

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 20, 2013

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Council Names Deputy Executive Officers

Leading Bay Area Scientist, Planner will guide implementation of Delta Plan

SACRAMENTO – A leading Bay Area scientist and a senior water resources official have been appointed deputy executive officers for the Delta Stewardship Council. Dr. Rainer Hoenicke, current head of the San Francisco Estuary Institute, was named deputy for science, and Cindy Messer was promoted to deputy for planning. Messer had been acting in the job for the past year.

“These appointments complete our executive team and will help guide the Council in the challenging efforts to collaboratively implement a long-term management plan for the Delta based on best available science,” said Council Executive Officer Chris Knopp.

Dr. Hoenicke, who will join the Council at the end of March, is a systems ecologist devoted to making science relevant to decision-makers. As executive director for SFEI, he led the development of new strategic directions for the Institute and integration of major program areas in clean water, landscape restoration planning, and development of innovative decision-support tools.

“I’m tremendously excited by the opportunity to dedicate my passion for connecting the dots to help achieve breakthroughs in water and land management,” said Dr. Hoenicke.

Messer is a biologist and environmental policy expert who helped guide the formation of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy before joining the Council in 2012 to oversee completion of the Delta Plan.

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"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

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“I look forward to my continued work here at the Council, to completing the Delta Plan and then moving ahead to the next exciting phase which is to implement the plan,” said Messer.

Dr. Hoenicke received a B.S. in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Bonn, Germany, and a Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of California at Davis. He first joined SFEI as an environmental scientist in 1994, then left in 2001 for a two-year assignment in the Office of the California Natural Resources Secretary, where he spearheaded the development of a comprehensive landscape assessment program and the use of scientific criteria in making conservation investment decisions.

Returning to SFEI in 2004, he became deputy director soon thereafter and was named executive director in 2009. Dr. Hoenicke lives in Napa, Ca.

Messer received a B.S. in environmental policy from the University of California at Davis and an M.S. in Conservation Biology from the California State University, Sacramento. She lives in Sacramento with her husband, Dean, and daughter, Olivia.

About the Council

Created by the legislature in 2009, the Delta Stewardship Council is composed of members who represent different parts of the state and offer diverse expertise in fields such as agriculture, science, the environment, and public service. Of the seven, four are appointed by the Governor, one each by the Senate and Assembly, and the seventh is the Chair of the Delta Protection Commission. For more information visit <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/>

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