

The Delta Plan & the BDCP

Comprehensive and specific efforts to achieve the coequal goals

August 2013

*The Delta Stewardship Council's **Delta Plan** is a comprehensive management plan to further the state's coequal goals of statewide water supply reliability, and a vibrant and healthy Delta ecosystem, done in a way that preserves, protects and enhances the rural, agricultural and recreational characteristics of the Delta.*

The Delta Plan sets forth a comprehensive and linked approach, one that emphasizes water use efficiency and new surface and groundwater storage, prohibits encroachment on floodways and floodplains and develops priorities for state investment in Delta flood protection, preserves rural lands for agriculture and habitat, and recognizes the need to reduce reliance on the Delta for water supply and improve the way water is diverted from the Delta by the state and federal water projects.

The Delta Plan and its regulations create:

- 1) A single blueprint for state and local agencies' actions to provide a more reliable water supply for California, and protect, restore and enhance the Delta ecosystem;*
- 2) Assurance that significant state and local agency actions occurring wholly or partly within the Delta are consistent with the Delta Plan, with the Council as an appellate body to ensure consistency in a fair and timely manner;*
- 3) A unified science initiative and improved accountability to achieve the co-equal goals in the Delta; and*
- 4) An effective interagency body to coordinate implementation of the Delta Plan.*

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***The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)** is being developed as a 50-year Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) with the goal of recovering endangered or threatened species in the Delta. It is comprised of 22 conservation measures intended to improve the way water is conveyed to the pumps of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, establish parameters for operating those projects, restore large portions of the Delta to provide functional habitat and reduce stressors such as invasive species and pollutants. When complete, the BDCP will provide the basis for the issuance of endangered species permits for the operation of the state and federal water projects. It is being developed by a group of local water agencies, environmental and conservation organizations, state and federal agencies, and other interest groups.*

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***The Delta Reform Act** says the BDCP, when completed and successfully permitted, shall be fully incorporated into the Delta Plan. It is then that the two plans intersect.*