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To: disb@deltacouncil.ca.gov

Subject: Notes from California Delegation briefing from COP26

Dear Delta ISB members,

I wanted to send you the notes I took from the California Delegation's briefing from COP26, given Monday, November 8, 2021, since it shows what some of the major policy directions in climate adaptation are in California.

California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot:

Climate change has gotten existential for us. We have wildfires that have burned one of every 15 acres in the state. It's burned entire communities. Jared's agency (Jared Blumenfeld, Cal EPA) is providing emergency water to people. We have communities across the state that are experiencing record temperatures.

I try to keep it very real. The time for talking is complete. It's time for taking action.

We're showing that we can decouple economic growth and prosperity from carbon pollution.

People take notice. They understand that we can do it. There is a lot of work that can get done. One of out of every 8 legislators is here. And they are all fanned out giving the message that the need to act out is now.

Q&A

(Deirdre Des Jardins) Any discussions about water?

Wade Crowfoot: Absolutely. Now they are including both climate resilience and climate mitigation. California is not alone in being challenged on water. Weather whiplash. Drought and too much water. All of the countries in Mediterranean climates are all having similar challenges. Kind of like speed dating for ideas. Some of you in California know that we have signed various MOU's with various countries. There is more discussion around that.

(Chris Klier): Did California sign on to or make any new pledges at the conference?

Wade: We've been part of a coalition of subnational governments, who are now taking part in international negotiation on biodiversity. At this event, we signed on to the Edinburgh declaration.

There is another process, which is called the biodiversity conference at the UN.

We are looking beyond 30x30. How we can do it faster, how we can scale up. While we can figure out what pledges to make, it's all about delivering.

Office of the Governor Senior Climate Advisor Lauren Sanchez

A lot of excitement from climate warriors.

Jared Blumenfeld

A lot of interest in California's investment for climate adaptation.

\$15 billion larger than budgets of many countries

A lot of interest in California's work on low carbon fuel standard & air pollution

Under 2 coalition – 2 billion people

Outpouring of frustration

The thing that I took away is just a sense of urgency. Often it was legislative leaders or leaders in California that were pushing. Now the sense that we're not going to solve this with the wealth inequality that we have on the planet. And finally just accountability. So people are going to be looking at us a year from now and asking, what did you do?

Wade Crowfoot

In California we know enough to start doing what we are doing. The lessons that California can teach across the board. But also what we learned. And what we learned was that equity has to be considered in every process.

We can't solve climate without solving these other intersectional issues.

We're proud of what happens in California. But we've also learned a ton. Conversations with Jalisco come to mind. Andalusia, New South Wales. These provinces & cities, we're going to have to do the work.

Dozens of leaders from California from NGOs who have been here pushing and sharing. It's really impressive.

Others at Wade's table

A lot of powerful people here who are able to move the needle and shift to a transition being made.

Focus on the negotiations to much more focus on what is happening outside of the negotiations. Really tangible now. One because the framework has been created by the Paris Agreement. But it also becoming there is no more time. Now is the time for

implementation. And we're learning lessons from each other and sharing with each other. So incredible to see the kind of leadership that California brings in this space and in so many other spaces, and to sit next to our partners, and say, this is what we're doing. And they are like, "Wow." And not just climate mitigation. Climate adaptation. Climate writ large.

It has been really great to see the focus on adaptation. It used to feel like adaptation was the ugly stepsister, or it was something. But now it is something that everyone across the board is aware of. Adaptation is really important.

The focus on nature-based solutions. Helping to heal nature helped to heal us and to heal our planet. I'm happy to take these international goals down to a local level.

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Deirdre Des Jardins

California Water Research

"The future enters into us, in order to transform itself in us, long before it happens" -- Rainer Maria Rilke



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