



Update on the DSC's EIR Process

(October 27, 2011) Executive Officer Joe Grindstaff reported at October's meeting of the Delta Stewardship Council that the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is almost complete, however more time is necessary to produce the type of draft EIR demanded by the complex and comprehensive Delta Plan. Grindstaff said that he expects the draft EIR to be released on Friday, November 4, 2011.

"It is imperative the draft EIR is prepared as thoroughly as possible," said Grindstaff. "Producing the Delta Plan EIR is an enormous undertaking that has been done relatively quickly, and staff and consultants have been working nights and weekends for months to get it done."

Grindstaff noted that hundreds of stakeholders have been involved in the open and transparent process of developing the drafts of the Delta Plan. These stakeholders have urged the Council to make the necessary effort to develop a thorough and responsible Plan.

At least two public hearings will be held to discuss the draft EIR. One is scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2011 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Grand Hotel, 1230 J Street, Sacramento. The other is scheduled for Thursday, December 15, 2011 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the California State Capitol, Room 447, Sacramento.

The Council has directed staff to consider additional opportunities to comment and will make a decision at its November 17, 2011 meeting. All timeframes and methods available to provide public comment on the draft EIR will be posted on the Delta Stewardship Council website.

The Delta Stewardship Council will thoroughly review and consider public comments made on the draft EIR in preparation of the final Delta Plan, which is now expected to be released in spring, 2012.

The Delta Plan is a programmatic-level document that will establish a set of integrated, legally-enforceable policies, strategies and actions to guide state and local agencies regarding land, water, air and other systems in the Delta.

The co-equal goals of the Delta Plan are to provide a more reliable water supply for California; and to protect, restore and enhance the Delta ecosystem. Legislation requires that the co-equal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place.

The Delta is inextricably linked to statewide water supply issues that affect the Delta's ability to function in a healthy, sustainable way. The Delta ecosystem must be improved in order to allow future water deliveries and to ensure reliable water supplies.

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"Coequal goals" means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place."

– CA Water Code §85054