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DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A California State Agency

June 30, 2017

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California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Submitted via email: Climate@Resources.ca.gov

Executive Officer
Jessica R. Pearson

RE: Safeguarding California Plan: 2017 Update – California’s Climate Adaption Strategy

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Report – Safeguarding California Plan: 2017 Update.

Established by the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 (SBX7 1), the Council is an independent state agency charged with furthering California’s coequal goals for the Delta through the adoption and implementation of the Delta Plan and its regulatory portions of which became effective on September 1, 2013. As stated in the Delta Reform Act of 2009 (Delta Reform Act), the State has “Coequal goals’ (which) means 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” (Water Code section 85054).

We would like to acknowledge the significant effort and extensive analysis that has gone into to the Safeguarding California Plan, originally adopted in 2014, and this updated and revised Plan. The Safeguarding California Plan: 2017 Update (2017 Update) is a programmatic survey across state government of what California is doing to respond to climate change, what needs to be done, and how we will achieve those goals. The 2017 Update includes hundreds of actions and recommendations developed through the scientific and policy expertise from 27 State agencies. We are encouraged by the Resource Agency’s continued commitment to work with State and federal agencies, and local communities and stakeholders, through the extensive outreach, and listening sessions, to identify and plan for continuous critical services, public health and safety, and resilient natural systems.

The Council has been and will continue to act as a leader in long-range planning for the Delta. We work with a range of local, State, and federal agencies, as well as non-governmental, academic and other stakeholders on the implementation of the Delta Plan, including facilitation of the semi-annual Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee. We currently have a

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– CA Water Code §85054

memorandum of understanding in place with the Bay Conservation and Development Commission to coordinate in the development of policies related to sea level rise and other climate change impacts and to jointly participate in forums with other State and federal agencies, scientists and stakeholders to develop climate change adaptation strategies. The Delta Stewardship Council is committed to the development of a Delta governance strategy for climate adaptation projects; providing policy leadership on resilient infrastructure; creating new funding sources for adaptation and resilience; establishing and providing a resilience technical services team; and expanding of the Delta's network of natural infrastructure. We find value in increased coordination and collaboration with our partners. Please consider the Delta Stewardship Council as a partner in implementation of the 2017 and future Safeguarding California Updates.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss how our current projects and programs are supporting the 2017 Update's actions and recommendations. We are in a position to be a strong support for these actions, and look forward to the opportunity to work closely with the Resources Agency to pursue long-term sustainability of the Delta. If you would like to discuss further, or have any questions, please contact me at (916) 445-0258 or Cassandra.enos@Deltacouncil.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "For [unclear] for Cassandra Enos-Nobriga".

Cassandra Enos-Nobriga
Deputy Executive Officer, Planning and Performance Division
Delta Stewardship Council