



August 2, 2011

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Today we release the fifth staff draft of the Delta Plan (attached), which will be the basis of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) released later this month. As with prior drafts, we invite written public comments until Sept. 30, and these comments will be considered for inclusion in subsequent drafts and posted on the web.

What Has Changed Since the Fourth Draft of the Plan?

This draft of the Delta Plan includes **12 proposed regulatory policies and 61 proposed recommendations** – a slight reduction in the number of policies (three were streamlined into one), and an increase in recommendations compared to the fourth draft.

In this Fifth Draft there are two new recommendations in the water resources chapter (Chapter 4). The first has to do with developing specific information in the California Water Plan Update to help support the water resources' Performance Measures in the Delta Plan. The second relates to improving water use and water conservation at state-owned facilities.

Chapter 4 policies (formerly WR P1, P2 and P3) have been combined into one policy. In Chapter 7, the former Table 7-1, "Levee Classification for Protection of Land Use", has been modified for clarity.

The Preface (formerly the Executive Summary) in this draft has been partially revised, as has Chapter 1. Per Council direction, sections from Chapter 2 (Adaptive Management) have been moved into an Appendix to improve the clarity and flow of the document. Chapter 3 (governance/implementation), has undergone some reorganization for clarity. All other chapters have also been

"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."

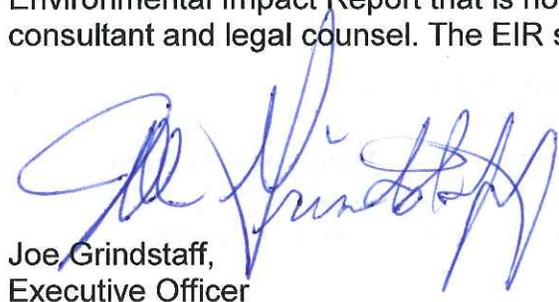
– State Water Code §85054

improved generally as the result of public comment and council direction. The graphics in this draft have been further developed and you will also note that some new sidebars are included in this draft.

As with previous drafts, comment letters from a broad range of stakeholders and public entities have offered advice, revisions, corrections, additions, etc. on nearly every aspect of the Plan.

A separate document included with the fifth draft is a comparison of the changes in policies and recommendations to help you and the public better understand changes made between the Fourth and Fifth Staff Drafts. A redline version highlighting all changes from the fourth draft will be released shortly, and written responses to comments on the Fourth Draft will be released in the next few weeks.

As I noted at the beginning, this draft of the Delta Plan is the basis of an Environmental Impact Report that is now being completed and reviewed by our consultant and legal counsel. The EIR should be released by the end of August.



Joe Grindstaff,
Executive Officer