980 NINTH STREET, SUITE 1500
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
HTTP://DELTACOUNCIL.CA.GOV
(916) 445-5511

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A California State Agency

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June 17, 2015

Mr. John Laird, Secretary
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee Member,

At our most recent Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) meeting held last month we received a briefing from Natural Resources Deputy Secretary Karla Nemeth about the Brown Administration's approach to improved conveyance and ecosystem restoration in the Delta. No longer pursuing the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), the Administration proposes two separate programs: CA Water Fix to construct new Delta water conveyance infrastructure; and CA EcoRestore to expedite 30,000 acres of Delta ecosystem restoration projects over the next five years. I understand that the Department of Water Resources plans to describe these and analyze conveyance in more detail in a recirculated/supplemental draft EIR/S that may be released next month.

The Delta Reform Act required the Council to incorporate the BDCP into the Delta Plan once it was successfully completed and met certain statutory criteria. Because of that requirement, the Council did not specifically address conveyance in the Delta Plan, electing instead to await the successful completion of the BDCP process. The Council did, however, reserve the option to revisit the issue of conveyance should the BDCP process not be completed by Jan. 1, 2016.

Because of the changes to BDCP, I wanted to let you know that the Council will begin reviewing the Delta Plan as it relates in particular to Delta conveyance to determine how to facilitate improved conveyance consistent with the Delta Reform Act.

The Council's June 25 meeting will include a report from our staff outlining the recent changes in the Administration's approach to conveyance and restoration and discussing potential implications for the Delta Plan. This may lead to several months of public meetings, presentations and discussion. The Council may ultimately decide, based on revisiting the issues, that the current Delta Plan and implementing recommendations and regulations are adequate and do not need to be amended. The Council may alternately decide that the Delta Plan, and possibly implementing recommendations and regulations, should be amended as appropriate.

Much has been accomplished since the Delta Plan was adopted in May 2013. California now has statewide groundwater regulations, $2.7 billion approved by the voters to increase and improve water

storage and many significant steps initiated by the Brown Administration to respond to the current devastating drought. Combined, these are all evidence of a commitment to provide enhanced resiliency to our statewide water system and to restore and improve conditions in the Delta.

It is my sincere hope that the Delta Stewardship Council, which is responsible to maintain a long range, sustainable management plan for the Delta in pursuit of the coequal goals, can add value to the good work each of our partner agencies are doing to meet the demands and challenges facing California and the Delta.

Sincerely,

Randy Fiorini

Randy Fiorini, Chair

cc: Janelle Beland, Undersecretary
Karla Nemeth, Deputy Secretary for Water Policy