

**Municipal Services Agency**

**Department of Water Resources**

Keith DeVore, Director



Steven C. Szalay,  
Interim County Executive

Paul J. Hahn, Administrator

## **County of Sacramento**

June 10, 2010

Joe Grindstaff, Interim Executive Officer  
Delta Stewardship Council  
650 Capitol Avenue, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comments on the Delta Stewardship Council's "Interim Delta Plan"

Dear Mr. Grindstaff and Honorable Council Members:

As indicated in our May 12, 2010 comment letter, we elected to defer our project-specific comments with the intent of having them become part of the formal public record for discussion during your June 24-25 hearings. Sacramento County strongly believes the interim plan (required per Water Code Section 85084) must be structured in a manner that captures the basic water management principles and land use protections as identified in the 2009 Delta legislative package, specifically SB7X1. Further, to protect and enhance the "Delta as an evolving place," as now set forth in statute, it is critical that the plan is developed in an open and transparent manner, incorporating input from the general public and all affected stakeholders. The plan must include reasonable and implementable near-term policy actions that protect local land use authority and water rights, along with strategies to secure and maintain adequate long-term funding for implementation.

In addition to these requisite requirements, Sacramento County respectfully requests that the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) consider the following existing and future projects/programs when drafting the interim land use and water policy actions and financing strategies for the Delta:

- Improvement of flood protection for the legacy communities of Courtland, Walnut Grove, Hood, Locke, and Isleton, possibly using a "ringed levee" design concept;
- Improvement of flood management for both urbanized and non-urbanized portions of the south County by increasing the capacity of the Morrison Creek pump station and reinforcing the railroad-levee embankment south of the Town of Freeport. Further, depending on the outcome of the forthcoming (DFIRM) flood insurance rate maps depicting the Sacramento River levee decertification, existing levees protecting the Laguna community (along I-5) may need to be raised 1+ feet;
- Assurance of long-term funding of the Delta levee subventions program;

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- Update and rehabilitation of the water delivery systems in the legacy communities of Hood, Walnut Grove, Southwest Tract, Courtland, and Ryde;
- Reduction of impacts to protected fish species by installing/replacing fish screens at existing agricultural wells/pumps;
- Transportation system improvement projects including, but not limited to, the elevation of the Lambert Road-Snodgrass Slough bridge;
- Implementation of a study to identify abandoned Delta infrastructure and quantify/analyze impacts to local communities;
- Development of emergency preparedness and response polices consistent with the provisions of SB 27 (Chapter 608, Statutes of 2008); and
- Enhancement and promotion of recreational opportunities by increasing safe and convenient access to the waterways.

In closing, Sacramento County recognizes the Stewardship Council is charged with a host of duties, none more important than the timely preparation and adoption of an interim policy-implementation plan. It is our understanding the Council would like to adopt the interim plan at its August 2010 hearing. As a result, we remain committed to developing and maintaining a collaborative partnership with the Council and its staff, with the hope of providing substantive input on near-term and future water and land use management strategies for the Delta. Should you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Don Thomas, Senior Planner, at (916) 874-5140.

Sincerely,

Keith DeVore  
Director of Water Resources

cc: Don Nottoli, District 5  
Leslie McFadden  
Michael Peterson  
Don Thomas