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July 1, 2010

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

RE: First Draft Interim Delta Plan

Dear Council Members:

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the First Draft Interim Delta Plan (IDP). One of the themes of the IDP should be effective integration of State and Federal plans with local governmental entities to ensure the health, well-being and economic sustainability of the Delta.

It will be critical for the IDP to closely coordinate their work with that of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) because of the existing flood risks in the Delta and the immense negative impact of inattention to these issues. The mission of the CVFPB includes cooperating with various agencies of the Federal, State and local governments in establishing, planning, constructing, operating, and maintaining flood control works. The number of levees and other flood control facilities in the Delta makes coordination of both plans critical to successful water management in the region.

The IDP must take into consideration the impacts of State Water Resource Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Board actions on Delta water supplies, particularly where habitat restoration efforts will change existing water quality, and ensure full mitigation is available for local governments responsible for enforcing water quality mandates. The IDP should recognize that habitat restoration efforts come at a price that must be identified, addressed and monitored as scientific information becomes available to ensure the State's water quality and quantity are not compromised. Funding must be identified to address these concerns over time to maintain the integrity of the Delta's delicate ecological balance. The IDP must ensure that water quality and quantity are not compromised, but are improved as the result of any changes. This will ultimately benefit at least 25,000,000 Californians.

Solano County is especially interested in ensuring that the IDP coordinates efforts to maintain water quality in the Suisun Marsh. This should be a statewide concern, particularly because of the Suisun Marsh's linkage to the San Francisco Bay. It is noteworthy that in 1977 Suisun Marsh Preservation Act described the Marsh as "a unique and irreplaceable resource to the people of the state and nation."

Lastly, it will be important for the Delta Stewardship Council to define and market the Delta's benefit to the State, perhaps creating a "master narrative" that emphasizes how investing in the sustainability of Delta water quality, quantity and its physical and human infrastructure will benefit California and ultimately the nation. Given the current political environment of distrust for government, the importance of a well planned and executed public process is critical to enable everyday citizens to know and understand what the State's plans are for this area, why these plans are important and how they will be impacted (and hopefully benefited).

Delta Stewardship Council  
First Draft of the Interim Delta Plan  
July 1, 2010

We look forward to working with you on the development of the IDP and other programs that will impact the Delta. If you or your staff has any questions concerning these issues, please contact Kathy Barnes-Jones, Delta Water Program Analyst, at 707-784-7914.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Vasquez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John M. Vasquez, Chair  
Solano County Board of Supervisors

cc: Solano County Legislative Delegation  
Solano County Board of Supervisors  
Delta Counties Coalition