existing Conditions for Levees
Contra Costa Water District	2/2/2011	The Department of Water Resources (DWR) will release its Flood Preparedness, Response and Recovery Report in early 2012, which will contain information regarding DWR's planned response to flood-induced multiple levee breaches within the first 24 hours. • The Delta Plan emergency response plan should go beyond the DWR plan, and include an evaluation of system-wide reservoir and pumping operations and Delta barriers for levee breaches caused by floods or earthquakes over a longer time span. The Delta Plan emergency response study must also include an assessment of the logistics of implementing measures identified in the DWR report. For example, the feasibility of protecting the Middle River corridor in the Central and Southern Delta to ensure that water supply loss is minimized must be assessed. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has already made substantial progress in evaluating some options that should be considered by the Council.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan, EIR Alternatives, and description of the Existing Conditions for Levees
Contra Costa Water District	2/2/2011	The emergency response study in the Delta Plan should include a communications plan and should clearly delineate who is responsible for what type of response during a flood or an earthquake. There may be overlapping jurisdiction for many types of responses, and the Delta Plan emergency response study should clarify responsibilities so that swift, confident action can be taken to respond to the emergency. The study should also include administrative actions that all government agencies can take in advance to prepare for an emergency.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan, EIR Alternatives, and description of the Existing Conditions for Levees
Contra Costa Water District	2/2/2011	The Delta Plan emergency response study should identify ways to promote periodic review and updating of emergency planning and response at all levels of government.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan, EIR Alternatives, and description of the Existing Conditions for Levees

**Matrix 8 Comments Related to Risk Reduction (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	As the Council begins to develop priorities for state investments in Delta levees as required by the Delta Reform Act (Sect. 85306), it should develop and maintain a database of information about the interests and assets protected by Delta levees...General categories within this inventory should include: state interests (e.g. ecosystem, health and safety, recreation, transportation); federal interests (e.g. migratory birds, fish and wildlife, interstate power and transportation facilities, federal lands or facilities); and local interests (e.g. communities, water deliveries, farmland, industry and businesses).	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	A categorization as to the existing state of the levees across the Delta is needed, recognizing that it will likely change over time as some improvements are made, some islands continue to subside, and all islands are subjected to continuing erosion, wave action, and tidal or hydraulic forces.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	While it might be generally useful to understand the status of project levees and flood control across the Central Valley, the more pressing need for the Council is to develop a comprehensive position with respect to "non-project" levees, which comprise the vast majority of levees within the Delta...How the Council develops priorities and interacts with DWR's Delta levee programs will be an area that deserves regular and ongoing coordination to improve on the current implementation approach.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	In developing an investment strategy, the Council may need to grapple with the concept of a "do not resuscitate list" as recommended in a PPIC report. Related issues include "converting" or "transitioning" some islands (or parts of islands) to ecosystem habitat, and how to prioritize expenditures for such ecosystem restoration. Just because a restoration project can be implemented on a given island does not mean it should be, unless it is a high priority in the larger ecosystem restoration plans for the Delta. There are many different aspects to levee investment decisions, and the Council is encouraged to start gathering information in weighing tradeoffs and priorities. Again, a panel of experts might provide valuable input on these important decisions.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	As a direct stakeholder and financial investor in 51 miles of Delta levees, EBUD strongly supports developing a coherent and sustainable levee plan.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan

**Matrix 8      Comments Related to Risk Reduction (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	Regarding levees, the prioritization strategy for levee investments discussed above would involve several steps and ongoing inter-agency coordination. If that approach is pursued, the Council may be able to frame an action strategy or work plan by January 1, 2012, that includes future decisions on annual investment choices or recommendations as part of the state budget cycle. The levee investment strategy will also be part of a broader finance strategy for the Delta Plan with multiple components, each of which could be varying states of development by January 1, 2012. Adoption of basic principles as covered earlier is a recommended starting point for all parts of the finance plan.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan

