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DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A California State Agency

Date: September 22, 2016

To: Delta Stewardship Council Members

From: Jessica R. Pearson, Executive Officer

Subject: Upcoming Council Meeting on September 29 and 30, 2016

Chair
Randy Fiorini

Members
Aja Brown
Frank C. Damrell, Jr.
Patrick Johnston
Mary Piepho
Susan Tatayon
Ken Weinberg

Executive Officer
Jessica R. Pearson

Our upcoming Council meeting will be held at the Park Tower Plaza, 2nd Floor Conference Center, 980 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. The agenda and supporting materials for the meeting are attached, and some additional handouts may be provided at the meeting.

The September meeting will be held over two days due to the number and substance of items we are covering, and it begins Thursday with a closed Executive Session. There are two notable action items, including a vote informed, among other information, by a public hearing on the one-year water transfers amendments to the Delta Plan that you voted to pursue last December. There are also substantive items regarding three other ongoing Delta Plan amendments (Delta Levees Investment Strategy; Ecosystem Restoration; Conveyance, Storage, and Operations).

On the agenda for Thursday:

- **Implementation of the Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy.** Record low numbers of delta smelt prompted the California Natural Resources Agency (Resources) to draft the Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy. Representatives from Resources, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), and the Department of Water Resources will brief the Council on the Strategy and how it relates to provisions of the Delta Plan.
- **Single-Year Water Transfers Amendments.** Council members will be asked to determine CEQA exemption and to adopt the CEQA Addendum to the Delta Plan Programmatic Environmental Impact Report, as well as amendments to: (1) Delta Plan implementing regulations (23 CCR § 5001(dd)(3)) to exclude one-year water transfers as covered actions, and (2) Delta Plan Water Reliability Recommendation 15, Improve Water Transfer Procedures. This portion of the meeting also includes a public hearing.
- **Acceptance of Discussion Draft of Delta Plan Revisions regarding Priorities for State Delta Levees Investment.** Following last month's discussion, staff will request whether the Council agrees that a discussion draft of new or amended Delta Plan

"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

provisions regarding prioritization of State investments in Delta levees and other potential Delta Plan provisions is acceptable for use in upcoming stakeholder outreach sessions.

The two items on Friday are:

- **Laying the Foundation for a Proposed Ecosystem Restoration Amendment to the Delta Plan.** Two efforts are currently underway that will help to lay the foundation for development of a proposed ecosystem restoration amendment to the Delta Plan. Representative from the San Francisco Estuary Institute and DFW will present *A Delta Renewed: A Guide to Science-Based Ecological Restoration in the Delta* and the *Delta Conservation Framework*, respectively. Council staff will describe how these two efforts, along with lessons learned from the first three years of Delta Plan implementation, will inform the Delta Plan amendment.
- **Update on Delta Plan Amendment for Conveyance, Storage, and Operations.** Staff will brief the Council on progress in the development of the Delta Plan amendment for conveyance, storage and the operation of both to further the coequal goals. Council staff will discuss results from the March 2016 Council directive to consider what projects may be affected by an amendment.

As always, time for public comment on these agenda items, as well as any item of relevance to the Council, will be available. If I can answer any questions or provide any information, please contact me at (916) 445-4500 or jpearson@deltacouncil.ca.gov.