



**DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL**  
A California State Agency

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P. Joseph Grindstaff

Date: January 14, 2011  
To: Delta Stewardship Council Members  
From: Joe Grindstaff, Executive Officer  
Subject: Meeting, January 27-28, 2011

The agenda for our eleventh meeting, and supporting material, is attached. Some additional handouts may be provided at the meeting. I offer some brief comments on the agenda and materials here for your perusal.

Key parts of Thursday's agenda include a discussion of flow criteria as requested by Vice Chair Randy Fiorini. The discussion will be led by DSC Lead Scientist Cliff Dahm. There will also be a report from the Chair of the Delta Independent Science Board on the Board's recent meeting regarding stressors in the Delta, as well as a presentation on agricultural water use by the Delta's new Watermaster, Craig Wilson.

Also on Thursday's agenda, and overlapping into Friday, will be a discussion on the development of the Delta Plan. Included will be an update on the Delta Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Scoping Meeting process as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a review of the latest Delta Plan draft outline and a review of the Comment Matrix for comments received. Also on Friday will be a presentation from the U.S. Geological Survey's Earthquake Science Center. Their staff will discuss the current level of understanding of when and where an earthquake might strike in the Delta and its possible effects on the levee system.

**Delta Independent Science Board Report** (Agenda Item 8)

Dr. Richard Norgaard, Chair of the Delta Independent Science Board (ISB), will report on outcomes of the January 12-13, 2011 Delta Stressors Workshop conducted by the Delta ISB and held in Sacramento. Chair Norgaard will brief the Council on progress made by the Delta ISB at its Delta Stressors Workshop, including a brief overview of the resultant report. This report was requested by some members of the Senate and Assembly, and is anticipated to be used in planning for the statutorily required reviews of all Delta scientific programs supporting adaptive management.

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*"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."*

– CA Water Code §85054

**Setting Flow Criteria** (Agenda Item 9).

During December's DSC meeting a discussion occurred between Dr. Lucas Paz with ARCADIS and Council Member Randy Fiorini regarding the setting of flow criteria for estuaries and rivers and offering examples of large-scale restoration programs that include performance measures for ecosystem and water supply. The Delta Science Program's Lead Scientist, Dr. Cliff Dahm, has coordinated with Dr. Paz to follow up on that discussion. Dr. Dahm will present background information on scientific methodologies for setting flow criteria for rivers and estuaries and present an overview of effective performance measures designed to evaluate the effectiveness of flow standards and restoration projects. The presentations will include background information and case examples relevant to managing the Delta in a manner consistent with the coequal goals.

**Delta Plan Development** (Agenda Items 11 and 17)

Work is beginning on preparation of the Delta Plan. The first draft of the Delta Plan is scheduled to be presented at the February 2011 Council meeting. A preliminary Delta Plan outline was provided to the Council at the December 2010 meeting. A revised Delta Plan outline will be discussed at the upcoming Council meeting here in January. A preliminary list of strategies to be considered in the Delta Plan was included in the Notice of Preparation (NOP). As you likely know the NOP for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was filed on December 10, 2010. As you read this letter, seven EIR scoping meetings are being held throughout the state to gather public input for the Delta Plan alternatives and environmental review. Those meetings will conclude the day before the next Council meeting is held. Finally for discussion will be the Comment Matrix for Comments Received. The Matrix is the methodology on how the comments were received and how they will be reviewed and compiled through the CEQA process. Some may consider the schedule aggressive, but it allows the Council to meet its obligation of completing a Delta Plan by the statutory requirement of January 1, 2012.

**U.S. Geological Survey presentation on Seismic Risk in the Delta** (Agenda Item 14)

Staff from the U.S. Geological Survey's Earthquake Science Center, Menlo Park, will be attending the January DSC meeting to make a presentation to the Council on Delta seismic risks. This presentation will review on the current level of understanding of earthquake forecasting for the Delta region, discuss potential levee behavior during an earthquake, highlight previous relevant studies, discuss ongoing efforts to further investigate Delta seismic risk, and touch upon recommendations for future efforts to better understand the overall risk.

Our January meeting is once again being held within the legal boundaries of the Delta. It will be in the first floor Galleria of the West Sacramento City Hall. The address is 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento.

If I can answer any questions or provide any information, please contact me at (916) 445-4500 or [jgrindstaff@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:jgrindstaff@deltacouncil.ca.gov)