NOTE: FLDRSKWP - Flood Risk White Paper

**Matrix 9 Comments Related to Development of Delta Plan (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	The Council must move forward to adopt a Delta Plan within the timeframe established by statute, rather than waiting for the BDCP Steering Committee to complete its work. The Council's Delta Plan must address what the BDCP has been unable to accomplish, including a comprehensive adaptive management strategy to actively respond to the complex and dynamic processes that shape the Delta. Given this highly complex system and a habitat conservation plan that federal agencies describe as having a "high degree of uncertainty," assurances regarding water supply reliability should be conditional on specific, measurable biological goals and objectives within a functional adaptive management plan. The Council should develop its own independent stance on adaptive management for the Delta Plan. With the assistance of the Independent Science Board, the Council should ensure that appropriate, measurable biological goals and objectives are established to guide restoration efforts in the Delta. Without a clear, comprehensive adaptive management plan and measurable goals and objectives, any water supply assurances will neither be durable nor reliable...Understanding the specifics of adaptive management in the Delta will better enable EBMUD to make appropriate decisions as it balances fishery needs and water supply demands on the Mokelumne River.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	The Council should urge the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to initiate an update of its Delta Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP) as soon as the SWRCB concludes its current proceedings on San Joaquin River flows. Such action by the SWRCB would also serve to guide the BDCP Steering Committee to complete its work within the parameters of the SWRCB's jurisdiction. The SWRCB has jurisdiction over the entire Delta and all its water users, and in this process other interests are invited to present evidence and testimony in SWRCB proceedings.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	In a statewide context, the Delta exporters collectively deliver less than twenty percent of the water used across the state, a relatively small fraction of both the state's water interests and the Delta water interests. Water interests that represent only a minority of the affected parties cannot be the only ones that participate in crafting a solution to the problems facing the Delta. Fixing the Delta involves many parties that have a greater stake in the Delta than is held by the Delta exporters. As part of SWRCB proceedings on the Delta, all affected parties, across the state, would have standing to fully participate, present evidence, cross-examine other witnesses, and are afforded the right of full due process.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan

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Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	The SWRCB should be encouraged to make the necessary public trust flow determinations and effectively implement them by revising and updating its Delta water quality control plan. Once these flow determinations have been made, EBMUD and many other water agencies will benefit from having clarified "ground rules" and a better basis for long-term planning. To fulfill its charge of implementing the co-equal goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem protection, the Council must obtain balanced, scientifically-based, flow standards for the Delta. Only the SWRCB can provide that. Other Delta planning can proceed on a parallel track with the SWRCB efforts, but no long-term infrastructure decisions should be made until the quantity of water available for export is better understood and legally resolved.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	We support the Council's expressed intent to incorporate priority components of the BDCP into the Delta Plan, provided that they are sufficiently developed and broadly supported.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	As the Council begins to develop priorities for state investments in Delta levees as required by the Delta Reform Act (Sect. 85306), it should develop and maintain a database of information about the interests and assets protected by Delta levees...General categories within this inventory should include: state interests (e.g. ecosystem, health and safety, recreation, transportation); federal interests (e.g. migratory birds, fish and wildlife, interstate power and transportation facilities, federal lands or facilities); and local interests (e.g. communities, water deliveries, farmland, industry and businesses).	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	Further, expenditures for levee improvements should be tracked on an annual basis to understand where federal, state, and local investments are being made. The comparison of annual expenditures to a comprehensive Delta-wide inventory of interests and assets should provide an initial view of what is being protected by spending decisions prior to adoption of a Delta Plan.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	A categorization as to the existing state of the levees across the Delta is needed, recognizing that it will likely change over time as some improvements are made, some islands continue to subside, and all islands are subjected to continuing erosion, wave action, and tidal or hydraulic forces.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	While it might be generally useful to understand the status of project levees and flood control across the Central Valley, the more pressing need for the Council is to develop a comprehensive position with respect to "non-project" levees, which comprise the vast majority of levees within the Delta...How the Council develops priorities and interacts with DWR's Delta levee programs will be an area that deserves regular and ongoing coordination to improve on the current implementation approach.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan

