



DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
A California State Agency

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Executive Officer
P. Joseph Grindstaff

Date: December 6, 2010
To: Delta Stewardship Council Members
From: Joe Grindstaff, Executive Officer
Subject: Meeting, December 16-17, 2010

The agenda for our tenth 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 are the Executive Officer's Report, which includes the ratification of several important contracts necessary to keep the development of the Delta Plan moving forward, as well as several informative reports from our science staff dealing with the health of the Delta estuary.

Also on Thursday's agenda, and overlapping into Friday, will be a discussion on the development of the Delta Plan. Included will be reviews of two new White Papers, the Comment Matrix used for comments received about the Plan's development, and the development schedule for both the Delta Plan and the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Also on Friday we will receive our fourth report and suggested comments on the BDCP from our independent consultant, ARCADIS.

Executive Officer's Report (Agenda Item 4)

Three important topics will be offered during this month's report. First will be updates on how the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) might be affected by the new legislative session, the incoming administration and the accompanying budget. Next will be the ratification of the transfer of the master funding contract from the Department of Water Resources to the DSC, along with the approval of any individual Task Orders over \$500,000. The approval of the Task Orders allows the Council and staff to move forward when utilizing contractors in the completion of the Delta Plan and the accompanying Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Third is the approval of science contracts, each over \$500,000, which will provide venues for the most recent science on the health of the Bay-Delta system.

"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

Reports from DSC Lead Scientist, IEP Lead Scientist, and Independent Science Board
(Agenda Items 6, 7, and 8).

Drs. Cliff Dahm, Anke Mueller-Solger, and Richard Norgaard each will offer presentations on the health and/or restoration efforts of the Delta estuary from the points of view of their individual topics. Dr. Dahm will speak about ocean related weather phenomena and management implications, including salmon returns. Dr. Mueller-Solger will discuss the lessons learned from the IEP's Pelagic Organism Decline investigations, and Dr. Norgaard will provide information about the Delta ISB meeting held on December 9-10.

Delta Plan Development (Agenda Items 9 and 14)

Five separate attachments are included in these agenda items. Two are White Papers, one on Agriculture and the other on Water Resources. These, and four previous White Papers, will be used as informational documents designed to educate the Council on the background and critical issues of each of these policy items. Another attachment is the Delta Plan Proposed Draft Outline, which will set the structure of how the staff will recommend the territory of the Delta Plan to be organized. Content will then be correlated according the structure that is agreed upon. The fourth attachment for review is 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. The final attachment is the Delta Plan and EIR schedule for completion. 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.

Update on Bay Delta Conservation Plan (Agenda Item 13)

The Council will receive its fourth report from ARCADIS, an independent consultant hired to review the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). Included will be a Summary of Unresolved Issues to Date. This update will show what new information has become available, the information that will be discussed by the BDCP in the near term, and the upcoming information requests to the BDCP. Secretary Snow has assured me that the transition document will be available to hand out at the meeting. While that will preclude any in depth analysis, at least we should be able to review the high points. Also included in the discussion will be the withdrawal of the Westland's Water District and the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority from the BDCP process.

Our December meeting is once again being held 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