



DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
A California State Agency

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Date: February 13, 2013
To: Delta Stewardship Council Members
From: Christopher Knopp, Executive Officer
Subject: Council Meeting on February 21, 2013

Chair
Phil Isenberg

Members
Randy Fiorini
Gloria Gray
Patrick Johnston
Hank Nordhoff
Don Nottoli

Executive Officer
Christopher M. Knopp

The February 21, 2013 Council meeting will be held at the Park Tower Plaza, 980 Ninth Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Sacramento, CA 95814. The agenda and supporting materials for the meeting are attached. Some additional handouts may be provided at the meeting.

Delta Plan (Agenda Item 6)

Cindy Messer, Delta Plan Program Manager for the DSC, will provide the Council with an overview of the schedule, the interim steps, and the key milestones needed to finalize the Delta Plan and its regulations, as well as the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (FPEIR). Her overview will begin with the special hearing the Council held on January 11, 2013 where the public commented on the Final Draft Delta Plan, the Recirculated Draft PEIR, and the draft Rulemaking Package. She will then lead the Council on a month-to-month listing of what is necessary to complete the entire project. Her presentation will conclude with the Regulations, based on the Delta Plan policies, becoming effective.

The BDCP and the Delta Plan (Agenda Item 7)

The Natural Resources Agency will brief the Council on its proposals for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan's (BDCP) implementation structure, including its provisions for governance and oversight of adaptive management. The Agency recently released a draft of the implementation structure for the BDCP. It describes how agencies involved in the BDCP will work together to carry out the BDCP. The purpose of this information item is to brief the Council on the draft implementation structure, consider the intersection of the Delta Stewardship Council's role and the BDCP's scope, and to gather input from the Council about questions it would like addressed as the BDCP's implementation structure is finalized over the coming months.

Lower San Joaquin River Flow Objectives and Southern Delta Water Quality Report
(Agenda Item 8)

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is updating its Water Quality Control Plan for the Delta Estuary to restore and protect the Delta ecosystem. The DSC, in its draft Delta Plan, states: "minimum flows must be established for the Delta and its major

"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

tributaries as part of a comprehensive effort to address all ecosystem stressors”, and directs the State Water Board to adopt and implement updated flow objectives for the Delta to achieve the coequal goals by June 2, 2014. The State Water Board’s current Bay-Delta Plan update will implement this key element of the DSC’s Delta Plan.

State Water Board representatives will first discuss their proposal to revise the flow objectives for the Lower San Joaquin River, and the southern Delta salinity objectives. DSC staff will then discuss their response to the proposed revision. The Delta ISB will also provide an update on their response to the proposal.

Lead Scientist Report (Agenda Item 9)

Lead Scientist, Dr. Peter Goodwin, will discuss five items before the Council. Those items are: 1) Online access to the video recording of the Delta Science Program and UC Davis Center for Aquatic Biology & Aquaculture (CABA) Seminar entitled, *What is a Natural Hydrograph in Regulated Rivers?*; 2) a sampling of the current Delta water and environmental management indicators; 3) an introduction to the Delta Ecological Flows Tool; 4) a spotlight on levees research conducted by UCLA scientists; and 5) the ongoing planning and development of the Delta Science Plan.

Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB) Report (Agenda Item 10)

On behalf of Delta ISB Chair Dr. Richard Norgaard, Dr. Jay Lund will brief the Council on two items. Those items are: 1) The Delta ISB’s teleconference on February 1, 2013, which included a review of the draft implementation structure of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), a review of the State Water Resources Control Board’s Draft Substitute Environmental Document in support of Potential Changes to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay-Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta Estuary: San Joaquin River Flows and Southern Delta Water Quality, and the Delta ISB’s draft format for its report on the habitat restoration/climate change program review theme, and; 2) the Delta ISB’s February 14-15 meeting where discussion continued on the Delta ISB’s habitat restoration review report and its review of the BDCP’s Environmental Impact Report and Statement.

Stakeholder Proposed “Portfolio Based” Conceptual Alternative for the BDCP

(Agenda Item 11)

The Planning and Conservation League, the Contra Costa Water District, and the San Diego County Water Authority will brief the Council on a conceptual alternative they propose to the BDCP. The proposal, entitled *A Portfolio-Based Conceptual Alternative for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan*, features a smaller North Delta diversion facility and tunnel, additional investments in Delta levees, reduced Delta habitat restoration, and improvements in storage, conservation, recycling, and other local water supplies south of Delta.

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