

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October, 2012

CONTACTS: Eric Alvarez
(916) 445-5383 or (916) 275-7923 (cell)
eric.alvarez@deltacouncil.ca.gov

Reconciling Science and Policy in the Delta *Bay-Delta Science Conference Presents the Latest Advances in Science*

SACRAMENTO – The latest scientific information, essential for making management and policy decisions for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the San Francisco Estuary, will be shared at the 7th Biennial Bay-Delta Science Conference October 16-18, 2012. More than 1,000 scientists, managers, and policymakers will attend, many presenting the latest results of their research and management decisions.

“I strongly encourage scientists, policymakers, decision-makers, and anyone with an interest in the Delta to attend the conference,” said Dr. Peter Goodwin, Lead Scientist for the Delta Stewardship Council. “This is a major conference that highlights the most recent discoveries that influence management decisions on the Delta and our knowledge of how this complex system functions.”

Entitled “Ecosystem Reconciliation: Realities Facing the San Francisco Estuary,” the conference will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J Street. It begins with a plenary session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 16. The session will feature a presentation from Dr. Goodwin, who will discuss the changing face of science and the subsequent emerging opportunities for the Bay-Delta science community. Marcia McNutt, Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, will then look at the insights we might learn by comparing environmental challenges in the Bay-Delta (e.g. sea-level rise, disruption of natural processes, and competition for resources between wildlife and humans) to other ecosystems that the USGS studies, such as the Mississippi Delta and Chesapeake Bay.

The plenary session concludes first with a talk from Dr. Ellen Hanak, Senior Policy Fellow with the Public Policy Institute of California who will speak on ecosystem reconciliation in which the focus shifts from piecemeal governmental regulation to a holistic approach of improving overall

“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.”

ecosystem function. Then, Dr. Charles Vörösmarty, Director, Environmental Crossroads Initiative, City College of New York, will discuss the commonalities among the world's river deltas as well as the threats each faces through a unique combination of, among other things, climate forces, river flow, biological communities, and human engineering.

Several special sessions will be held throughout the event. For instance, on Tuesday at noon Dr. Goodwin and the Delta Science Program will host a "Town Hall Meeting" where concepts will be brainstormed for a new paradigm to conduct science to achieve the coequal goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration. Invited agency leaders including Randy Fiorini, Vice-Chair of the Delta Stewardship Council, Mark Cowin, Director of the Department of Water Resources, and Ren Lohofener, Regional Director Pacific Southwest, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will outline the "Grand Challenges" and participants will offer innovative concepts for the Delta Science Plan that could structure science to tackle these problems.

On Tuesday evening at 6:45 p.m. the Science Conference will screen the film *Someplace with a Mountain*. Narrated by Chevy Chase, this tragic yet hopeful documentary tells the story of a small group of island atolls in the tropical Pacific that are disappearing because of the effects of sea level rise. The movie reminds us that the San Francisco Estuary is also subject to major changes from rising sea level. Then on Wednesday at noon, a lunch-time panel of artists, moderated by Dr. Enid Baxter-Blader, will present and discuss the synergy between art and science. Dr. Blader points out that art gives us beauty, science give us facts. Alone they are meaningful, but together they create a whole greater than their parts.

Oral sessions focusing on water quality, habitats and restoration, species and communities, integrated science and management, and long-term challenges for the Delta and the Bay are scheduled for Tuesday afternoon and all day Wednesday and Thursday. Poster sessions will allow for visits with the presenters during receptions on Tuesday and Wednesday from 5:15 to 7:15 p.m. in Exhibit Hall B on the 1st floor of the Convention Center.

This year's conference is co-chaired by Dr. Peter Moyle of U.C. Davis, and Brian Pellerin from the U.S. Geological Survey.

###