

From: [Tejeda, Cindy L SPD](#)
To: Interim_Plan@DeltaCouncil
Subject: USACE Comments on Second Draft Interim Delta Plan (DSC)
Date: Tuesday, August 03, 2010 4:33:44 PM
Attachments: [Interim Delta Plan \(2nd Draft\)- Corps cmts - 8-3-10.docx](#)
[2nd Draft Interim Plan USACE Table 8-3-10.docx](#)

Dear Chairman Isenberg;

The Delta Stewardship Council (Council) has invited comments on the Second Draft Interim Delta Plan that the Council developed in accordance with California Water Code 85084. The Interim Delta Plan will be in effect until the Delta Plan is finalized and approved in 2012. The Council intends to include in this Interim Plan "early actions, projects, and programs proposed by federal, state, and local public agencies as well as non-governmental organizations." The missions of USACE include Flood Risk Management, Ecosystem Restoration, Navigation, Environmental Protection, and Emergency Preparedness and Response. We understand that the Interim Delta Plan will cover all, or most, of these mission areas. Our programs in, or affecting, the Delta include Planning, Operation and Maintenance, and Regulatory.

USACE has many active studies and projects throughout the Central Valley and the State. Updated project descriptions for the following projects are provided in the first attachment to this email: (1) Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study; (2) CALFED Levee Stability Program; (3) Lower San Joaquin River Feasibility Study; (4) Central Valley Integrated Flood Management Study; (5) Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel Project; (6) San Francisco Bay to Stockton Navigation Improvement Project; and (7) Delta Long Term Management Strategy (Delta LTMS). USACE and our non-Federal project partners share project planning and construction costs. The Council requested that project information be submitted under one of 8 specific policy objectives. Many of our planning efforts are multiple purpose and integrate elements that address several of these policy objectives. Therefore, the second attachment to this email is a table showing how each of these planning efforts relates to the policy objectives. These planning efforts contribute most directly to policy objectives (c) Restore the Delta ecosystem, including its fisheries and wildlife, as the heart of a healthy estuary and wetland ecosystem, and (g) Reduce risks to people, property, and state interests in the Delta by effective emergency preparedness, appropriate land uses, and investments in flood protection. They may also contribute to (b) Protect and enhance unique cultural, recreational, and agricultural values of the California Delta as an evolving place, (e) Improve water quality to protect human health and the environment consistent with achieving water quality objectives in the Delta, and (f) Improve the water conveyance system and expand statewide water storage. USACE is also working with an interagency team to implement the water conservation and recycling provisions of the Interim Federal Action Plan.

USACE is responsible for flood management operations for dams and reservoirs throughout the system, including coordinating and managing channel flows and releases from 15 section 7 dams.

USACE also has regulatory jurisdiction, primarily under the following three authorities: (1) Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States (33 USC 1201 et seq.) (Section 404); (2) Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act for working in navigable waters (33 USC 403) (Section 10); and (3) Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 408) for the alternation of a Federal project

(to include sea wall, jetty, dike, levee, wharf, pier, or other work) (Section 408). Current and pending projects under the jurisdiction of these authorities in or affecting the Delta include the Bay Delta Habitat Conservation Plan and Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program, San Joaquin River Restoration Program, River Islands at Lathrop Section 408 action, Reclamation District 17 100-Year Levee Seepage Area Program Phase 3 Section 408, Two Gates Project, Tracy Abandoned Intake Project, Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project, North Delta Aqueduct Project, South Delta Aqueduct Project, and Westlake (recently permitted but not yet constructed).

Please let us know if you need additional information. We look forward to working with the Delta Stewardship Council and others as you finalize the Interim Delta Plan and develop the 2012 Delta Plan.

Sincerely,
Cindy Tejada, for Paul Robershotte

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Alignment of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Studies with Delta Reform Act Policy Objectives

	Delta Reform Act Policy Objective*							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Civil Works Study								
Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study (Delta Study)		X	XX		X	X	XX	
CALFED Levee Stability Program		X	X		X	X	XX	
Central Valley Integrated Flood Management Study		X	X		X	X	XX	
Lower San Joaquin Feasibility Study		X	X		X		XX	
Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel		X						
San Francisco Bay to Stockton Navigation Improvement Study		X						
Delta Dredged Sediment Long Term Management Strategy		X	X				X	

*

- A. Manage the Delta’s water and environmental resources and the water resources of the state over the long term.
- B. Protect and enhance the unique cultural, recreational, and agricultural values of the California Delta as an evolving place.
- C. Restore the Delta ecosystem, including its fisheries and wildlife, as the heart of a healthy estuary and wetland ecosystem.
- D. Promote statewide water conservation, water use efficiency, and sustainable water use.
- E. Improve water quality to protect human health and the environment consistent with achieving water quality objectives in the Delta.
- F. Improve the water conveyance system and expand statewide water storage.
- G. Reduce risks to people, property, and state interests in the Delta by effective emergency preparedness, appropriate land uses, and investments in flood protection.
- H. Establish a new governance structure with the authority, responsibility, accountability, scientific support, and adequate and secure funding to achieve these objectives.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
Active Planning Studies in the Delta (updated)**

Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study

Partners: California Department of Water Resources (DWR), USACE Sacramento District

Description: This feasibility study is USACE's mechanism to participate in a cost-shared solution to a variety of water resources needs for which we have the authority. Results of state planning efforts will be used to help define problems, opportunities, and specific planning objectives. The feasibility study will address ecosystem restoration and flood risk management, and may also investigate related issues such as water quality and water supply. USACE and DWR signed a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) in May 2006.

