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November 16, 2011

Delta Stewardship Council  
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

To whom it may concern:

We appreciate the opportunity for public review and comment on the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DPEIR) dated November, 2011. However, we are very concerned the DPEIR public review and comment process being implemented by the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) is inherently flawed and fails to meet the spirit and intent of the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). We request the Council delay the start of the DPEIR public review and comment period until the following flaws are addressed.

**First**, according to data from the 2000 U.S. Census, nearly 40% of California residents speak a language other than English. Spanish and Spanish Creole is spoken by 25.8% of Californians; Chinese is spoken by 2.6%; Tagalog is spoken by 2.0%, Vietnamese by 1.3%, and Japanese by 0.5%. Thus, as a means to improve public participation and to facilitate public access to information contained in the DPEIR we respectfully request, at a minimum, the DPEIR be translated into Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Japanese. We also request the public review and comment period commence only after translated documents are made available to the public.

**Second**, we are deeply disappointed the Council ignored the calendar when establishing the duration of the proposed public review and comment period. The proposed comment period from November 4, 2011 through (and including) January 3, 2012 encompasses several National, cultural and religious holidays including but not limited to Eid al-Adha, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, Muharram, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and New Year's Eve and Day. Those members of the public observing one or more of these holidays and wishing to review and comment on the DPEIR are subject to a significantly abbreviated public review and comment period.

**Finally**, we encourage the Council to establish a public comment and review period that is commensurate with the sheer bulk of the DPEIR. Notwithstanding the holiday issue

above, expecting the average California citizen to read, comprehend and formulate comments within sixty (60) days is unreasonable and unfairly burdensome<sup>1</sup>. At a minimum, the Council should extend the public comment and review period to encompass a total of 120 days.

In closing, we acknowledge the considerable effort that has gone into crafting the Delta Plan and DPEIR; however, to ensure that all members of the public are given sufficient time to review and comment on the DPEIR, we respectfully request the Council (1) translate the DPEIR into additional languages as noted above; (2) commence the public review and comment period only upon publication of the translated documents; and (3) calendar the public review and comment period in such a way as to account for any and all holidays while providing a minimum of 120 days for public review and comment.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Regards,

A.G. SPANOS COMPANIES



David R. Nelson  
Sr. Vice President

cc: Marc Hardy, Esq.  
Natalia Orfanos

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<sup>1</sup> With a page count exceeding 2,200 pages, reading the complete document will require the average adult to invest more than 5,280 minutes of non-stop reading or the equivalent of twenty-two (22) evenings.