



DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
A California State Agency

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Date: October 15, 2012
To: Delta Stewardship Council Members
From: Christopher Knopp, Executive Officer
Subject: Council Meeting on October 25, 2012

Chair
Phil Isenberg

Members
Randy Fiorini
Gloria Gray
Patrick Johnston
Hank Nordhoff
Don Nottoli

Executive Officer
Christopher M. Knopp

The October 25, 2012 Council 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.

Delta Science Program – Lead Scientist’s Report (Agenda Item 6a)

Lead Scientist Dr. Peter Goodwin will offer his monthly report to the Council members, which includes six items: 1) an update on the 7th Biennial Bay-Delta Science Conference; 2) an update on the State Water Resources Control Board’s (SWRCB’s) workshops for the Comprehensive Review and Update of the Bay-Delta Plan; 3) the annual Independent Review of Long-term Operations Opinions Actions; 4) the latest issue of San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science; 5) the 2012 Pulse of the Delta Report; and 6) a progress report on the Delta Science Plan.

Near-Term Strategies for Implementation of the Delta Plan (Agenda Item 7)

Any new water conveyance system in the Delta, if approved, may take more than a decade to construct. Meanwhile, the reliability of the state’s water supplies and the health of the Delta ecosystem continue to decline. Action to address these problems need not await decisions about the BDCP, but can begin in the near term. To achieve the coequal goals of the Delta Reform Act in a timely manner, the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) ought to immediately begin encouraging a number of strategies for implementation of the Delta Plan. DSC staff proposes that the Council, in consultation with other agencies and Delta stakeholders, endorse a set of near-term strategies that the DSC will encourage other state or local agencies to initiate now or that the DSC can undertake directly to begin early implementation of the Delta Plan.

Delta Plan Update (Agenda Item 8)

This item is an update to the Council on: 1) the status of the Final Draft Delta Plan; 2) recirculation of the Draft PEIR (as a supplemental volume of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report released in November 2011); and 3) commencement of the rulemaking process.

"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

Implications of US Army Corps of Engineers Levee Encroachment Rules (Agenda Item 9)

In August, 2012 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) placed a twelve Delta levee systems into “inactive” status with respect to its Rehabilitation and Inspection Program (RIP) of Public Law 84-99 (PL 84-99) because of encroachments, such as structures, that affected the levees’ reliability. “Inactive” status means these levee systems would not be eligible for rehabilitation assistance from USACE under PL 84-99 in the event of a flood emergency. However, flood fighting assistance is still available from the USACE for levee systems that have “inactive” status within the RIP.

The purpose of this information item is to brief the Council about how this action impacts disaster recovery assistance in the Delta in the event of a flood emergency, as well as whether or not there is any potential impact on FEMA levee accreditation for these levees.

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 chris.knopp@deltacouncil.ca.gov