



Statement on the lawsuits against the Delta Plan

Chris Knopp, Executive Officer of the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC), released the following statement regarding the recent lawsuits filed against the DSC seeking a redo of the Council's recently adopted (May 16) comprehensive management plan for the Delta.

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- As we've said before, we're disappointed that so many have turned to the courts to reargue issues that were resolved in the Legislature and before the Council.
 - Some are suing us for using the powers they believe we were not given by the Legislature; others for not using the powers they believe we were given. Environmental groups want us to be more restrictive; water agencies believe we're too restrictive. The Plan, however, actually walks the very careful line specified in the Delta Reform Act.
 - These lawsuits underscore the contentious and litigious nature of current public policy making. They will not improve the state's water supply reliability, increase the health of the Delta ecosystem, nor reduce risk to life, property and state interests.
 - The Delta Plan is a comprehensive, long-term management plan for the Delta that creates new rules to help provide a reliable supply of water for California, and make significant improvements in the Delta ecosystem, all in a way that respects and protects the people who live and work in the Delta.
 - The Delta Plan also establishes a new and more significant level of independent scientific involvement in both water and ecosystem activities. In addition, the Delta Plan, as required by law, lays out a coordinated management structure among state and local agencies whose actions and plans must be consistent with the Delta Plan.
 - The Delta Plan is not the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan; the Legislature in 2009 clearly separated the two, at least for now. The Delta Plan does recommend swift and successful completion of BDCP because it includes key elements to improve the Delta. Successful completion means in compliance with all state and federal laws, including the specific requirements of the 2009 Delta Reform Act. Only then will the BDCP be incorporated into the Delta Plan.
 - Our intent is to fully defend the Delta Plan. We believe that actual accomplishment and progress is what's required to change the *status quo*, and the flexible nature of the Delta Plan is a preferable option to the litigation and inaction that California has endured for the past 50 years.

"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."