



DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
A California State Agency

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Date: September 20, 2012
To: Delta Stewardship Council Members
From: Joe Grindstaff, Executive Officer
Subject: Meeting, September 27, 2012

Chair
Phil Isenberg

Members
Randy Fiorini
Gloria Gray
Patrick Johnston
Hank Nordhoff
Don Nottoli

Executive Officer
P. Joseph Grindstaff

Please note: the September 27, 2012 meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn and Suites, 1250 Halyard Drive, West Sacramento, CA 95691. The agenda and supporting materials for the meeting are attached. Some additional handouts may be provided at the meeting.

Reports from Other Agencies

We will receive reports from two State agencies and one Federal agency about their recent activities in the Delta. I expect the Council will spend Thursday morning discussing these reports.

- **Report on the Delta Protection Commission's Feasibility Report on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (NHA) and Consideration of Staff's Recommendation to Endorse the NHA's Creation** (Agenda Item 7)
The Delta Protection Commission (DPC) has completed its feasibility study of a National Heritage Area (NHA) in the Delta and submitted it to Congress, where legislation is pending to designate the NHA. DPC executive director Mike Machado will brief the Council on the feasibility study and the proposed NHA. Staff is requesting the Council to endorse the NHA's creation and communicate its support to Congress
- **Report from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Action Plan** (Agenda Item 8)
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has released an Action Plan that proposes seven measures for improving water quality, restoring aquatic habitat, and improving the management of the San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary. Representatives from the USEPA will provide an overview of the Action Plan to the Council members.
- **Update from Delta Watermaster on Monitoring and Compliance** (Agenda Item 9)
Craig Wilson, the Delta Watermaster, will brief the Council on a report entitled: *Improving Water Right Enforcement Authority*. California Water Code Section 85230 directs the Delta Watermaster to submit regular reports to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and to the Council on water issues in the Delta. Mr. Wilson recently drafted the report, which focuses on the State Water Board's authority to

"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."

enforce and monitor water rights and to prevent unauthorized diversions of water in the state of California. He will initially present the report to the SWRCB on September 19, 2012. He will brief the Council on this report and engage in a discussion with Council members.

Delta Science Program – Lead Scientist’s Report (Agenda Item 10a)

Lead Scientist Dr. Peter Goodwin will offer his monthly report to the Council members, which includes four items: 1) Update of the development of the Delta Science Plan; 2) Update on the State Water Resources Control Board’s (SWRCB) workshops for the Comprehensive Review and Update of the Bay-Delta Plan; 3) Independent Review of the Fall Low Salinity Habitat (FLaSH) Program; and 4) Summary of “Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Historical Ecology Investigation: Exploring Pattern and Process” by Whipple et al.

Delta Independent Science Board Report – Chair’s Report (Agenda Item 11a)

Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB) Chair Dr. Richard Norgaard will report on the Delta ISB’s public meetings in July and August, 2012. The main topics in July included: 1) the Delta ISB’s reviews of the scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs that support adaptive management of the Delta, and 2) the Delta ISB’s review of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS). In August the Delta ISB began its review of habitat restoration programs with managers from DWR, DFG and three non-profits. The members also discussed attending the Bay-Delta Science Conference in October, the review of the Delta Science Program’s draft Strategic Plan, the Delta ISB Work Plan, and the review of the BDCP draft EIR/EIS.

Meet and Greet with New Executive Officer

At the end of Thursday’s meeting we will take time to introduce our new Executive Officer, Chris Knopp. He will be on hand to meet with Council members, staff, and stakeholders. Chris is coming to the DSC from his federal employment with the US Forest Service, so he is anxious to interact with everyone and learn the nuances that make up the intricacies of the Delta debate.

As always, time for public comment on these agenda items, as well as any item of relevance to the Council, will be available. If I can answer any questions or provide any information, please contact me at (916) 445-4500 or jgrindstaff@deltacouncil.ca.gov