**Matrix 9 Comments Related to Development of Delta Plan (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	In developing an investment strategy, the Council may need to grapple with the concept of a "do not resuscitate list" as recommended in a PPIC report. Related issues include "converting" or "transitioning" some islands (or parts of islands) to ecosystem habitat, and how to prioritize expenditures for such ecosystem restoration. Just because a restoration project can be implemented on a given island does not mean it should be, unless it is a high priority in the larger ecosystem restoration plans for the Delta. There are many different aspects to levee investment decisions, and the Council is encouraged to start gathering information in weighing tradeoffs and priorities. Again, a panel of experts might provide valuable input on these important decisions.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	As a direct stakeholder and financial investor in 51 miles of Delta levees, EBMUD strongly supports developing a coherent and sustainable levee plan.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	The "beneficiary pays" principle should be reaffirmed as the most equitable basis for financing Delta improvements, whatever form those improvements ultimately take. To take steps toward this outcome, the Council should first resume the work already identified in its Interim Plan: "(1) beginning to develop accurate and complete information on current finances and (2) initiating discussion of long-term financing to support activities under the [Delta Reform] Act."	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	Building on a recommendation in the Delta Vision Strategic Plan, EBMUD recommends that the Council adopt "a series of principles regarding design of financing" that could inform future legislation for Delta finance. Such principles should include: • Establishing that beneficiary pays means allocating costs to individual entities, classes of entities, or the public in approximate proportion to benefits received by each from implementation of measures in the Delta Plan; • Asserting that the mitigation of any adverse impacts to the Delta should be accomplished separately, as part of compliance with CEQA and any other permit conditions; • Defining "public benefits" as distinct from those that accrue to specific entities or classes of entities; • Imposing a cap on the total revenues that can be derived from the user fee(s) or other means of generating revenue, based on the legislatively approved annual budget for the Delta Plan; • Including protections against the redirection of user fee revenues or other revenue sources to unrelated purposes; • Creating guidelines for apportioning costs for projects with both private and public benefits; and Providing for an open, transparent public process that permits the presentation of evidence, on the record, to inform the design of a finance system for the Delta Plan.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan

**Matrix 9 Comments Related to Development of Delta Plan (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	To create a foundation for developing specific financing instruments, EBMUD recommends that the Council conduct a comprehensive inventory of all infrastructure and economic assets (e.g. highways and roads, pipelines, electric transmission lines, rail lines, homes, farmland, industry/businesses, etc.) in the Delta with particular attention to those that have a clear state interest. This inventory should also identify the full range of activities (agriculture, recreation, upstream and in-Delta water diversions) in which the state has an interest, and which should be supported by user fee revenues. Together, these lists should provide a preliminary basis for identifying all the beneficiaries that should be considered when designing a user fee system. This exercise will overlap in large part with the creation of the database of the interests and assets protected by Delta levees, described in the preceding section.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	...the federal interests in the Delta should also be identified as part of a comprehensive assessment of the beneficiaries and their financial obligations.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	The Council may wish to consider, for example, a benefit assessment district for levee improvements that adheres to the principles described above. Recognizing its own obligation to contribute to Delta levees, EBMUD supported SB 34 (Torlakson) in 2007, which proposed a benefit assessment district for this purpose. Instream flow studies conducted under the purview of the SWRCB will require significant funding, which might be collected via SWRCB fees on water rights or other user fees. By contrast, other elements of the Delta Plan including ecosystem restoration, the Council's administrative costs, and the science program may be viewed as a public benefit, which may require a broader funding base than programs with more defined beneficiaries.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	Specifically regarding ecosystem restoration, EBMUD believes that it will be vital to conduct a transparent analysis for each major project to determine the proportions of each that constitute mitigation for past and future Delta water export operations, those that mitigate for other activities, and actual enhancement that can be recognized as a public benefit. While not a simple exercise, making these distinctions is critical for those entities that might be subject to a broad-based user fee to finance public benefits, and that rightfully hope for a reasonable effort to avoid cross-subsidies.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan

**Matrix 9 Comments Related to Development of Delta Plan (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	EBMUD recommends that the Council begin to sketch out the elements that will be known or complete by January 1, 2012, and those that will be available later to consider when to update or revise the Delta Plan as required by Section 85300(c). Since the Delta Plan will be finalized before several crucial efforts in the Delta are complete, the Plan should be structured to allow for key decisions or results to be incorporated after the adoption of the Plan.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	While a final EIR/EIS for the BDCP may not be available by January 1, 2012, valuable information from preliminary studies and engineering work could be considered by the Council in that timeframe and supplemented by other input from stakeholders who are not part of the BDCP process. The Council provides the best forum to consider a broad cross section of input about the Delta's future, and some of the recommendations or actions in the Delta Plan should center on how to address competing interests or recommendations regarding conveyance, ecosystem restoration, economic sustainability, and other topics where divergent input is expected.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan
East Bay Municipal Utility District	1/10/2011	Regarding levees, the prioritization strategy for levee investments discussed above would involve several steps and ongoing inter-agency coordination. If that approach is pursued, the Council may be able to frame an action strategy or work plan by January 1, 2012, that includes future decisions on annual investment choices or recommendations as part of the state budget cycle. The levee investment strategy will also be part of a broader finance strategy for the Delta Plan with multiple components, each of which could be varying states of development by January 1, 2012. Adoption of basic principles as covered earlier is a recommended starting point for all parts of the finance plan.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan

