



**DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL**  
A California State Agency

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Date: June 22, 2012  
To: Delta Stewardship Council Members  
From: Joe Grindstaff  
Executive Officer  
Subject: Meeting, June 28-29, 2012

**Chair**  
Phil Isenberg

**Members**  
Randy Fiorini  
Gloria Gray  
Patrick Johnston  
Felicia Marcus  
Hank Nordhoff  
Don Nottoli

**Executive Officer**  
P. Joseph Grindstaff

The agenda and supporting materials for our second June meeting are attached. Some additional handouts may be provided at the meeting.

**Executive Officer's Report** (Agenda Item 4)

We will receive an update on two bills making their way through the Legislature – AB 1095 (Buchanan) and SB 1495 (Wolk). Both deal with covered actions in the Delta. The Delta Reform Act of 2009 requires the Delta Plan to include a regulatory process for reviewing state and local agency plans, programs, or projects for consistency with the Delta Plan (proposed covered actions criteria and proposed exemptions can be found at this web address: <http://bit.ly/MNQrKm>). The bills, if passed, would provide for additional exemptions for specified plans, programs, or projects and declare them to not be covered actions.

We will also have a briefing on a Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) presentation describing how the BDCP's proposed project is being revised. There have been some media reports about the reduction of the proposed facility capacity by 40% (from 15,000 CFS to 9,000 CFS) and the development of a process to firm up water flows. We will discuss this in more detail at the meeting.

**Delta Plan** (Agenda Item 6)

The final staff draft of the Delta Plan was released on Monday, May 14. It is the sixth in an iterative series of drafts that reflect staff's recommendation for an enforceable Delta Plan that meets the requirements of the Delta Reform Act and direction provided by the Council.

Staff walked the Council through the draft at the May 24, 2012 meeting focusing on what has changed between the fifth draft released last August and the latest iteration. At the June 14-15, 2012 meeting staff developed an "open issues" list by chapter and assembled two panels of stakeholders to assist in the review and discussion of the final staff draft. Each panelist offered their overall impression of the draft plan and key issues they continue to have concerns with.

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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

Subsequently a "Council Action Checklist" was developed that outlines key comments and actions that will be taken to address these issues. A Staff Errata List of intended staff changes to the final staff draft was reviewed at the June 14-15, 2012 meeting and an updated list was developed and will be presented at this meeting.

Changes to the final staff draft Delta Plan, approved by the Council at this meeting, will serve as the basis for recirculating a supplement to the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) describing environmental impacts of the final draft plan. It will also serve as the basis for submittal of policies to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) as part of the process to give those policies regulatory effect.

These steps lead to a presentation in the fall of a final Delta Plan, its final EIR, and implementing regulations to the Council for adoption by November/December 2012.

This item will be continued into Friday's meeting.

#### **Lead Scientist's Report** (Agenda Item 10)

Lead Scientist Dr. Peter Goodwin will brief the Council on four items including the development of a Delta Science Plan that addresses among other items, a collaborative institutional and organizational structure for conducting science in the Delta. This is a priority for the Lead Scientist and the Delta Science Program. The other three items include 1) highlights from a recent UC Davis seminar on Aquatic Biology and Aquaculture, 2) the Independent Review Panel report for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan Effects Analysis, and 3) a recent article in *Nature* that reports on evidence the authors say supports the hypothesis that human influences on Earth are irreversibly shifting the planet's ecosystems into a state unknown to human experience.

#### **Public Comment**

Time for public comment on all agenda items will be available.

The June 28-29 meeting will be held in the Ramada Inn, 1250 Halyard Drive, West Sacramento, CA 95691. 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)