Website: <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/projects/civil/Delta/News.html>

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CALFED Levee Stability Program

Partners: DWR and up to 40 Reclamation Districts, USACE Sacramento District

Description:

Program - The goal of the Levee Stability Program is to provide short term "quick fixes" on fragile Delta levees. The CALFED Act (PL 108-361) directed the USACE to deliver a report that identified and prioritized potential levee stability projects in the Delta that could be carried out with the authorized \$90 million in Federal funds. An additional \$106 million was authorized to be appropriated by Section 3015 of WRDA 2007. To quickly identify critically needed projects with active non-Federal support, the USACE invited Delta stakeholders to submit project proposals with letters stating their willingness to participate as cost-sharing sponsors. In response, Delta area Reclamation Districts and flood management agencies submitted 68 project proposals totaling more than \$1 billion in estimated costs. USACE evaluated proposals and prioritized potential projects according to how well they met USACE environmental, economic, and other implementation criteria. The USACE short-term strategy is to move quickly to construction on high priority levee reconstruction projects identified in that report. The authorized \$196 million of Federal funds, plus the required non-Federal funds, would be an important first step to address Delta-wide levee system needs. The long-term strategy will be developed through the Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study process. The project delivery process includes: Project Management Plan (PMP)/FCSA development; Project Implementation Report (PIR); SPD approval; Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) execution; design and construct; and operate and maintain.

Projects - The first project underway through the Levee Stability Program is located at Horseshoe Bend on Bethel Island. Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District and USACE signed a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement for this project on July 13, 2010. PMP's are currently under development for McCormack-Williamson Tract, River Junction, Walnut Grove, Bacon Island, and Brannan-Andrus Tract.

Emergency Response Planning - A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between USACE and DWR, allowing the USACE-DWR to initiate GIS Flood Contingency Mapping and Phase 1 of an Emergency Response Plan for the Delta region.

Website: <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/projects/civil/Delta/News.html>

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Central Valley Integrated Flood Management Study

Partners: DWR and Central Valley Flood Protection Board, USACE Sacramento District

Description: This is a multi-objective study that will balance flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, and other water resource purposes and provide a long-range management program to improve the flood carrying capacity, while restoring and protecting environmental features. It will provide a framework for a management plan that can be effectively implemented and supported by local, state, and Federal agencies. The study area includes the entire Sacramento River Basin, San Joaquin River and the Delta Basin in Central California. It encompasses about 43,000 square miles, 1,613 miles of federal levees, 1,200 miles of floodways, 56 flood control features, and 1/3 of the state water supply. Numerous projects are within the study area including the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project, Folsom Dam, West Sacramento, and the Lower San Joaquin River and Tributaries Project.

Website: n/a

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Lower San Joaquin Feasibility Study

Partners: Central Valley Flood Protection Board, San Joaquin Area Flood Control Association and USACE Sacramento District.

Description: The purpose of this feasibility study is to determine if there is a Federal interest in providing flood risk management and ecosystem restoration improvements along the Lower (northern) San Joaquin River. The Lower San Joaquin River study area includes the San Joaquin River from the Mariposa Bypass downstream to, and including, the city of Stockton. The study area also includes the channels of the San Joaquin River in the southernmost reaches of the Delta: Paradise Cut and Old River as far north as Tracy Boulevard and Middle River as far north as Victoria Canal. The floodplains of the lower San Joaquin River and its tributaries are also included in the study area. The Central Valley Flood Protection Board and USACE signed a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement on June 25, 2010.

Website: <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/projects/civil/Delta/News.html>

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Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel Project

Partners: Port of West Sacramento and USACE San Francisco District

Description: The Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel Project (SRDWSC) is a Congressionally-authorized project. Currently, USACE and the Port are conducting a Limited Reevaluation Study to recommend navigation improvements for Federal funding and preparing a joint SEIS/SEIR to evaluate the action of resuming construction of navigational improvements to the SRDWSC. Technical studies that are in progress include, hydrodynamic and salinity modeling, beneficial reuse survey, and ship simulation studies. A draft SEIS/R is scheduled for completion in late 2010.

Website: <http://www.sacramentoshipchannel.org>

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San Francisco Bay to Stockton Navigation Improvement Project

Partners: Port of Stockton and the Contra Costa County Water Agency and USACE San Francisco District.

Description: The SF Bay to Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel Project is a Congressionally-authorized project. A General Reevaluation Report is being prepared to determine the feasibility of modifying the current dimensions of the West Richmond, Pinole Shoal, Suisun Bay, and Stockton Ship Channels, which are currently maintained to -35 feet MLLW and provide access to oil terminals, industry in Pittsburg, and the Port of Stockton. Current technical studies include hydrodynamic, salinity and dissolved oxygen modeling, and beneficial reuse survey to identify additional dredged material placement sites in the project area.

Website: <http://www.sfbaytostockton.org>

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Delta Dredged Sediment Long Term Management Strategy (Pinole Shoal Management Study)

Partners: USACE San Francisco and Sacramento Districts, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of water Resources, California Bay Delta Authority, and Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Description: The Delta Long-Term Management Strategy (Delta LTMS) is a cooperative planning effort to coordinate, plan, and implement beneficial reuse of sediments in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Delta (Delta). Five agencies (USACE, USEPA, DWR, California Bay-Delta Authority, and CVRWQCB, and other stakeholders have begun to examine Delta dredging, reuse, and disposal needs. The Delta LTMS will explore ways to coordinate and manage dredging, planning, regulatory approval, and implementation to protect and enhance Delta functions, ecosystem, and water quality. The goals of the LTMS are to manage dredging activities to:

- Support and maintain Delta channel functions for navigation, flood control, water conveyance, and recreation
- Maintain and stabilize Delta levees that protect land-based activities, water conveyance, and terrestrial ecosystems
- Protect and enhance water quality for Delta water supply and ecosystem function

Website: <http://www.deltatms.com>

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