

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

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May 10, 2010

*Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors**Sacramento County Board of Supervisors**San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors**Solano County Board of Supervisors**Yolo County Board of Supervisors**Cities of San Joaquin County**Cities of Contra Costa and Solano Counties**Cities of Sacramento and Yolo Counties**Central Delta Reclamation Districts**North Delta Reclamation Districts**South Delta Reclamation Districts**Business, Transportation and Housing**Department of Food and Agriculture**Natural Resources Agency**State Lands Commission*

Delta Stewardship Council
650 Capitol Mall, Fifth Floor
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Council Members:

SUBJECT: Invitation for Items to be Included in Interim Delta Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input relative to items that should be included in an interim Delta Plan. As you know, pursuant to the provisions of SBX 7 1, the Governor and the Legislature have recognized the Delta Protection Commission (Commission) as having a key role in addressing the challenges facing the Delta.

Among the many tasks assigned to the Commission under the legislation are: development of recommendations regarding the potential expansion of, or change to, the Primary Zone or the Delta by July 1, 2010; preparation of an Economic Sustainability Plan for the Delta by July 1, 2011; and development of an application for federal designation of the Delta as a National Heritage Area. Additional legislative mandates call for the Commission to complete a feasibility study and plan for The Great California Delta Trail (SB 1556-Torlakson), and participation in the development of a Strategy for Delta Emergency Planning and Response (SB 27-Simitian). These projects are mandated for completion under legislation and must, therefore, be taken into consideration in the preparation of an interim Delta Plan.

While it is imperative that these projects and processes currently underway, as well as others administered by the Commission utilizing awarded grant funding, such as the Delta Working Landscapes Program, be acknowledged in Delta planning activities, it is paramount that the Commission's Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta (Management Plan) serve as a basis from which to build upon for the development of both an interim as well as final Delta Plan for the Delta.

The policies of the Management Plan originally adopted in 1995 have been significantly revised through adoption in February of this year to capture values, influences and trends having the potential to influence the

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protection, preservation and enhancement of the resources of the Delta. These guiding policies are formally adopted in local government general plans and, under SBX 7 1, are subject to consistency with the Delta Plan. Thus, the table is set for this document to provide the basis for Delta planning initiatives.

In that the framework established under Delta legislation provides for effective utilization of resources and the establishment of collaborative relationships between the Delta Stewardship Council, the Delta Conservancy and the Commission, inclusion of the Commission's programs in an interim Delta Plan and utilization of its Management Plan as the basis for Delta planning demonstrate what the Council and the Commission can collaboratively accomplish together as intended under the legislation and by the Governor.

Members of the Commission and Commission staff are available to provide you with additional information on the programs, processes and documents noted herein. Please contact me at Linda.fiack@delta.ca.gov or (916) 776-2292 to further discuss them in greater detail.

Sincerely,



Linda Fiack
Executive Director

cc: Joe Grindstaff, Interim Executive Officer
Don Nottoli, Chair, Delta Protection Commission