**Matrix 9 Comments Related to Development of Delta Plan (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
Latino Water Coalition	1/18/2011	Effective flood management has doubtlessly prevented many millions of dollars in flood losses from occurring. Releasing water from reservoirs that encroach into designated flood control storage space is both necessary and prudent. At the same time, any flow sent down a river during a flood release is water that is no longer available to its service area or, to a large extent, the environment. The reason that water needs to be released for flood management boils down to not enough storage capacity to capture high flows generated by heavy rain and snow in Sierra watersheds. Unfortunately, those high flows in big-water years also represent a substantial portion of California's supply cushion. More surface water availability for municipal and agricultural users eases supply constraints caused by drought. It also translates into less dependence upon groundwater. It would seem to make sense in this perpetually water-short state to want to capture additional excess storm runoff - early surplus to any immediate need with everything already sopping wet - for use during dry months and years. Instead, we are continuing to lose valuable water because our existing reservoirs are insufficient to do the job.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR
Latino Water Coalition	1/18/2011	Detractors to new surface storage development, who include many environmental advocates, view dams as too costly and environmentally degrading. They suggest that the Valley, its farmers and communities could meet their water supply needs with stricter water conservation and groundwater recharging. Conservation and more groundwater recharge are important but most Valley agriculture is already using water at top efficiency levels. Groundwater recharge and water banking are terrific tools but, on their own, they work slowly. Canal sizes limit the amount of water that can be conveyed to recharge sites and, during a flood situation, conveyance capacity is often scores of times less than reservoir inflows, leaving river flood releases as the only option.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR
Latino Water Coalition	1/18/2011	The California Latino Water Coalition supports additional surface water storage as a vital part of the state's water infrastructure bond package on the November 2012 ballot. We favor the bond proposal's bipartisan comprehensive approach . It would address long-term water needs and shorter-term problem fixes. These would also result in the Delta "fixes" that are so vital to returning adequate, consistent water supplies to more than three million acres of farmland and 25 million California residents.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR

**Matrix 9 Comments Related to Development of Delta Plan (1/10/11-2/4/11)**

Association	Date	Comment	Status of Comment
Latino Water Coalition	1/18/2011	In the last month, about 100,000 acre-feet of water had to be released because Millerton Lake is too small to contain it. That's equivalent to about an eight-month supply of water for the city of Fresno flowing to the Pacific Ocean, they said. A larger reservoir at Temperance Flat, upstream of Millerton, is needed to capture more water for crops, San Joaquin River restoration, ground-water recharge and growing cities...an \$11 billion state water bond has been delayed until 2012...bond measure includes 53 billion for storage, including dams and underground water banking. Temperance Flat near Fresno is a contender for the storage money.	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR
Natural Desalination	1/9/2011	I am sorry to NOT see the current plan consider new sources of water like "Rivers Natural Desalination" as part of the plan. Our oceans can supply us with all the fresh water we could ever use, if we can only get behind actually fixing our problems...I am seeking various water groups "Vote of confidence" in this new type of Desalination that uses ZERO man made energy to desalinate new RIVERS of water. This would end the water issues around: · Water for Southern California. · Water for the Farmers (central valley and southern) · Water for the Delta and the peripheral canal. · Droughts, and many other water issues. Not Desalination – Natural Desalination	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR
Natural Desalination	1/9/2011	New rivers of Naturally Desalinated water is (not like current desalination processes) expandable to meet the needs of nations without harming the environment. The added drought proof water from a consistently clean source. Natural Desalination occurs at about ½ mile under the ocean with current Reverse Osmosis' membranes and can use gravity conveyance to move it to shore all while using ZERO energy (Nature's forces only). How can I get the Delta Stewardship Council's vote of support?	This comment will be considered for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR